

## Leaving school and planning for the future

This information provides a brief overview of possible post-school pathways and options available to young people leaving school.

Leaving school is a significant time in the life of any young person. It is a time of great change, of leaving behind the familiar environment of school, beginning life as an adult and exploring new challenges and opportunities.

For some young people with disability, this can be an exciting time of moving on to new experiences such as further education, employment or recreation and developing new skills. For other young people and their families, this can be a very difficult and anxious time as they enter a period of change and uncertainty.

It is important to plan in advance and have an understanding of the range of potential post-school pathways and options available including further education, vocational, training, open employment, supported employment, recreation and participation in community activities.

### Transition Planning

Transition planning can assist in ensuring the move from school to the next stage of the young person's life occurs as smoothly and as worry-free as possible.

Preparation and planning can address potential difficulties before they arise and give the young person time to decide what they would like to do.

It is important to involve the young person in this process along with parents or carers, and school staff. Disability Services staff may also be invited to be part of the process.

Ideally, planning for a successful transition to a post-school option should begin when the young person starts secondary school.

### Some important points to consider include:

- Understanding of the young person and their aspirations
- Building on the young person's strengths and abilities
- Formulating educational goals to support successful transition from school to a post-school option
- Consideration of lifestyle options and life/work balance
- Establishing collaborative partnerships between the school, young person and their family and community agencies offering post-school pathways
- Scheduling relevant work experiences or visits to preferred post-school options as part of the transition plan.

## Further Education

For many young people with disability their chosen pathway may be to continue a formal education through programs offered at TAFE SA or university.

It is helpful to understand what programs are available and how post-school tertiary education and training is different from school.

It is also important to know what support may be available to assist each person's particular requirements and any gap areas.

### Websites with further information:

- A Guide for Students with a Disability or Chronic Medical Condition at University in South Australia:
  - <http://www.adcet.edu.au/Ndco/Sa/View.aspx?id=6738>
- TAFE SA Disability Support
  - <http://www.tafesa.edu.au/services/disability-support.aspx>
- South Australian National Disability Coordination Officers
  - [www.adcet.edu.au/ndco/sa](http://www.adcet.edu.au/ndco/sa)
- Flinders University
  - <http://www.flinders.edu.au/current-students/healthandcounselling/>
- University of Adelaide
  - [www.adelaide.edu.au/disability](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/disability)
- University of South Australia (UniSA)
  - [www.unisa.edu.au/disabilityservices](http://www.unisa.edu.au/disabilityservices)

## Vocational Education and Training (VET) to Work

The VET to work program offers additional support to students with disability and learning difficulties engaged in vocational education and training (VET). This is done through TAFE SA.

The support is designed to improve both training and employment outcomes by offering mentoring support and assistance to participate in a structured work placement. All support provided to students is through a Disability Employment Service (DES).

For further information about the VET to Work program contact the team on 8414 7000 or email [transition@pe.org.au](mailto:transition@pe.org.au)

## Apprenticeships and Traineeships

The Australian Government supports the combination of training and employment through apprenticeships or traineeships where work and study are offered in a workplace under the guidance of a mentor.

This can be full-time, part-time or school-based and will lead to nationally recognised qualifications.

Australian apprentices with disability and their employers may be eligible to receive additional assistance under the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives program. This can include funding for wage subsidies and workplace modifications.

### Websites with further information:

- ▶ Australian Apprenticeships
  - [www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au](http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au)
- ▶ Skills for All—a South Australian Government initiative
  - [www.skills.sa.gov.au](http://www.skills.sa.gov.au)
- ▶ TAFE SA
  - <http://www.tafesa.edu.au/apply-enrol/apply-apprenticeship-traineeship>

## Open Employment

Open employment means having a job in mainstream employment with general employment conditions and award wages.

Disability Employment Services (DES) providers assist people with disability to gain and maintain sustained employment in the open employment market. There are two distinct programs:

- ▶ **Disability Management Service** for job seekers with disability, injury or a health condition who require the assistance of a disability employment service but are not expected to need long-term support in the workplace.
- ▶ **Employment Support Service** for job seekers with permanent disability and with an assessed need for more long-term, regular support in the workplace.

It is important to understand what experience and levels of assistance may be available to suit each person's particular requirements as this may vary between each Disability Employment Service.

### Websites with further information:

- ▶ JobSearch—free online jobs site
  - [www.jobsearch.gov.au](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au)
- ▶ Disability Employment Australia
  - [www.disabilityemployment.org.au](http://www.disabilityemployment.org.au)
- ▶ Centrelink
  - [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)

## Supported Employment

Australian Disability Enterprises (ADE) used to be known as Business Services or Supported Employment.

They offer people with disability the opportunity to be part of the workforce in a supportive environment where they can learn work skills at their own pace. This is helpful for people who may find it difficult to work or maintain employment in the open market.

Australian Disability Enterprises provide employment for people with disability as well as operating a commercial business.

### Websites with further information:

- ▶ Centrelink
  - [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)
- ▶ Disability Employment Australia
  - [www.disabilityemployment.org.au](http://www.disabilityemployment.org.au)
- ▶ National Disability Services
  - [www.nds.org.au](http://www.nds.org.au)

### Day Option Program

The Day Option Program provides meaningful activities for eligible school leavers with intellectual disability, who have high and ongoing support needs and who require an alternative to paid work.

Many education, leisure and activity choices are available which have a focus on further developing the person's skills.

Programs are generally community-based and provided by a number of non-government or private agencies. They usually operate Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

As Day Option Programs may vary between agencies, it is helpful to understand what activities are on offer and whether they are suitable to meet the person's particular requirements.

Referral to the Day Option Program is through the school system, in consultation with Disability Services.

### Website with further information:

- Government of South Australia
  - <http://www.sa.gov.au/subject/Community+support/Disability/Disability+-+consumers/Disability+-+life+stages/Adolescents+with+disability>

