



Australian Government



National
Careers
Institute

What's next for your child?

YOUR CAREER

Parents and guardian's guide to
your child's education, training
and work opportunities in 2021

[YourCareer.gov.au](https://www.yourcareer.gov.au)

1800 CAREER



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Introduction

We understand that the transition from school can sometimes be challenging.

With changes to the education and work landscape, you might be concerned if your child's planned decisions are still the best or right option or what alternative options are available.

There are many opportunities for education, training and work in 2021 to help your child establish and further their career. This guide has been designed to help you understand what those options might be to support and assist your children in making their choice after they leave school. This guide sits alongside the School Leavers Information Kit which contains more information and outlines the resources and information available to support your child's future, whether they choose to start working straight away or continue their education or training.

In addition, you will find information on financial assistance and other support available to your child. Plus, details of the School Leavers Information Service, which can be contacted by phone, text or email, to provide tailored information to help support your child as they transition from school.



Help to build future careers

Does your child want to use 2021 to focus on building their future career? There are a range of opportunities and choices and sometimes help is needed to decide between them.

YourCareer (yourcareer.gov.au) is an online site specifically designed to help navigate the different pathways and includes the **School Leavers Information Kit** (www.yourcareer.gov.au/school-leavers-support). Visitors can use YourCareer to access information about learning and training, finding a job, building a career, and the financial support available.






Try the Your Future Career tool

Access the Your Future Career tool on **YourCareer** (yourcareer.gov.au/your-future-career/) to find out which occupations match your child's preferences. It will give them a list of occupations, and for each one it shows if further education and training is needed, what skills employers are looking for and the estimated pay.



Further education and training options

Your child has a range of education and training options available to them after they leave school. There is flexibility to change qualifications if they change their mind or their needs change.

	Apprenticeships and traineeships	Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications	Higher education qualifications
 <p>Types of courses</p>	<p>Apprenticeships and traineeships are VET courses that combine paid work with structured training. Training focuses on knowledge, attitudes and real skills, and can be provided on-the-job, off-the-job, or both.</p>	<p>There are over 1,400 VET qualifications to choose from, all of which are mapped to real job outcomes. They range from entry-level Certificates through to Advanced Diplomas.</p>	<p>Qualifications from studying at a university or other higher education provider in a Diploma, Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, Undergraduate Certificate or Bachelor Degree. After that, there are options to continue study, e.g. through a Masters degree. As prerequisites for courses vary between institutions, you should consult providers.</p>
 <p>Duration</p>	<p>An apprenticeship is a structured training arrangement of usually 3.5 or 4 years duration. Traineeships usually last between 9 and 48 months, depending on the vocation and certificate.</p>	<p>VET qualifications take between 3 months and 3 years to complete.</p>	<p>The length of time will vary. As an example, most Bachelor degrees take a minimum of 3 years to complete, and a Masters a minimum of 1 additional year.</p>
 <p>Funding support</p>	<p>If you're leaving school or looking for work, JobTrainer could be your opportunity to study free or low-fee courses. You can study for an accredited diploma, certificate or short course. Learn skills for a range of jobs in demand. For more information on courses and occupations that may be available through JobTrainer in your region, head to MySkills JobTrainer.</p> <p>The JobReady Graduates Package aims to provide more opportunities for people to gain the qualifications they will require for the jobs of the future.</p> <p>Funding support and subsidies vary between courses and providers. Head to the page on "financial assistance" for more information on what financial support is available.</p>		



Want more information about further education and training? Head to **YourCareer** (yourcareer.gov.au/learn-and-train/) for more information on becoming an apprentice, and search **myskills** (myskills.gov.au) to find more information on VET courses and which providers are offering them. You can also compare higher education courses and providers at **Course Seeker** (courseseeker.edu.au).

Short-term options

If your child isn't sure what they want to do next year, there are plenty of short-term opportunities that they can pursue immediately.






Try the Your Options Now tool

The [Your Options Now](https://yourcareer.gov.au/your-options-now/) tool (yourcareer.gov.au/your-options-now/) lets users explore immediate education and work opportunities, including jobs that are currently available and short-term courses that can help build skills.



Short-term education and training

Micro-credentials, skill sets, short courses or tertiary preparation courses offer a good way to skill up quickly – from just a few hours up to a couple of months. These can sometimes be credited towards a full qualification if your child decides to continue further study.

	Micro-credentials	Skill sets (Vocational Education and Training)	Higher education short courses	Tertiary preparation courses
 <p>Types of courses</p>	Micro-credentials are a new form of training. A micro-credential is smaller than a traditional qualification and may, however, be industry recognised.	Skills sets are a block of training units for a specific industry need or licensing/regulatory requirement (for example, a Responsible Service of Alcohol certificate is required for anyone working in licensed premises).	Short courses offer an introduction to a higher education degree through an Undergraduate Certificate offered by a university or other higher education provider.	If your child hasn't met the entry requirements for their higher education course, a tertiary preparation course or enabling course could help build skills and knowledge to prepare for Bachelor-level study with a higher education provider.
 <p>Duration</p>	It takes between a few hours for some micro-credentials, to a few weeks to a year for others. They can sometimes be credited towards attainment of a full qualification when undertaking further study.	The duration of a skill set will depend on its size and content. They can typically be credited towards a VET qualification if undertaking further study.	Short courses are generally six months long, and can be credited towards attainment of another higher education qualification, e.g. a Bachelor Degree, if undertaking further study.	The duration of these courses varies and you should check the higher education provider's website for details. Generally, units are not credited towards any later Bachelor qualification.
 <p>Funding support</p>	Funding support and subsidies vary between courses and providers. Go to the page on " financial assistance " for more information on what financial support is available.			



Want more information about short-term education and training options? [myskills](https://myskills.gov.au) (myskills.gov.au) has information about skill sets you can undertake, and you can find information on higher education short courses through [Course Seeker](https://courseseeker.edu.au) (courseseeker.edu.au).

Looking for something different?

Was your child planning to take a gap year in 2021? Or are they searching for a new experience? There are a range of options that could offer the change they are looking for after school.



Following the Harvest Trail.

Earn money by harvesting grapes in the Hunter Valley or mango picking in Darwin. Head to the [Harvest Trail Jobs Board](https://jobsearch.gov.au/harvest) (jobsearch.gov.au/harvest) to find harvest jobs that are available now or in upcoming seasons.



Short-term work placements.

Early experience in industry can offer a taste of their future world of work and help your child decide whether a particular job is right for them. Find tips on short-term work placements at [YourCareer](https://yourcareer.gov.au/school-leavers-support/) (yourcareer.gov.au/school-leavers-support/).



Volunteering opportunities.

Volunteering offers the chance to not only make a difference through assisting others but it can also help your child to build valuable skills for the future.



Starting a business.

Could your child turn one of their passions into a business idea? Even though starting a business is a long-term venture, there are a range of steps they can take in the short-term to get started. Check out some tips and tricks [here](https://employment.gov.au/growing/i-want-start-my-own-business) (employment.gov.au/growing/i-want-start-my-own-business).

Information on financial assistance

The Australian Government offers different financial assistance options for young people. Your child might be eligible for one of the following types of assistance depending on their circumstances.

Assistance for higher education students

Check their eligibility for subsidised course fees, a [HELP loan](https://studyassist.gov.au/help-loans) (studyassist.gov.au/help-loans) or a scholarship.

Assistance with living expenses

Apply for payments to assist with their living expenses whilst studying, including Youth Allowance and ABSTUDY.

Assistance for VET students

Check their eligibility for a VET student loan if studying an approved course.



Want information on financial assistance? Visit [YourCareer](https://yourcareer.gov.au/work-support/) (yourcareer.gov.au/work-support/) for more information on different forms of support. You can also access the Payment and Service Finder on [YourCareer](https://yourcareer.gov.au/learn-and-train/study-assistance/) (yourcareer.gov.au/learn-and-train/study-assistance/) to help identify what support might be available.



Ready to search for jobs? Check out [YourCareer](https://yourcareer.gov.au/your-options-now/) (yourcareer.gov.au/your-options-now/) to view jobs with current vacancies and access further support and information to improve the chances of getting a job.



Want tips to get job ready? Visit the Get Job Ready page on [YourCareer](https://yourcareer.gov.au/get-job-ready/) (yourcareer.gov.au/get-job-ready/) for checklists, factsheets and strategies for getting that dream job.

School Leavers Information Service

Would your child like to talk to someone about their options?

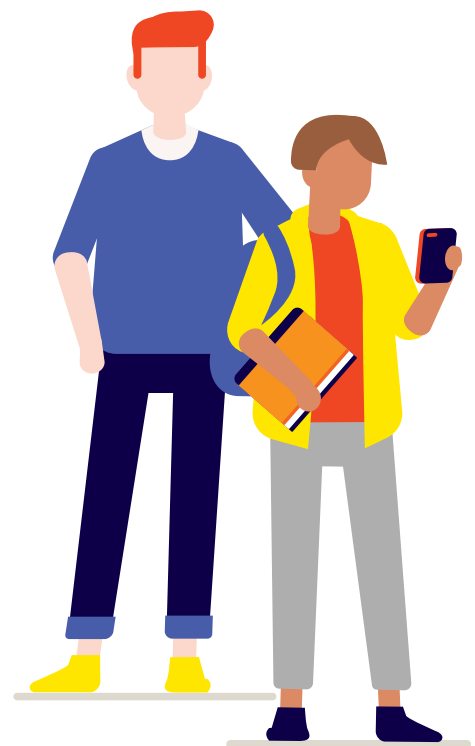
There is a free, dedicated information service available to answer questions and provide support to your child. Your child has the opportunity to have a personalised one-on-one session with a career practitioner for up to 45-minutes.

Children, (or parents and guardians) can call, text or email the School Leavers Information Service for further support and information on options available:

- Call **1800 CAREER** or **1800 227 337**
- Text SLIS2020 to **0429 009 435**
- Email schoolleavers.nci@dese.gov.au

The service is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 7:30pm (your local time). This is a free service, however minimal call/text costs may apply.

If you have a child with a disability or special education need who is a school leaver, you can also contact the School Leavers Information Service for tailored support or guidance for your child.



National Skills Ambassador **Scott Cam** knows that everyone's career journey is different. To support your school leavers to take their next steps, guide them to the School Leavers Information Service on **1800 CAREER** (1800 227 337).

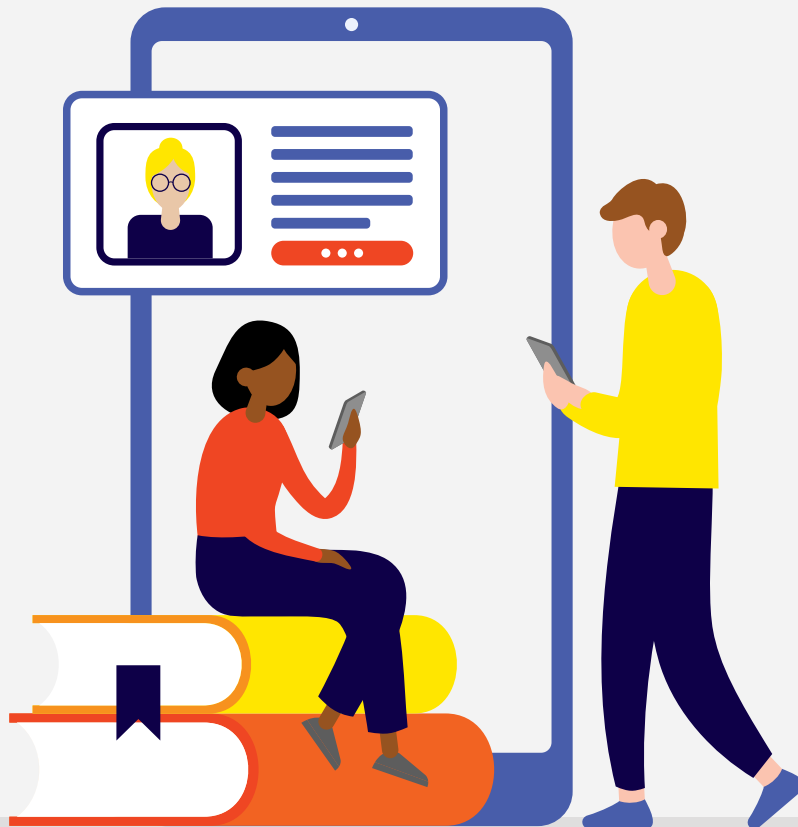
Talking about the options

It can be challenging to have a conversation about the options for after school with your child. Ask them what they like or enjoy doing. Ask what they think they're good at or if they've already got some ideas about what they might be interested in. Check the School Leavers Information Kit for ideas on options or tools to help focus any ideas.

Accessibility

The Department of Education, Skills and Employment welcomes calls through the National Relay Service. If you are deaf or have a hearing impairment and/or have a speech impairment, call **1300 555 727** (speak and listen) and ask for **1800 CAREER** (1800 227 337) or go to the **[NRS website](#)** for other options.

A translating and interpreting service (**TIS National**) is available by calling **13 14 50** (cost of a local call). The TIS can translate the information kit or help you call the information service. Ask TIS National to call the School Leavers Information Service on **1800 CAREER** (1800 227 337). TIS National provides interpreting services in more than 160 languages and dialects.



Localised Information



Australian Capital Territory

- **ACT Pathways:** Your child can register to help you're their transition to their next destination, whether that be into further training, study, work, or a combination (pathways.act.edu.au/).
- **ACT Community Services:** Find out more about services and programs your child can access, including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, multicultural communities and for people with disability. You can also search for youth programs and volunteering opportunities (communityservices.act.gov.au/).
- **Community Services Directorate:** The Community Services Directorate is an organisation that delivers excellence through client centred services to those who need them (communityservices.act.gov.au/).
- **Skills Canberra:** Skills Canberra manages ACT and Commonwealth funding directed to VET programs for a variety of initiatives addressing skills development for entry level and existing workers, as well as adult community education (skills.act.gov.au/).
- **CIT:** Canberra Institute of Technology offers the full gamut of the tertiary experience and can help your child identify a training pathway to help them reach their goals, whether they are new to study or already hold qualifications (cit.edu.au/).



Western Australia

- **Jobs and Skills Centres:** Offer a range of services and support for careers, training and employment advice and assistance (jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/jobs-and-skills-centre).
- **Skills Ready:** You child can get skills ready and find out about training options to boost their skills for the future (jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/jobs-and-skills-centre).
- **Volunteering:** Your child can get involved in volunteering through the City of Perth (perth.wa.gov.au/council/volunteers).
- **VET Qualifications for school students:** Your child can have the opportunity to study a nationally recognised vocational education and training (VET) qualification while still at school (jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/training/schools-and-school-students).
- **Apprenticeships and Traineeships:** Apprenticeships and traineeships are an excellent way to combine training with work, enabling your child to have a job while they complete training towards a nationally recognised qualification (jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/training/apprenticeships-and-traineeships).
- **Pre-traineeship Pathways in Aged Care and Disability Support:** For people considering a career in caring (jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/pre-traineeships).
- **Training options and pathways:** If your child is looking for fantastic employment and career opportunities, Western Australia's resources sector has plenty of opportunities (jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/resources#i-training-options-and-pathways).
- **Tertiary Institutions Service Centre:** 5 steps to university admission (tisc.edu.au/static/home.tisc).



Northern Territory

- **[Education and Learning NT](#)**: Find out about training, education and employment programs (nt.gov.au/learning).
- **[Vocational Education and Training](#)**: Find out about training opportunities in the NT (nt.gov.au/learning/adult-education-and-training/vocational-education-and-training-VET).
- **[Free training courses](#)**: Find out more about free training courses available to give your child practical skills for work (nt.gov.au/learning/adult-education-and-training/free-training-courses).
- **[Higher Education](#)**: Find out more about studying in Higher Education in the NT (nt.gov.au/learning/adult-education-and-training/choose-a-university-course-to-study).
- **[Financial help for School Leavers](#)**: Find out about financial support for school leavers (nt.gov.au/learning/student-financial-help-and-scholarships).
- **[Employment, money and taxes](#)**: Find out more about being a worker in the NT (Employment, money and taxes – nt.gov.au).



South Australia

- **[Skilled Careers](#)**: Find out how vocational education and training can help your child start their career (skills.sa.gov.au/).
- **[Apprenticeships and Traineeships](#)**: Your child can learn real skills in the workplace, earn a nationally-recognised qualification and be paid a wage by becoming an Apprentice or a Trainee (skills.sa.gov.au/apprenticeships).
- **[Growth State](#)**: Find out about how South Australia is unlocking growth and accelerating job creation in nine growth sectors: Defence industry; Space industry; Hi-Tech; Food, wine and agribusiness; International education; Tourism; Energy and mining; Health and medical industries and Creative industries (growthstate.sa.gov.au/).
- **[Future Industries eXchange](#)** for **[Entrepreneurship \(FIXE\)](#)**: The Future Industries Exchange for Entrepreneurship (FIXE) Strategy is growing the culture of entrepreneurship in South Australia (fixe.org.au/ or business.sa.gov.au/).
- **[Seasonal and regional jobs SA](#)**: spotlights the types of seasonal roles in agriculture, tourism and hospitality, the programs and incentives available, and where those looking for work can apply (seasonaljobs.sa.gov.au/).
- **[Volunteering](#)**: Volunteering is a great way for your child to learn new skills (including employability skills), gain real world experience, and sometimes even qualifications (sa.gov.au/topics/family-and-community/volunteering/finding-opportunities).



Tasmania

- **[Pathways Options](#)**: Find out more about pathways options on the Anything Can Happen website (anything.tas.gov.au/).
- **[TasTafe](#)**: Your child can get the skills they need for the job they want! Visit TasTAFE or call **1300 655 307** for more information (tastafe.tas.edu.au/).
- **[Apprenticeships or Traineeships](#)**: Find details about the next steps toward being an apprentice or trainee (skills.tas.gov.au/learners/i_want_to_be_an_apprentice_or_trainee).
- **[University of Tasmania](#)**: Visit the University of Tasmania website to find out information about study options available to your child or call 6226 2999 (utas.edu.au/).
- **[University College](#)**: You might also be interested in exploring the range of courses the University College has to offer. You can call 1800 788 244 to find out more (utas.edu.au/college).
- **[Job Seeking](#)**: Get information on learning and job-seeking at Skills Tasmania (skills.tas.gov.au/learners).
- **[Contact](#)**: Tasmanian students can speak to someone about their options by calling **03 6165 5761** or emailing years9to12learning@education.tas.gov.au.



Victoria

- **Victorian Skills Gateway:** Find free information and advice about funded training options available in Victoria (<https://www.skills.vic.gov.au/s/>).
- **Skills and Jobs Centres:** Get support with career and training plans and finding the right qualifications (education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/pathways/skillsandjobscentres/Pages/default.aspx).
- **Free TAFE:** Find out if free TAFE can give your child the skills they need to land jobs in demand (vic.gov.au/free-tafe).
- **Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) Careers Hub:** Victorian students can access support and speak to a career practitioner in their state by calling **(03) 9926 1026** or emailing careershub@vtac.edu.au (careershub.vtac.edu.au/).
- **Jobs Victoria:** Register for our online jobs platform – your child can access job opportunities including the Youth Employment Program and find out if they're eligible for the Apprenticeship Employment Network (jobs.vic.gov.au/findwork).



Queensland

- **Department of Education:** Find key education information, including resources to assist parents and students during COVID-19 (education.qld.gov.au/).
- **Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority (QCAA):** Find information for senior secondary students and their parents on the new QCE system (qcaa.qld.edu.au/).
- **Department of Employment, Small Business and Training:** Find information on training including apprenticeships and traineeships and skills to prepare for work now and in the future (desbt.qld.gov.au/).
- **Volunteering:** Learn how your child can make a difference and search for opportunities (qld.gov.au/community/community-organisations-volunteering/volunteering).
- **Free TAFE for Year 12 Graduates:** Find out if free TAFE can give your child the skills they need to land jobs in demand (tafeqld.edu.au/information-for/school-students/year-12-fee-free.html).
- **Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre:** Find information to help with tertiary admission (cqu.edu.au/about-us/structure/governance/glossary/items/queensland-tertiary-admissions-centre-qtac).



New South Wales

- **Digital Careers Toolbox:** Access inspiration and information to help your child uncover their career learning path (education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/career-and-study-pathways/educational-pathways-pilot-program/digital-careers-toolbox).
- **Health support:** Youth health resources and contacts for young people (health.nsw.gov.au/kidsfamilies/youth/Pages/yh-resources-for-young-people.aspx).
- **Training NSW:** Find out about apprenticeships and traineeships in NSW (training.nsw.gov.au/apprenticeships_traineeships/index.html).
- **NSW Police recruitment:** For those interested in joining the NSW police (police.nsw.gov.au/recruitment/application_process).
- **Volunteering:** Learn how your child can make a difference with volunteering and search for opportunities (makeadifference.volunteering.nsw.gov.au/).
- **TAFE NSW fee free short courses:** in conjunction with the NSW Government offering a number of subsidised or free training courses (tafensw.edu.au/fee-free-short-courses).

You can find additional information in the School Leavers Information Kit for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and rural, regional and remote school leavers.

Disability and Special Education Needs Support

There are a range of programs and supports for students with disability or special education needs:

Are you looking for education and work support and opportunities?

- **School Leaver Employment Supports program:** Through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), students can access School Leaver Employment Support to help them get ready for work and plan a pathway to employment (ndis.gov.au/participants/finding-keeping-and-changing-jobs/leaving-school).
- **Traineeships and apprenticeships (DAAWS):** Students with disability wanting to pursue a traineeship or apprenticeship can access mentoring and additional support through the DAAWS program (servicesaustralia.gov.au/organisations/business/services/centrelink/disabled-australian-apprentice-wage-support-program).
- **Job Access:** If your child is searching for employment, Disability Employment Services can provide the support you need to get ready for work (jobaccess.gov.au/people-with-disability/available-support/1631).
- **myWAY Employability:** A smart web platform to assist young autistic people plan and prepare for work (mywayemployability.com.au/about).
- **Australian Disability Enterprises:** Provides employment opportunities to people with disability by assisting with gaining experience and training to enable access into employment (dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers-programmes-services-for-people-with-disability/australian-disability-enterprises).
- **Leaving school and career planning – students with disability:** Providing information and support for leaving school and career planning for students with a disability (education.vic.gov.au/parents/additional-needs/Pages/disability-leaving-school.aspx).
- **Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training (ADCET):** Students with disability who are wanting to go on further education can access a wealth of information, resources and practical worksheets to help plan for the transition to further education (adcet.edu.au/students-with-disability/).
- **Get Ready for Study and Work:** This resource features 10 top tips for young people with disability who are leaving school and going onto work and study (westernsydney.edu.au/getreadyforstudyandwork/resources/get_ready_top_tip_workbooks).

General support

- **Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA):** An advocacy organisation that provides resources, information and advice on services and support for young people – including mechanisms to address any concerns or complaints (cyda.org.au/young-people).
- **Launchpad – leaving school and leading your own life:** Through Autism Spectrum Australia this website has been created for young people with autism or Asperger's, and their families (autismlaunchpad.org.au/).
- **Better Health Channel:** Post school options for children with a disability (betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/servicesandsupport/postschool-options-for-people-with-a-disability).
- **2020 School Leavers and the NDIS – Factsheet for Parents:** The Victorian Department of Education and Training and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) have collaborated on a fact sheet for parents of students with a disability who are completing school in 2020 (education.vic.gov.au/parents/additional-needs/Pages/disability-2020-school-leavers-and-the-national-disability-insurance-scheme.aspx).

Are you a carer and need some support?

- **Carer Gateway:** For students who may be young carers, provides free services in-person, online and via the phone, including coaching, counselling, respite care, peer support, online skills courses and financial support (carergateway.gov.au).

Support for Students with Mental Illness:

- **The Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Trial:** Aims to improve the educational and employment outcomes of students aged up to 25 with mental illness (dss.gov.au/mental-health-programs-services/individual-placement-and-support-ips-trial).

Support for Disadvantaged Students:

- **Study assist:** Information for students about government assistance for financing tertiary study (studyassist.gov.au/support-while-you-study/support-students).
- **The Smith Family:** Provides eligible students with mentoring, learning programs and activities, and sponsorship to develop their academic skills and go on to further studies or employment (thesmithfamily.com.au/programs).
- **UAC Education Access Scheme (EAS):** Educational Access Schemes (EAS) aim to help students who have experienced significant educational disadvantage receive an offer to university (uac.edu.au/future-applicants/scholarships-and-schemes/educational-access-schemes).



Extra help and support

Leaving school can sometimes be challenging. It's completely normal to feel this way. There are plenty of people you and your children can talk to.



Headspace

A dedicated mental health service for young people aged 12–25 years.

Website: [headspace.org.au/](https://www.headspace.org.au/)

Phone (eHeadspace): **1800 650 890**



Lifeline

Mental health and wellbeing information and support.

Website: [lifeline.org.au/](https://www.lifeline.org.au/)

Phone: **13 11 14**



Beyond Blue

Access 24-hour crisis support and suicide prevention services.

Website: [beyondblue.org.au/](https://www.beyondblue.org.au/)

Phone: **1300 22 4636**



Kids Helpline

A free, private and confidential 24/7 phone and online counselling service for young people.

Website: [kidshelpline.com.au/](https://www.kidshelpline.com.au/)

Phone: **1800 55 1800**

Schools can help too

Career practitioners, guidance counsellors, school psychologists or wellness team can provide wellbeing support and help identify the right options, as well as provide information on what's available in your state or territory.



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The Department of Education, Skills and Employment (department) takes reasonable care to ensure that the information and advice provided through the School Leavers Information Service is accurate and up-to-date. However, it is your responsibility to give us correct and complete information about your circumstances and to decide if you wish to take any action or decision on the basis of any information or advice provided by our information officers and careers practitioners. Before doing so you should exercise your own independent skill and judgement and make your own further enquiries relevant to your particular circumstances. The department is not liable for any loss resulting from any action taken or reliance made by you on any information or advice provided to you by our information officers and careers practitioners.

