



## Work Experience

### **What is work experience?**

Work experience is when students attend a work place to learn how an industry operates while still at school. An agreement is made between the school, the student, the student's parents and a work experience provider. Work experience can only be for a maximum of 30 days per year unless it's structured work placement. Students must be a minimum of 14 years old to attend work experience.

### **Work experience placements aim to:**

- Provide students with an opportunity to relate school studies with workplace contexts;
- Prepare students for demands and expectations of working world;
- Help students make informed career decisions by assessing their aptitudes and interests, and exploring potential careers;
- Acquaint students with non-gender stereotyped occupations;
- Give students insights into the nature of diversity of employees in the workplace;
- Improve students' maturity, confidence and self-reliance;
- Provide a link between school and local community;
- Provide opportunities for students to become more informed about current labour market issues;
- Provide opportunities for students to learn about family care, household management and other unpaid work options in community activities;
- Provide students with appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes concerning both paid and unpaid work;
- Provide an opportunity to extend theoretical learning of classroom into practical applications of workplace; and
- Provide schools with an initiative to forge stronger links between education and industry.

### **Models of work experience**

#### **Structured work placements**

Structured work placement is when a student is participating in a VET subject that requires the student to have a set amount of hours in the work place. As part of a VET course, students are required to complete theory work as well as hands on experience within the workplace. For example, students studying a Certificate III in Children's Services require 200 hours of work experience.

#### **Work sampling**

Work sampling is when a student is placed in an industry of their choice where they can sample and make an informed decision as to whether they would like to work in this industry. There are no set hours or days for work sampling, it is to assist the students with future choices and also knowledge of a general work environment.

#### **Work shadowing**

Work shadowing provides students with the opportunity to learn actively about people at work and to examine the work role they perform. Students gain access to occupational areas that may not be suited to work sampling eg, lawyer, dentist, chemist.

### **What to do if you are interested?**

Please see **Mary Hannaford VETLO in B03 (Senior Hub)** in the Library for an application or ph: (07) 3400 2412 e. [VET@bribieislandshs.qg.edu.au](mailto:VET@bribieislandshs.qg.edu.au)