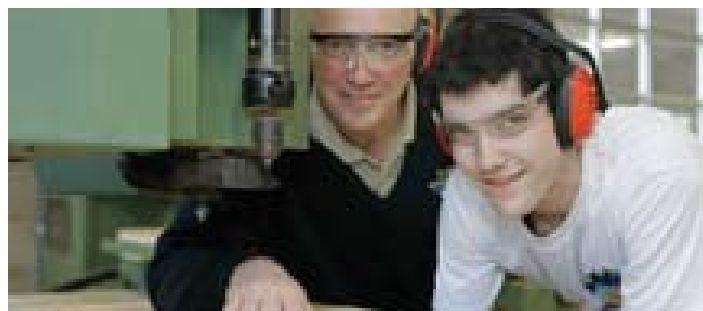


# Vocational education and training in NSW schools – providing skills and opportunities

A statement of purpose



# Vocational Education and Training in Schools – Providing Skills and Opportunity

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The NSW Government is committed to preparing young people to take their place in the workforce or go on to further studies. It is a key priority of the NSW Government's State Plan 'A new direction for NSW', to increase the proportion of students completing Year 12 or recognised vocational training from 82.7% in 2005 to 90% in 2016.

Industry throughout the State strongly supports VET in NSW schools, with the involvement of over 20,000 employers.

One of the NSW Government's major innovations in recent years has been to provide even more opportunities for vocational education and training (VET) in NSW schools, and to broaden the provision of VET for school students in Years 11 and 12. HSC VET students can now work towards an accredited qualification, the HSC, and entrance to university.

By carefully targeting VET in schools we are helping young people to get a taste of what interests them and meets their aptitudes – helping them to make career decisions, giving them a head start, and making their transition into the workforce much easier.

VET allows students to develop industry-recognised skills while at school, and then choose from a broad range of post-school options. The evidence shows that Year 11 and 12 students who undertake VET as part of their HSC have better job prospects than those who do not.

## VET in Schools in NSW

VET in schools has grown dramatically since 2001. VET courses not only appeal to the interests and aptitudes of young people, they also reflect the realities of the jobs market and its shifting demands for skills and training.

Today, one in every three students in Years 11 and 12 in NSW schools is undertaking a VET course as part of their HSC. In 2005, there were close to 69,000 enrolments in HSC VET, comprising over 52,000 students in Years 11 and 12. Of these, around 1,500 NSW school students undertook a school-based traineeship across 25 industry areas.

HSC VET courses are generally offered in schools or TAFE NSW in a wide range of trades and industry areas, including those suffering from skill shortages. Around 80 per cent of students undertaking HSC VET are enrolled in Industry Curriculum Framework courses in construction, metal and engineering, hospitality, information technology, business services, primary industries, tourism, retail and entertainment. These courses have a mandatory work placement component.

TAFE NSW offers students additional VET courses, often targeting local industry skill requirements in areas such as accounting, automotive, child studies, hairdressing, nursing and aged care.

## NSW Government Investment in VET in Schools

- **Providing accredited VET courses as part of the HSC**  
– The provision of industry and university-recognised VET courses has expanded opportunities for students and enabled them to move into the workforce with skills and confidence.
- **\$18.5 million to establish 10 trade schools** – Over the next four years, 10 trade schools will be established in schools and TAFE NSW Institutes. They will specialise in providing training for school-based apprentices in industry areas such as construction, automotive, engineering, electro technology, hospitality and health care. Trade schools will tackle skill shortages by working with industry to provide training to meet demand.
- **More than \$21 million for the School to Work program**  
– Assists students in Years 9 -12 to make decisions about their future through a range of programs including work experience and careers counselling. Students have access to an Employment Related Skills Logbook which enables them to document their skills, collate career information, and develop their resumes for job and course applications. Over the past 4 years, students have used 400,000 copies of this resource.

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- **\$330,000 VET pilot in Years 9 and 10** – To be conducted in over 30 NSW schools in 2006 and 2007, students start training in areas like construction, hospitality and primary industries. It aims to expand options for students in the compulsory years of schooling, particularly Aboriginal students and schools with low student retention rates to Year 10. Student work will count towards the School Certificate or HSC; credit will also be given towards a vocational qualification. The pilot will be evaluated to determine its potential for students across the state.
  - **Increasing availability of credit transfer** – Credit transfer, or advanced standing, is available at TAFE Institutes and NSW universities for specified HSC studies. Currently, credit transfer arrangements give credit for more than 500 TAFE modules. Some Year 10 and 11 VET courses attract credit into TAFE. A growing number of public school HSC students undertaking university-level courses are given credit or advanced standing.
  - **HSC VET helps to tackle trade skill shortages** – Many HSC VET students gain qualifications in trade-related occupations where there are skill shortages – eg, automotive, hospitality and manufacturing. Others, including school-based trainees, are enrolled in qualifications that provide credit transfer towards an apprenticeship.

### The Next Phase: 2007 – 2010

#### Benefits for students and employers

- **VET in schools increases student retention from Year 10 to Year 12** – Six out of 10 former VET students said that the option to study a VET subject influenced their decision to stay on at school to Year 12.
- **VET in schools improves student transitions to further study and work** – HSC VET students are successfully gaining entry to a wide range of study and work placements, eg:
  - 24 per cent of 2004 HSC VET students entered university
  - 28 per cent entered post-school VET courses
  - 10 per cent became apprentices; 6 percent became trainees, and
  - 28 per cent entered the workforce (not studying).
- **HSC VET students are more work-ready than other school leavers** – Employers agree that VET courses give students a competitive edge. They particularly value the competencies and employability skills gained by these students.
- **Students and employers value work placements** – NSW leads Australia in the provision of work placement. More than 80 percent of HSC VET enrolments have access to a minimum of 70 hours work placement to improve their skills. Each year, around 20,000 NSW employers provide more than 50,000 work placement opportunities for students.
- **Introducing school-based apprenticeships** – In 2007, students will be able to start Certificate III level training as part of their HSC. This will enable school-based apprentices to complete the equivalent of the first year of a full-time apprenticeship. It is expected that school based apprenticeships will be available in a number of areas including metal and engineering, automotive, construction, and hospitality.
- **A new model for school based apprenticeships and traineeships** – The new competency-based model will provide a framework for school based apprenticeships and streamline arrangements for school based traineeships to increase their flexibility.
- **Establishing Independent Industry Support Services** – To assist young people to secure apprenticeships, support schools to work with industry, help employers to meet training and school requirements, and support post-school placement of apprentices. The NSW Department of Education and Training's statewide network of State Training Centres will provide these services.
- **Introducing a Taste of TAFE** – Taste of TAFE will introduce students in Years 9 and 10 to hands-on skills training in TAFE NSW to help them determine their career options. TAFE NSW will provide training in skill shortage areas in local industry. Taste of TAFE will be introduced across the state in 2007.
- **Improving transition to work and further study for Aboriginal students** – There will be a stronger focus on improving the transition of Aboriginal students from education into skilled employment and further study.
- **Extending the range of work placements available to students** – Improving networks and forging stronger links between schools, local businesses, industry, TAFE and the community.
- **Monitoring student progress** – Provide better opportunities for parents to support 15-19 year olds in decision making and academic progress. Feedback will be provided to employers on students undertaking traineeships and apprenticeships.

More information on VET  
in schools can be found at:

[www.det.nsw.edu.au/vetinschools](http://www.det.nsw.edu.au/vetinschools)

[www.tafensw.edu.au/howex/servlet/  
Course?Command=GetTvetCourses](http://www.tafensw.edu.au/howex/servlet/ Course?Command=GetTvetCourses)

Or contact the Vocational Education in  
Schools Directorate at: Locked Bag 53,  
DARLINGHURST NSW 2010

