



The holistic approach taken towards the education of our students transitioning from school to post-school options is made complete by the inclusion of our in-house Work Training program.

Our students begin accessing the work training program as they enter year 10 at school. This training continues on through year 11.

The Work Training suite offers a variety of programs which provide the student with a skill set useful to their lives, post-school. These programs are closely linked with characteristic future options for our school leavers.

Together, these practices assist the student to become as independent as possible in their daily lives, creating self-worth, satisfaction, a feeling of achievement and ultimately, success in their future post-school endeavours.

Each program offers training in generic skills, applicable within all work situations. These programs are run within simulated environments, closely resembling that of a real work-place. Each session is largely task-focused, with minimal teacher-direction employed, once again reflecting a typical work environment.

The focus skill set for each student includes:

- On-task behaviour
- Following direction from a number of staff members
- Working independently and with others
- Personal presentation
- Punctuality
- Workplace health and safety procedures
- Quality work output with a focus on increasing the quantity delivered
- Communication with co-workers and supervisors
- Identification and practical knowledge of typical equipment related to the program
- Social interactions with co-workers

Within each program, staff work to develop the individual skills and interests of the student, assisting them towards independence.

The experiences gained by the student within the school-based Work Training program further enhance their life skills associated with functional literacy, numeracy and communication. This, fundamentally, prepares them for their transition from school to post-school life.

When students reach year 12 and have demonstrated satisfactory work skills at school they may be placed, with support from our senior staff, in Work Experience in external workplaces. This gives students the opportunity to put their generic skills learned in Work Training into the real world of employment. As their confidence and skill set improves, the support given by school staff is decreased to give the student the opportunity to show independent work skills and behaviours.

The success of the Work Training and Work Experience programs is a reflection of the effectiveness of the whole school curriculum and strong pedagogical practices at Western Suburbs Special School.