

genü

EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS NEWSLETTER.



EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS.

There are a range of services at genU to assist you along your individualised employment journey.

Your dedicated Employment Pathways Coordinator will use their expertise in employment and social inclusion to tailor innovative and creative supports to suit your needs.

Your Coordinator works with you to build your skills and supports you to reach your career dreams.

genU inspires you to reach further and open up new possibilities that you never thought possible.

genU can support you to develop your skills and provide you with meaningful work experience or employment. Our supports include:

- Work experience in open employment
- Workplace mentoring
- Employment related training and evaluations completed in the workplace
- Travel training
- Employment preparation and support
- Developing your self-esteem, resilience and employability skills.

SLES. (SCHOOL LEAVER EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS)

School Leaver Employment Supports (SLES) can support your transition from school to work.

SLES is about giving you the skills and confidence to help you move from school to employment. We offer individualised support in your final year of school and for up to two years. These supports are designed to help participants get ready for work and plan their pathway to employment. Whether you prefer individualised supports, small group supports or a mix of both, we will tailor a plan that best suits your needs.

[Click here to learn more about SLES with genU.](#)

In this newsletter, you'll read stories from all across our service regions:



SUCCESS STORIES.

DREW FINDS ONGOING WORK WITH VIATEK

Drew says genU Employment Pathways helped him find a new job in a new town.

Drew grew up in Cobden, before moving to Geelong to pursue his passions in athletics and Australian rules football commentary. He realised he needed help in finding suitable employment, and with assistance from genU Employment Pathways, Drew soon landed a job with printing equipment supplier Viatek in Fyans Street.

"I needed something to do during the week so genU came along and helped me out, they got me a job at Viatek and it started from there," Drew said.

Drew linked up with genU Employment Pathways in 2018 and began fine-tuning his resume, working on interview practice and canvassing local employment opportunities. Employment Pathways Coordinator Dave worked alongside Viatek to build a role that suited Drew's specific skills. Dave and the employer worked closely to ensure the company was well equipped to support Drew in the workplace.

Drew's roles and tasks at Viatek have changed over time, as his skills and confidence grew.

"I do a few different things there as a technician, a bit of computer work, installs and a lot of travel too – it can be challenging but I love it, it's been really good," he said.

Drew said building a local support network which included genU, his family and his new employer Viatek, gave him increased confidence to build his employability skills.

"I think it's really important to have that support from all those areas," he said.

"There's a lot of people who taught me about what I needed to do – I wouldn't be in this position if it wasn't for them."

Drew said employment support was there for people who needed a helping hand.

"Just keep at it, get that support if you need it, and stay focused on the goals you want to achieve," he said.

"JUST KEEP AT IT, GET THAT SUPPORT IF YOU NEED IT, AND STAY FOCUSED ON THE GOALS YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE."

— Drew



CAITLIN SHINES GAINING CINEMA WORK EXPERIENCE

Caitlin is one step closer to her career goal of working in a cinema after her work experience at [Thornbury Picture House](#).

She was a great candidate for work experience in this setting as she already had an RSA, which she gained with the help of the genU Employment Pathways team. This qualification means that Caitlin can also work in the bar within the cinema.

Caitlin's other duties include welcoming customers and checking tickets, making coffees, and cleaning bathrooms and tables.

Caitlin absolutely shines when she interacts with customers, and cinema owners Lou and Gus have been great guides; ensuring that she understands every aspect of working in a cinema.



CAREER DREAMS BLOOM AT THE STATE ROSE GARDEN



Werribee Park and the State Rose Garden continue to blossom thanks to the hard work of some genU SLES participants!

Two groups from genU get work experience out at the rose garden one day a week, where they are guided to develop their horticulture skills.

Some of the tasks they do include pruning, planting, fertilising, watering and some light landscaping.

All the participants are working with their Employment Pathways coordinators to develop their employability skills and gain more experience in horticulture and gardening. This experience helps the participants to strive towards their career goals of gaining employment somewhere in the great outdoors!

RUBY'S COSTUME JOB A HUGE STEP FORWARD

Since Ruby started with SLES last year, she's completed travel training and work placements at Woolworths, Big W, Target and Coles. This experience helped build her attention to detail, time-management skills and ability to take initiative.

These were big steps for Ruby, but her huge success came when she commenced work experience at The Costumery in October. Ruby is a big fan of cosplay and film making, and has great talent with hair dressing and make up design. So her support worker found something that was more suited to her interests and future prospects and organised the placement.

Now Ruby gets to complete various tasks including styling displays, pricing costumes and brushing wigs. She is also getting Individual Support to find suitable courses in the Hair and Beauty industry. Each week her confidence builds and her skills improve!



TIM COMPLETES WORK EXPERIENCE AT IGA

Tim has been excelling while completing work experience at IGA liquor.

With the help of the genU Employment Pathways team, Tim gained his Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) and secured work experience.

At IGA, he serves customers, unpacks and replenishes stock and does it all with a great attitude. He's really shown his communication skills and ability to take initiative!



CLINT FINDS POSITIVE LEASE ON LIFE AFTER GAINING EMPLOYMENT

Qualified mechanic Clint engaged with genU Employment Pathways after a life-changing seizure left him with a brain injury.

The guidance and mentoring from Clint's Employment Pathways Coordinator helped him gain and maintain employment as a welder and general hand at Lifting Victoria.

Clint continues to be supported by genU and he remains positive and determined to keep his job.



CHRISTIAN ENCOURAGED TO EXPLORE HIS OPTIONS

Christian has been making great progress with his employability skills, after trying out a range of different placements.

Since starting with genU's Employment Pathways program in January 2020, Christian has completed placements in Woolworths, Big W and Rebel Sports. As he learns more about businesses, Christian is deciding on the type of work he might want to do in the future.

Christian is participating in a variety of group-based work experience placements with School Leaver Employment Supports (SLES), which

encourage him to learn various tasks and engage in different workplaces.

Christian's father is thrilled with his progress: 'Christian has already had so many different experiences, of which we are so thankful.'



PARTICIPANTS HELP COOK COMMUNITY MEALS

A partnership between the genU SLES team and community outreach organisation ADRA has helped to support community members in need.

genU SLES participants are developing their hospitality skills by preparing a three course meal each week to serve to community members in need of a meal. The SLES participants attend the Seventh Day Adventist Church weekly and are supported by genU Employment Pathways Practitioner — who also happens to be a qualified chef!

The team prepare a soup, main meal and dessert to give to those in need.



SARA FOLLOWS DREAMS WITH HOTEL PLACEMENT

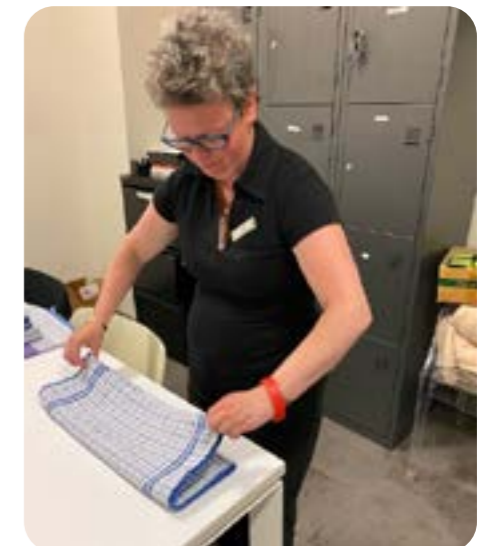
Sara is finally following her dreams of securing employment within a reputable hotel.

Sara first came to genU Employment Pathways with the goal of filling her week up with meaningful activities and placements. She wanted to increase her independence and employability skills.

An Employment Pathways Coordinator worked closely with Sara on a comprehensive employment-focused discovery process. It was determined that Sara had a strong interest in increasing her social interaction, surrounding herself with likeminded individuals and gaining employment within the tourism industry — specifically within a hotel.

Sara attended a Groomed to Go workshop for business attire, travelled to Melbourne on public transport and attended an Information Interview with the Human Resource Manager at Marriott Hotels. They were impressed with Sara's experience, as she volunteers two days a week at Meals on Wheels. This has allowed her to build strong working relationship with likeminded individuals, increase her confidence and develop her skills.

All this development has lead to Sara gaining a work placement at Quest Hotel as a 'Hotel Professional in Training'!



KARLA'S DETERMINATION LANDS HER THE DREAM JOB

Karla has been boot scootin' her way across the floor after landing her dream job at Allingtons Outpost in South Australia — a country, work and western wear store.

The SLES participant successfully gained casual employment at Allingtons with help from genU.

After Year 12, Karla improved her employment skills and resilience through weekly sessions with genU Employment Coordinators. The sessions led to a successful interview and work trial at Allingtons, and Karla has been overwhelmed at the amazing support she has received from fellow staff and management.



DALLAS DEVELOPS INDEPENDENCE AT NEW PLACEMENT



Dallas completed his work placement at the Earth Village Café in Melton. As part of his School Leaver Employment Supports, Dallas has developed resilience, confidence and communication, enabling him to build on his employability skills.

Dallas now has the skills to work alongside his co-workers, as well as being able to take initiative and show his independence. He's been able to cope with situations that would have challenged him in the past, such as changes to the café layout.

LIAM LANDS NEW WORK PLACEMENT

Liam has gone from strength to strength after undertaking a range of work experience opportunities. He has been concentrating on developing various 'employability skills' including initiative, teamwork, productivity, time-management and attention to detail.

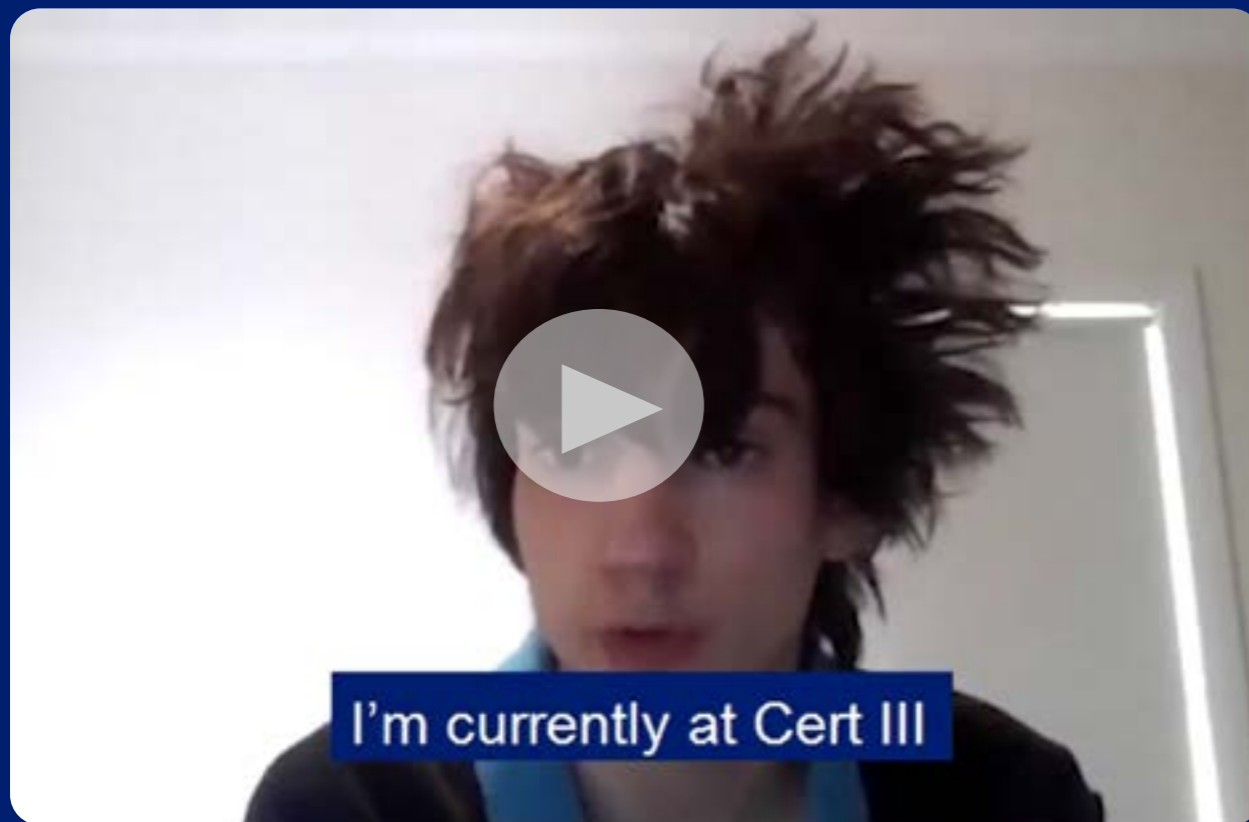
The dedicated SLES participant has had the opportunity to try out a number of different industries and attended work placements across Melbourne at Target, Big W, the fleet car carwash at the Austin Hospital and Woolworths.

Liam particularly enjoyed working in the warehouse at Target completing tasks such as processing and sorting deliveries and grouping products into stock cages. Through the support of his genU Employment Pathways Coordinator, Liam has also commenced a new work placement at Aussie Disposals in Dandenong where he is able to continue to develop his warehousing skills.



HEAR FROM SOME OF OUR CLIENTS!

SLES SUCCESS STORIES



Hear from genU SLES clients as they talk about the successes they've had with work placements and skill building.

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

CHRISTIAN'S STORY



Christian has been working towards his goal of gaining employment at Rebel Sport. Hear about the experience he has gained.

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)



LEARN MORE ABOUT EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS:



[genu.org.au](https://www.genu.org.au)



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