

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Several researchers have found that parents are one of the most commonly consulted and influential sources of career and information advice" (Bedson & Perkins 2006, p2) for young people. Parents play an important role in children's career decision making and have a unique role in young people's transition networks.

The NSW Department of Education and Training has developed a brochure titled *Career Development for Students in NSW Public Schools*, to inform parents and the school community about how schools help students take charge of their personal career journey. In partnership with the school and other community members, parents can help their children make good career decisions.

Career development is the process for managing life, learning and work over the lifespan (DEST 2006 p.14); consequently it is important that young people gain the skills they need to be proactive and purposeful in their career planning.

The brochure has been developed through an initiative known as the *School to Work Program*. This Program provides students with a range of experiences that build their skills and confidence to plan a successful transition from school. Students use the *Employment Related Skills Logbook* (often referred to as 'the blue book') to identify and record their work/life skills as a result of their participation in classroom, community



Students at TAFE studying for their future career. Find out more at www.tafensw.edu.au

and work-based learning as well as other extra-curricula activities, including community service and part-time work.

Parents/carers can support their children to recognise the skills they learn and practice in their hobbies, sport, community activities and home duties by encouraging them to record these in their *Logbook*. The *Logbook* then becomes an excellent resource to assist them to develop job and/or scholarship applications, resumes and prepare for interviews.

The online *Student Pathways Survey* mentioned in the brochure enables students in Years 9-12 to express their confidence and ideas in career planning and transition. When students complete the *Student Pathways Survey* a feedback report is immediately provided. The report gives them some direct feedback and advice on how to progress their career planning. Students are encouraged to request a personal interview with their careers adviser for further support and career guidance.

Students can share their *Student Pathways Survey* feedback report with their parents/carers. The report provides students with the confidence and language to talk about and share their ideas, feelings and thoughts about their future.

The strength of the *School to Work Program* is its flexibility to service a wide range of students located in unique school communities. It relies on school communities to play an integral role in providing students with access to workplace learning, excursion venues, guest speakers, careers expos and other vocational and enterprise learning opportunities.

In addition to this brochure, the Vocational Education in Schools Directorate has recently introduced an area for parents/carers on its website. Here parents/carers can access career development information that will enable them to feel more informed to guide and support their

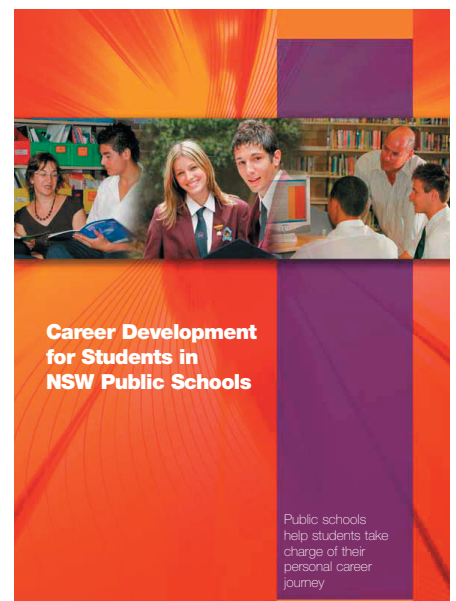
children at critical points in their career decision-making.

The link to this website is:

<https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/vetinschools/schooltowork/parentscommunity/index.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/kw2pg>

The brochure, which has recently been distributed to secondary and central schools, can be accessed at:

<https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/vetinschools/documents/schooltowork/CareersDevelopmentBrochure.pdf> or <http://tinyurl.com/fygfg>



This article has been prepared by Sue MacLean, Senior Coordinator, Career Development and Vocational Learning in the Vocational Education in Schools Directorate.

References

- Bedson, L. & Perkins, D. (Feb 2002) *A positive influence: Equipping parents to support young people's career transitions*, Brotherhood of St Laurence.
- DEST, *Australian Blueprint for Career Development: Trial Version*, (May 2006) Canberra.