

Year 12's Should Focus on Choosing the Best Pathway for Them

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With year 12 results and early university offers just days away, it can be a confusing time for Australia's graduating high school students.

While some students will be confident about their chosen pathways, many might be questioning what to do next.

The confusion and anxiety felt by many school leavers may be amplified by the large number of options available and the current dialogue around the future of work.

Career Development Association of Australia National President Wanda Hayes recommends that "students identify what all of their options are and to give each of them careful consideration".

"While looking at your options, it is also important to remember that the choices you make now in no way define you forever," Ms Hayes said.

Current research shows the primary source of career advice for school leavers is still parents, family and caregivers, but this comes with a caveat.

"It is wonderful they are involved, but even with best intentions they may be looking through the eyes of their own experiences or might not have a current understanding of the labour market," Ms Hayes said.

Ms Hayes said year 12's should consider their own interests, strengths and experiences and focus on choosing what is the best pathway for them.

"For example, it is important not to get wrapped up in stereotypes, such as university is the only way to go. University is not for everyone and neither is VET," she said.

While looking at their best pathway, Ms Hayes said it is also important to balance being bold with being realistic.

"It is great to aspire to a dream career, but it is also vital to know what next steps you need to take to achieve those dreams in a realistic timeframe," she said.

"Ask yourself if your next step is a good and realistic start? Will you enjoy it? Does it have the potential to lead further? And are there other possible pathways if the first doesn't work out."

At the end of the day if finishing students are struggling to decide, Ms Hayes said they should get some advice from an accredited career development practitioner.

"Professional practitioners can provide qualified and experienced support, advice and resources, to help you clarify and determine the right direction," she said.

Year 12 Result Dates:

VIC: Thursday, 12 December
QLD: Saturday, 14 December
SA/NT: Tuesday, 17 December
NSW: Tuesday, 17 December
TAS: Tuesday, 17 December
WA: Thursday, 19 December
ACT: Thursday, 19 December

University Offer Dates:

Early Round Offers:

TAS: Wednesday, 18 December (For Year 12
Tasmanian Applicants)
VIC: Wednesday 18 December (For Victorian &
Queensland Applicants)
SA: Friday, 20 December
NSW, ACT, QLD & WA: Monday, 23 December

Main Round Offers:

TAS: Throughout January (to international/interstate
applicants)
NSW: Friday, 10 January
ACT: Friday, 10 January
SA: Friday, 10 January
VIC: Wednesday, 15 January
QLD: Wednesday, 15 January
WA: Thursday, 16 January

The Career Development Association of Australia (CDAA) commenced as the Australian Association of Career Counsellors in 1989, and is Australia's largest cross-sectoral association of career development professionals working in a diverse range of roles, delivering services in industry, government, education, employment programs and community organisations. The primary purpose of the CDAA is to support its members by leading, building and growing the career development profession.

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