

INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

Spark your students' career curiosity!



Getting started

The Career Taster Program (CTP) has been designed to enable schools to develop a program for Year 9 students that suits the needs of their students and local industry.

Funding to support the program has been provided to the Department of Education (DoE), Catholic Education WA (CEWA) and the Association of Independent Schools of WA (AISWA) to help schools meet additional expenses to implement the program. Funding has also been provided to TAFE colleges to support schools with industry experiences around the State, and to deliver the accredited *Course in Early Career Discovery*.

There is additional funding available for schools that would like to develop a specific program to support students who are disengaged, disadvantaged or are in regional and remote areas.

Each school can develop a program as big or as small as required, using a mixture of the curriculum and taster experiences. There is no set model. The focus is on taking students through a process of self-discovery and broad exploration of a diverse range of industries and occupations.

Program design

The Year 9 Career Taster Program is made up of two parts.

1 Early Career Discovery curriculum

The *Course in Early Career Discovery* is a six hour accredited qualification providing Year 9 students with early exposure to career options and pathways. It will assist them to make more informed decisions regarding their subject selections for Years 11 and 12, and post-secondary schooling options.

Completion of the *Course in Early Career Discovery* aims to enable students to make informed and realistic decisions about future pathways by focusing on three key areas:

- 1 Self-awareness and discovery of career interests
- 2 An exploration of pathways to contemporary and emerging skills and careers
- 3 Identification and use of career planning tools and activities

The course was developed as an accredited vocational education and training (VET) course, which can be delivered by TAFE colleges. Registered training organisations (RTOs) may also wish to add the accredited VET course to their scope. Students who successfully complete the accredited course will receive a nationally recognised VET qualification.

North Metropolitan TAFE is the official owner of the course. Assessment tools have been developed and can be shared with RTOs scoped to deliver the course, and copyright clearance can be requested through North Metropolitan TAFE.

It is not compulsory for students to gain the accredited qualification. Teachers can deliver the course to Year 9 students using the curriculum, teaching and learning resources as a guide. This means that students at schools that are unable to deliver the accredited VET qualification can still benefit from the curriculum component of the program. Please note students will not receive a VET qualification where training is not delivered as an accredited VET course.

2 Industry exploration and experience

A range of activities are available for Year 9 students to help them begin career exploration through showcasing industry areas, skills demonstrations and experiences at TAFE colleges.

The industry experiences should be practical, fun and engaging and highlight the wide range of potential trade and non-trade occupations available.

Employers and industry are encouraged to partner with TAFEs and schools to deliver key events. An online Career Taster Portal will be available **via jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/careertaster** to help industry stakeholders promote industry experiences, and for school to search through industry experiences available around the State.

How do schools develop a Career Taster Program that suits their students?



Step 1 | Program structure and cohort

Which students to engage?

This might be your entire Year 9 cohort or specific sub-cohorts, such as students:

- » undertaking a particular learning area, for example, health or ICT;
- » at risk of disengaging from school; or
- » with additional learning needs.

Schools may decide to deliver a combination of programs to address varying needs of your student cohort.

Schools may wish to roll out the program to all Year 9 students as part of their career development program and target funding to enable disadvantaged and disengaged students to engage in practical experiences that spark their interest.

When and how to deliver the program?

Your CTP can be timetabled in any way that suits your school. For example, your CTP could be scheduled:

- » as an intensive program over a couple of days or weeks; or
- » spread over a term, semester or year.

The delivery format can be also be designed to suit your school's schedule and the targeted cohort. For example, your CTP could be:

- » scheduled as a stand-alone lesson exploring a variety of career opportunities through a Form or Community class; or
- » embedded into a curriculum learning area focusing on careers in the industries aligned to the class curriculum.

Step 2 | Plan your lessons

A CTP experience can include one component, or any combination of the Taster experiences and Curriculum.



Taster experiences

When looking at what taster opportunities to arrange, consider:

- » your students interests; and
- » if your school has industry connections or career events that can be expanded to include Year 9 students.



Curriculum

Consider if it will be:

- » delivered as an accredited VET pathway;
- » delivered in-part or in-full through a non-accredited pathway; or
- » used as the basis for career learning in the classroom.

A number of resources will be available to assist schools to plan and review their CTP delivery and implementation, including model program ideas, and teaching and learning resources for the Course in Early Career Discovery. These resources can be found via jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/careertaster 

Schools can consider opportunities available through the local TAFE college and the range of activities listed in the Career Taster Portal.

Contact your local TAFE college for information about the CTP experiences on offer.

Step 3 | Identify resourcing requirements

What additional resources will be needed to implement your CTP and how will these be covered?

For example:

- » Will you require relief staff or additional staff to assist with excursions?
- » Do your students require special adjustments to participate in a planned activity?

Please contact your school sector representative listed below for further information.

Shaping a program for students with additional learning needs

A particular focus for the CTP is to help students with additional learning needs to participate in practical experiences that will assist them to connect with an area of interest.

In particular, schools are encouraged to identify experiences that will support Aboriginal students, students with disability, disengaged students, disadvantaged students and students in regional and remote areas.

Key contacts

TAFE colleges

TAFE College	Contact	Telephone	Email
North Metropolitan	Candice Bradley	9233 1206	career.taster@nmtafe.wa.edu.au
South Metropolitan	Lizzie Hapeta	9599 8797	elizabeth.hapeta@smtafe.wa.edu.au
Central Regional	Carmel Starcevich	9956 2965	carmel.starcevich@crtafe.wa.edu.au
North Regional	Tracey Deegan	9193 8901	tracey.deegan@nrtafe.wa.edu.au
South Regional	South West: Marchelle Antonovich Great Southern: Andrea Gallagher	6371 3028 6371 3797	careertaster@srtafe.wa.edu.au

School sector

Agency	Contact	Telephone	Email
Department of Education		9264 5195	secondarydhs.enquiries@education.wa.edu.au
Catholic Education	Nerida Williams	9380 1859	nerida.williams@cewa.edu.au
Association of Independent Schools	Wade McLeod	9441 1621	wmcleod@ais.wa.edu.au

Department of Training and Workforce Development

For further information about the CTP, please contact the project manager at the Department of Training and Workforce Development.

Contact	Telephone	Email
CTP Team	6551 5084	career.tasterprogram@dtwd.wa.gov.au