

Workabout

Pathways to Training, Employment
and Further Education

Aboriginal
Pathways



Information Guide



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Welcome to Workabout

Workabout is a statewide service that supports Aboriginal secondary students in South Australian public schools to thrive in education and take meaningful steps toward further training, employment and future careers.

Workabout is dedicated to empowering Aboriginal young people with the skills, confidence and opportunities they need for their future. By connecting culture, community and career, Workabout works alongside schools to inspire young people to dream big, build their skills and step confidently into their next chapter.

Developed in 2009, Workabout is a service of the Aboriginal Pathways Directorate, Student Pathways and Careers Division in the Department for Education.

Workabout's all-Aboriginal Leadership Team and Coordinators work alongside Pathway Advisors, Disability Transition Advisors, Industry Engagement Consultants, VET Quality and Capability Officers and SAASTA School Operations Coordinators.

This cohesive and coordinated approach enables us to offer Aboriginal young people the best advice and opportunities through a cultural lens for their chosen career and education pathways.



Our Objectives

- 1** To inspire Aboriginal young people by exposing them to diverse career and education pathways and celebrating Aboriginal success across the workforce.
- 2** To equip Aboriginal students with the skills, confidence, and networks to pursue meaningful employment during and after school.
- 3** To support holistic schooling approaches that engage Aboriginal students in paid work or higher training while completing secondary education, increasing retention and SACE achievement.
- 4** To provide practical and culturally responsive support to remove barriers to workforce readiness, including help with identification, licences, and required checks.

The Workabout model



How we work

Workabout Coordinators work directly with Aboriginal students, in collaboration with Aboriginal Education teams within schools and are committed to a student-centred approach. This approach empowers students to make positive choices, set high expectations, and plan meaningful pathways towards training and employment. The focus is on supporting each student to develop their aspirations and take practical steps to achieve their goals.

Workabout offers a range of training, programs, and individual services designed to expose Aboriginal young people to diverse career pathways, inspire them to dream big, and equip them with the skills and knowledge to set goals and plan their futures. The practical support provided by Coordinators removes barriers for a successful transition into further or higher education or employment.

Workabout training is designed specifically for school-aged Aboriginal students and is delivered in culturally safe, age-appropriate classroom environments that support learning and engagement. All training sessions are conducted exclusively for students, ensuring a comfortable and focused space. Programs are facilitated by Department for Education preferred training providers, with additional workshops delivered by experienced Workabout Coordinators. This approach ensures that every training opportunity reflects cultural respect, relevance, and a strong educational focus tailored to the needs of Aboriginal young people.



Programs, Training & Support

Workabout offers a range of fee free training, culturally underpinned programs, and individual support services designed to expose Aboriginal young people to diverse career pathways, inspire them to dream big, and equip them with the skills and knowledge to set goals and plan their futures. The practical support provided by Coordinators removes barriers for a successful transition into further or higher education or employment.

Training (age restrictions apply)

Access to a range of training and skills development programs, that help build job ready skills and lead to employment.

Programs

Aboriginal Pathways to Success

- Year 10 Immersion Week – early term 3
Students engage in a week of hands-on activities in an industry of interest. This week assists students with year 11 subject selection and VET options and can be used as part of EIF assessment.

Next Steps

- Year 12 Transition Program – week 9, term 3
A day focussed on casual and full time employment, apprenticeships, traineeships, University advice and SATAC applications. Students meet employers and Universities and engage in training.



Student Support – Individual and Group

- Essential ID/Checks and Clearances
 - Birth certificate
 - USI
 - WWCC
 - TFN
 - RRHAN-EC
- Workreadiness
 - Resume
 - Cover letter
 - Interview skills
 - Job applications
 - Work clothing & PPE
 - License support
- VET Options
 - VETRO support
 - VET advice
- Career Support/Training
 - Advocacy
 - Career planning
 - Career guidance/information
 - Payment for a single course
 - Volunteering/Workplace learning
 - Tour of worksite/Tech College
 - Industry Immersion activities
- University Pathways
 - University advice/link with Uni
 - SATAC application
 - Scholarship info/application
- Employment
 - Full time employment
 - Part time/casual employment
 - Full time apprenticeship/traineeship
 - School-based apprenticeship/traineeship
- Referral to other service

What students and staff are saying about the program



When I first started doing a beauty course through Workabout and French Beauty Academy I was dealing with a lot of anxiety and self-doubt. I wasn't sure if I could follow through or even believe in myself to finish. It is thanks to the kindness, patience and mentoring of Workabout and Aboriginal Pathways staff for their help and support, I have now completed 2 certificates and am on my way to my future dream of being a beautician.

Kiah Abrook – Warriapendi High School



My Workabout Coordinators helped me find my way and kept me on track through my senior years at school and this relationship allowed me to grow as a person and be confident. With their support I was able to find work in Port Augusta once I completed school. Now I am a Workabout Coordinator myself

Ethan Strangways – Past student and current Workabout Coordinator



I was involved in Workabout from years 10 to 12, which helped me feel confident and supported in school and within community. It guided me through high school and helped me access things like my white card, first aid, pathways planning and eventually university. I now study at Victoria University as a first year student.

Denzel James – Avenues College



My involvement with Workabout has helped me build confidence and develop leadership skills, opening up a variety of future pathways and different opportunities. At the end of year 12 I hope to attend university to study Aboriginal Studies, Archaeology, or Youth Work where I can embrace culture and give back to the community to support young people.

Jonah Buzzacott – Craigmores High School





Attending Aboriginal Pathways to Success Immersion week I had the opportunity to experience different pathways which led to my interest being sparked around Animal Care. I never thought this was an option for me but since the camp I have shifted my pathway options and am looking at relocating to Adelaide after year 12 and engaging in a Taronga Zoo course which could eventually lead to me becoming a Zoologist. I have also started volunteer work at the local RSPCA where I am working in the dog section and absolutely love it. If I didn't attend the immersion week I never would have thought this would have been an option for me and I would never have thought of bigger and better things for myself outside of Whyalla.

Sarah Page – Whyalla Secondary College



How do I get work experience at Workabout doing what you do, I would like to do that as a career path and give back to students. This program is important and I want to be part of it in the future.

Year 10 student



I loved Aboriginal Pathways to Success Immersion week, it helped me determine what trade I want to do when I finish school. I did want to be an electrician but after trying both trades I now want to do tiling.

Year 10 student



Aboriginal Pathways to Success Week has been a fantastic week and has given so many opportunities for students to have a look at various career pathways and have a hands-on learning experience. It's so valuable and a lot of work has gone into setting this up for students, a job well done.

Teacher



Workabout is an example of the Department for Education's initiatives that support the Australian Government's commitment to addressing Aboriginal educational disadvantage. The support services that Workabout offer Aboriginal young people align to Close the Gap targets, the Aboriginal Education Strategy 2019-2029 and the Department for Education's Career Education and Pathways Strategy.



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