



Conversation starters for parents

There's a lot to think about when your teen is making decisions about their future. Working with your teen's school is one way you can support your teen. Here's some conversation starters you can use to help you get the information you and your teen need to make the right choices for their senior years.

Helping your teen work out what they want to do

- › What should my teen be thinking about when making decisions about what to study in Years 11 and 12?
- › Are there any career orientation days at universities or with training organisations my teen can attend?
- › Can my teen do work experience to give them some idea about different work places?
- › Does the school organise work experience?

If your teen is thinking about vocational education and training (VET) courses

- › Can my teen do a VET course and still get a QCE?
- › Can my child do a VET and still go to university?
- › Can my teen do a VET course and get an ATAR score?
- › Is the VET training you are suggesting for my teen linked to future job opportunities?
- › Can we receive a full course guide before enrolling in VET to help inform our decision?

If your teen is choosing school subjects

- › Are there any subjects my teen has to study in Years 11 and 12?
- › What's the difference between a general subject and an applied subject?
- › Can my teen do school subjects and vocational education and training courses at the same time?
- › Is my teen doing enough subjects or courses to get a Queensland Certificate of Education when they finish Year 12?

If your teen wants to enrol in a VET course

- › How much do VET courses cost?
- › Are VET courses subsidised by the school or the government?
- › Will I be out of pocket? Is help available to cover costs?
- › Will my child be eligible for government-subsidised training after their school graduation?

Uniform and equipment

- › Will my teen need any new equipment for their VET course?
- › Will my teen have to wear or buy a new uniform if they do a VET course?

Where they will study

- › Can my child do their VET course at school or will they have to go somewhere else to do it?
- › If my child studies a VET course outside of their school, how do they get to and from the training venue?

Paid work

- › Will my teen need to do any paid work shifts as part of a VET course?

Length of course

- › How long will it take to complete the course?

Course teaching and assessment

- › Is this an online course or will my teen be taught in person by a teacher?
- › How much book-work and assessments are needed to complete this course?

Managing their time

- › Will my teen have any time during their school timetable to study for their course?
- › Will they need to do any course work at home?
- › Does my teen have to do anything during school holidays as part of the course?

If your teen wants to go to university

- › What subjects should my teen study if they want to get an ATAR to get into university?
- › Can my teen do a mix of general and applied subjects and still get an ATAR?
- › Can my teen do a mix of school subjects and VET courses and get an ATAR?
- › If my teen wants to go to university but doesn't get a high enough ATAR, what can they do?

If your teen wants to change direction

- › What happens if my teen changes their mind and wants to study something different?
- › Can my teen change subjects in Year 11 or 12?
- › Can my teen change VET courses in Year 11 or 12?
- › If my teen changes their learning pathway, can they still get a QCE or an ATAR?

