



Your school has been invited by a Host Employer or Industry to participate in Work Inspiration. Interested students will have the opportunity to take part in an employer organised experience relating to the world of work.

The workplace your students will enter may be very different to when you started working. A student leaving school today can expect six to ten job changes and three to five different occupations during their lifetime. They may spend time unemployed, be involved in education throughout their lifetime and move away from the area or country where they were born and will be involved in jobs/careers that do not yet exist.

There is a mismatch between the skills young people have when they finish their education and what prospective employers are looking for. Young people need to be inspired by the workplace and gain a clearer picture of work directly from employers and employees.

WHAT IS WORK INSPIRATION?

Students participate in work experience every year but it doesn't always inspire or expose them to the reality of a workplace. Many young people don't have access to their own employer networks to experience the world of work.

Work Inspiration is a business-led initiative that provides young people with opportunities to experience the world of work first hand in a meaningful and inspiring way. More than just work experience, Work Inspiration provides a model for employers to play a valuable role in shaping their future workforce and the next generation of Australian workers.

At Work Inspiration students will be involved in activities based on three insights that develop the students' knowledge of themselves and the world of work (see diagram).

THE THREE INSIGHTS

1

Insight One: "All About Me"

Students discover their talents, passions, interests and personalities through a 'personality quiz' style conversation.

2

Insight Two: "Behind the Scenes"

Students are introduced by the employer to the organisation/industry - what the organisation/industry does and why, how it operates and the various roles and opportunities that are available. After this overview, students are taken on a tour of the workplace, stopping to visit some of the employees in action.

3

Insight Three: "Careers Happen"

During this session, students have career conversations with employees, interviewing them about their career journey from their early teenage years up until their present position. Reflecting on those conversations, students then create a 'career board' - a visual representation of an employee's career journey.

Work Inspiration provides motivation for students by:

- Raising their aspirations and broadening their perspective
- Supporting the development of their career goals
- Explaining the relevance of education and lifelong learning.

As a result of their involvement in Work Inspiration students will:

- See and experience an operational workplace
- Learn about employers' expectations
- Learn about different work roles and opportunities within an organisation
- Meet employees and engage in career conversations with them about their jobs and their individual career journeys
- Gain an understanding of themselves and their strengths and how these apply to a workplace.

WORK INSPIRATION, CAREER PLANS AND CURRICULUM

The learning that the students experience in the 1st Insight "All About Me" can be applied as part of the first stage of students' career planning. The Self Awareness aspect of the "All About Me" Insight can be connected to specific Learning Areas of the Australian Curriculum, for example as part of the four interrelated elements of "Personal and Social Capability" (Self-awareness, Self-management, Social Awareness and Social Management) in Health and Physical Education; English; Mathematics; Science and/or History curriculums.

The learning students experience in the 1st Insight "All About Me" could also be applied as part of the NSW Work Education Years 7-10 Syllabus – Core Part 1: Preparing Futures - Topic: Transition Planning.

Aspects of Insight Two "Behind the Scenes" could be applied to the NSW Work Education Years 7-10 Syllabus – Option 5: Learning about the Workplace.

The conversations and information students discover in Insight Three "Careers Happen" could be applied as part of the NSW Work Education Years 7-10 Syllabus – Option 3: Life Transitions, or NSW Work Studies, Stage 6 Syllabus – Core: My Working Life.

(NSW Government Schools only) The Three Insights experienced by students in NSW would be useful background to engage in activities in Logbook Online as well as the Student Pathways Survey and its associated plan.

PREPARATION FOR WORK INSPIRATION

Students - A number of resources have been developed by Work Inspiration to assist your student's preparation for their Work Inspiration experience and to ensure that they understand what is expected of them.

Once students have been selected to participate in Work Inspiration either the organising teacher or the host employer can provide the students with these resources:

- 9. It's all about me (Factsheet)
- 10. What employers want (Factsheet)
- 11. My potential - Stage one (Worksheet)

Teachers (and other school staff) – the following resources have been developed for distribution across the school to help staff understand Work Inspiration:

- This Factsheet: Why Work Inspiration and what's in it for my school?
- 12. Work Inspiration top tips for schools (Factsheet)
- 14. Presentation to teachers involved in Work Inspiration (PowerPoint).

Parents – Resource 7 "Parents – talking about career planning" has been designed to be forwarded to parents of students selected to participate in Work

Inspiration explaining Work Inspiration and career planning.

Beyond Work Inspiration - What next for students after Work Inspiration?

A number of resources have been developed to assist students to have an ongoing benefit from the lessons learnt about themselves during the Work Inspiration activities, including:

- 15. Reflection activity (Worksheet)
- 16. Thank you letter to employer (Template)
- 17. Beyond Work Inspiration (Worksheet)
- 18. My potential – Review (Worksheet)
- 19. Checklist for your future study or work (Checklist).

Additional school resources include:

- 4. Other ideas (Instructions)
- 5. Glossary (Factsheet).

