



An Australian Government Initiative

WHAT ARE ADOPT A SCHOOL PROGRAMS?

Adopt a School programs build links between businesses, students, teachers and the broader school community through activities that increase knowledge of, and opportunity for careers and further education in a particular industry. They add value to school based education by giving students and teachers a greater understanding of industry. Programs are driven by either schools or businesses, and are supported by the Local Community Partnership (LCP).

Some benefits of Adopt a School Programs are that they can:

- ⇒ raise the awareness of employability skills and the needs of business;
- ⇒ develop positive attitudes towards industry and local business;
- ⇒ build strong and ongoing relationships between businesses and schools;
- ⇒ provide school students with practical career information and expose them to the workplace;
- ⇒ connect businesses, school students, teachers and families in career pathways planning;
- ⇒ engage students and businesses in school based learning and work based learning;
- ⇒ provide opportunities for teachers and students to gain practical experience in industry;
- ⇒ provide businesses with opportunities to learn about the education sector;
- ⇒ ensure mutual benefit for schools, industry and business.

HOW DO THEY WORK?

Adopt a School Programs include a range of activities that businesses can choose from that link in with local schools or educational groups. Some of these activities could include:

- ⇒ tours, visits and excursions;
- ⇒ speakers and demonstrations;
- ⇒ student mentoring, role modelling and interview training;
- ⇒ career displays and mobile exhibits;
- ⇒ teacher exchange programs;
- ⇒ part-time work opportunities, work experience, structured workplace learning, work and career shadowing and School Based Apprenticeships;
- ⇒ forums, councils, seminars, conferences, Summer schools, teacher or student industry and business seminars;
- ⇒ supporting curriculum development, teacher and student materials and resources, structured learning activities, competitions, games and work simulation exercises.

HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO ME AS A BUSINESS?

As an Industry or Business you hold an incredible position to build links with schools and the wider community through some of the following:

- ⇒ provide speakers to talk to students about careers and employability skills
- ⇒ participate in project activities with schools
- ⇒ provide opportunities for teachers to gain exposure to your workplace
- ⇒ promote your industry as an attractive career choice to schools
- ⇒ invite schools to visit your workplace
- ⇒ establish working contacts with local TAFE, other training providers and schools
- ⇒ provide workplace opportunities for students
- ⇒ participate in school and community career education events
- ⇒ identify and promote role models in your business
- ⇒ support vocational education and VET in Schools programs
- ⇒ participate in local networks

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Contact your local LCP representative and they will work with you to make appropriate links with your local school and will help you write an **Adopt a School** project plan that ensures a mutually beneficial arrangement for both your business and your targeted school/s.

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