

Frequently Asked Questions Schools

General

Questions	Answers
What is the Career Taster Program (CTP)?	<p>The Year 9 Career Taster Program (CTP) has been developed to inspire secondary school students about potential career and further study opportunities and to support them become 'career-curious'.</p> <p>The CTP has two components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » a new <i>Course in Early Career Discovery</i> to lead students through the stages of early career planning and help them understand the range of career option and pathways available to them; and » industry-based experiences that provide students with the opportunity to explore careers in a practical way.
	<p>The Career Taster Portal connects schools with engaging industry experiences through a searchable database. The Portal also houses informational resources to assist schools to plan and deliver a CTP, including teaching and learning resources for the <i>Course in Early Career Discovery</i>.</p> <p>A CTP can be as big or as small as the school can accommodate, using a mixture of the curriculum and taster experiences or one or some of these components. There is no set model.</p>
What do students get from the CTP?	<p>The key outcome for students is to explore careers and pathways through engaging activities that expose them to the world of work and training.</p> <p>The outcome for schools is to take students through a process of self-discovery and broad exploration of a diverse range of industries and occupations.</p>

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Is the CTP for all Year 9 students?	All schools, public and private and home schooled, are encouraged to participate in the CTP.
Can we create a program to suit a specific cohort?	<p>Yes, the flexibility of the CTP allows schools to develop a program based on the specific interests and learning requirements of cohorts within their Year 9 student group.</p> <p>The Career Taster Portal will assist you to identify taster experiences that align to your program requirements.</p> <p>Should you not be able to identify an appropriate activity, please contact the CTP team at the Department of Training and Workforce Development on 6551 5514 or email Career.TasterProgram@dtwd.wa.gov.au</p>
Why isn't the CTP available to all secondary students?	<p>The <i>WA Jobs Plan</i> includes a commitment to introduce a CTP for Year 9 students. The purpose of this commitment is to inspire secondary school students about potential career and further study opportunities and assist them in making more informed decisions on their subject selections for Years 10, 11 and 12 and post-secondary options.</p> <p>While the funding and taster experiences are only available to Year 9 students, the curriculum and resources on the Career Taster Portal can be used for any year group or cohort and adjusted as required.</p>
How is this program different from TAFE Try-a-Trade opportunities that are already happening, and programs such as Australian Business and Community Network (ABCN) and Smith Family?	<p>The Try-a-Trade experience provides exposure to the building and construction industry and is a program of the Construction Training Fund (CTF). The CTP aims to provide students with exposure to a broad range of industries and practical experiences.</p> <p>Programs such as Smith Family and ABCN are not available to every school across Western Australia, and do not provide schools with the same level of ownership or flexibility to develop programs tailored to suit their students.</p>

Questions	Answers
Who do we contact to give ideas to?	Please forward your ideas and suggestions to Career.TasterPortal@dtwd.wa.gov.au

Getting started

Questions	Answers
How do I get my school involved?	Talk to your Principal and Deputy Principal about the opportunity for your students.
How do I get started?	<p>The CTP is unique in that it is not a top-down program or learning model. No one model could account for the many ways that schools can provide career experiences to their students to address particular learning needs and interests.</p> <p>The Career Taster Portal hosts a range of ideas and planning resources as well as a database of different experiences to build into your program. Schools have the flexibility to develop a program as big or small as they have capacity for and to build their program in collaboration with industry partners, training providers and other schools. It's the creativity of the teachers/schools/career practitioners that will provide the best outcomes for students.</p> <p>For further assistance on how to get started, contact your school sector support person listed at the back of the <i>Information for Schools</i> resource.</p>
Are there program ideas that could be provided as examples?	In addition to the pilot models and industry engagement ideas available on the Career Taster Portal , good practice models will also be developed as programs are implemented and evolve.

Course in Early Career Discovery

Questions	Answers
Is the <i>Course in Early Career Discovery</i> a compulsory part of the program?	<p>The CTP provides students with early career exploration through the <i>Course in Early Career Discovery</i> (six hours) and an industry exploration experience. Schools may choose to deliver the <i>Course in Early Career Discovery</i> as an accredited vocational education and training (VET) course or as curriculum taught by teachers (non-accredited).</p> <p>Schools that choose to deliver the course via the non-accredited pathway can provide the same benefits to their students. The differences being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » there is no need to complete all components of the course – work with what your students need; » no assessment is required – you can focus on the learning experience; and » students will not receive certification of completion.
Where can I find resources for the <i>Course in Early Career Discovery</i> ?	All resources, including the <i>Course in Early Career Discovery</i> are available on the Career Taster Portal via jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/careertaster
How is the <i>Course in Early Career Discovery</i> delivered?	<p>The <i>Course in Early Career Discovery</i> was developed for six hours of delivery. Schools delivering the course through the non-accredited pathway can be flexible in how it is delivered. Examples of course delivery could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » one hour per week over a single term in the school timetable, before commencement of industry activities; » block delivery alongside industry experience activities; » a one-day interactive session using the <i>Your Career Passport</i> student workbook; » one lesson per week over six weeks and practical experiences aligned with areas of interest identified by the students; or » integrating delivery into a subject curriculum over a single term, including full or part-day taster experiences throughout or in the following term.

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<p>Which registered training organisations (RTOs) deliver the <i>Course in Early Career Discovery</i>?</p>	<p>All TAFE colleges, and the School of Isolated and Distanced Education (SIDE), have the <i>Course in Early Career Discovery</i> on scope. RTO schools can also apply to put the course on scope but can only deliver within their school.</p> <p>For more information contact the CTP team via email at Career.TasterProgram@dtwd.wa.gov.au</p>
<p>Do schools have to pay for the <i>Course in Early Career Discovery</i> through an accredited pathway?</p>	<p>The <i>Course in Early Career Discovery</i> is fully funded for Year 9 students, which means there is no cost to the school or student.</p> <p>It is also possible to deliver the accredited training pathway through an auspicing arrangement with a TAFE college. Standard auspicing rates will apply and will need to be covered by the school and student. Teachers will also need to hold the relevant qualifications, which includes part, or all, of the Certificate IV in Teaching and Assessment and current industry experience in career development (see question below).</p>
<p>What qualifications do teachers need to deliver the accredited training for the <i>Course in Early Career Discovery</i>?</p>	<p>Teachers will only need to hold additional qualifications if they are at an RTO school or if they choose to deliver the training through an auspiced arrangement with a TAFE college. To deliver the accredited training under an auspiced arrangement, a teacher is not required to hold the current Training and Education (TAE) qualification. However, they will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » current skills and knowledge in career development practices to the same level as the course; and » to meet the requirements under the <i>Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015</i>, as advised by the RTO. <p>Teachers at RTO schools will need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » hold a current TAE qualification; » have the skills and knowledge in career development practices to the same level as the course; and » meet the requirements under the <i>Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015</i>.

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Does completing the <i>Course in Early Career Discovery</i> via the accredited pathway mean students cannot undertake another funded VETDSS course in senior school?	No. Students who complete the <i>Course in Early Career Discovery</i> in Year 9 via the accredited pathway will be able to undertake another funded course on the VET delivered to secondary students funded list.

Funding

Questions	Answers
Is there funding available for schools?	<p>Each school sector was allocated funding to distribute to schools, to help meet additional expenses to implement the program.</p> <p>Funding has also been provided to TAFE colleges to support schools with industry experiences, and to deliver the accredited <i>Course in Early Career Discovery</i>.</p> <p>In addition, there is the opportunity for schools to apply for a grant to support students to participate in a CTP. Grant information is available on the Career Taster Portal.</p>
Is there any criteria for spending funding?	If your school has been provided funding through your school sector or through a grant, there may be some criteria attached to this.

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<p>Will there be funding for students in an Education Support unit?</p>	<p>Public schools with Career Practitioners have been provided with funding to facilitate participation of their Year 9 students in the CTP, including those in an adjoining Education Support Centre.</p> <p>All school sectors have been provided with funding to implement the CTP, including supporting students with disability. School sector contact details are provided in the Information for Schools resource available on the Career Taster Portal.</p> <p>In addition, there is the opportunity for schools to apply for a grant to support their students with disability to participate in a CTP. Grant information is available on the Career Taster Portal.</p>
<p>How much does the CTP cost to deliver?</p>	<p>The cost of providing experiences to your students will depend on the format of your program. Should your program only involve delivery of the <i>Course in Early Career Discovery</i> through a non-accredited pathway, all the resources are available for free on the Career Taster Portal.</p> <p>Taster experiences provided by TAFE colleges are free of charge, as are most employer provided experiences. However, the cost of transporting students and resource fees will need to be met by the school.</p> <p>There are some virtual and online career experiences on the Career Taster Portal that will incur a cost to the school. Schools looking to buy-in these experiences are encouraged to work with other schools in their region/vicinity and create economies of scale to potentially reduce the cost.</p> <p>Schools should check with their school sector contact to see if funding is available to support the purchasing of career experiences as well as consider applying for a grant. Further information on CTP grants is available on the Career Taster Portal.</p>

Taster experiences

Questions	Answers
Will a Unit of Competency (UoC) be developed for industry exploration and experience?	The curriculum is not expected to cover the industry experience component of the program. The industry experiences are practical experiences for students and may vary widely. The <i>Course in Early Career Discovery</i> includes a section for broad industry and occupation exploration.
Do I need to send a teacher to supervise and will there be excursion paperwork provided to make it easier for us?	Each school sector has its own policies relating to duty of care and templates relating to excursions and incursions. All schools are responsible for supervising their students at all times. Please refer to your school sector contact in the Information for Schools resource on the Career Taster Portal , for more information.
Can I book experiences with a TAFE college that isn't in my region?	Schools are able to book any TAFE experience aligned to their students' interests, regardless of location. Schools will have to cover the cost of transporting students to the TAFE campus.