



Ways to gain experience and Build your Career

The term 'career' was traditionally associated with paid employment and referred to a single occupation or job for the majority of your life, with opportunity for promotion and progression. The idea of having one job for life is now a thing of the past for most people, and you may have heard of the term "gig economy" or having a portfolio of careers. It is expected that a young person today may have up to 17 jobs across 5 careers in their lifetime.

With jobs always changing, you now need to keep learning throughout your life and take charge of your own future. You have an active role to play in building your career. You will need to:

- take responsibility for creating your own success and growth
- know who you are and what your goals are
- undertake self-directed learning to gain new skills or seek appropriate training to stay up to date
- Seek out and research information about growth areas and trends about future job opportunities

Building your career

Building your career happens throughout your life as you gain more experience in the world of work and undertake a variety of life experiences.

Being involved in a variety of activities helps broaden your experience and develop skills for work and life to build your career.

This could include:

- Volunteer work
- Work experience
- Apprenticeships and Traineeships
- Training and Education
- Work Placements
- Internships
- Cadetships
- Cultural activities
- Community involvement
- Employment
- Education
- Life roles
- Interests and hobbies
- Enterprise activities
- Sport, music, dance, theatre any many other activities

These are all great opportunities for you to develop skills and networks and can help you to decide what you would like to do. By undertaking work experience you will gain real life, hands on experience at a workplace to learn about an occupation or industry, as you observe others and complete tasks.

Volunteer work

Volunteering is a great way to get involved in the community, meet people and make connections that could lead to other opportunities in the future (Networking). This work involves performing a task or supplying a service to a not-for-profit organisation or project, usually unpaid work. By volunteering, you can help address the human, environmental and social needs around you, helping you become socially aware.

[Volunteering Victoria](#)

[Volunteering Australia](#)

[Volunteering During Corona Virus](#)



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Community involvement

Community involvement gives you opportunities to network and gain valuable skills, knowledge and experience. Your community is made up of lots of different groups of people, such as school councils and communities, youth organisations, sport and recreation and volunteer groups. Community involvement is about joining one or more of these groups to exchange ideas, build partnerships and make things happen.

Here are some simple ways you can get involved in your community:

- Look for Local Event
- Volunteer Your Time
 - Dog walker
 - Animal shelter
 - Read to elderly in aged care
- Donate Your Resources
 - Clothes and household goods to your local thrift shops or area Salvation Army
 - Food to your city's food bank
 - Bed linen or blankets to your town's city mission or homeless shelter
 - Books to area libraries.
 - Food, cleaning supplies, and bedding to your local animal shelter
- Shop Locally and buy handmade products, attend local makers or farmers markets
- Join a Class or Group
- Support Your Local Sports Teams
- Organise Your Own Event

Employment

Employment is the paid work you do. You should draw upon your employment history and experiences as evidence to a potential employer that you are the right person for the job.

Life roles

You take on many roles during your life that contribute to your career. All your different roles in life involve developing or enhancing skills that you can transfer from one relationship or association to another. Many of these skills can become useful in paid work, even if we learn them through a friendship, or through involvement in community work. Examples of life roles: parent, carer, coach, employee, boss, friend, colleague, son, daughter, mentor, accountant, lawyer, doctor, teacher, blogger, partner, student, and teammate...

Enterprise and entrepreneur activities

An enterprise is an activity or project that produces services or products. An entrepreneur is commonly seen as an innovator, a source of new ideas, goods, services, and business or procedures. In some workplaces and industries, producing new services or products is highly valued.



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Cultural activities

Culture is what gives groups of people a collective identity. It involves customs, beliefs and values, ways of behaving, and the objects and artefacts people make. Many aspects of your life, including your career, can be enriched if you take part in cultural activities.

Also, finding out about other societies' cultures is a great way to learn about how other people think, how they solve problems, how they communicate and what they value in others. Cross-cultural activities will greatly enhance many areas of your life, as well as making you a more valued member of the workforce.

[Victorian Multicultural Commission](#)

[Events Calendar of Cultural and Religious Dates](#)

Training

Training activities upgrade your skills, develop your knowledge and maintain your levels of competency. Training can be formal, resulting in a qualification upon completion. It can also be non-formal, adding to your general skill base without giving you a qualification. See the [gain skills or study](#) page

Education

Education is part of your lifelong learning process. Any person's career will probably involve a combination of formal and informal education. Formal education refers to programmes provided by the three sectors of the Australian education and training system: schools, vocational education and training and higher education. Non-formal education refers to all other deliberate forms of learning. It can play a vital role in your career. It allows you to demonstrate commitment to and interest in a particular subject and it keeps you up to date on the latest concepts and practices in your career field.

Interests

Understanding the common features of your different interests can help you choose an occupation or a course of study.

e.g. Physical activity, creative, working with people, challenging.....

Sport

Being involved in sport can give you a wide range of skills, experiences and abilities that are highly valued in the workplace. Make sure you let potential employers know about them. e.g. Team work, leadership skills, discipline, communication.....