

School to Work Support Program – Information for parents

What is the School to Work Support Program?

The School to Work Support Program is about supporting your child throughout their high school years to help them start thinking about what work they may want to do when they finish school. The program gives your child, you and the school extra support around subject selection, work experience and determining career pathways.

Why do we need a School to Work Support Program?

Deciding what subjects to study during high school and what career paths to follow after leaving school is a difficult process for all students, and their parents. After a spinal cord injury or brain injury we are aware that these difficult decisions may be even more complex.

When does the School to Work Support Program start?

The program will start towards the end of Year 6 and start of Year 7 (or whenever your child becomes a participant in the Scheme during high school). This is because starting to think about the future early will assist your child's self-confidence and assist them to become independent as they move towards adult life.

What does the School to Work Support Program involve?

This program will introduce you to a vocational specialist who can give extra support around subject selection, work experience and determining career pathways. The vocational specialist will:

- stay in contact with you and your child for the remaining school years
- work with you, your child, the school, your child's case manager and any other people who may help with deciding study and work options.

Your child's likes and dislikes, and strengths, will all be considered in helping them decide what work they may want to do.

The vocational specialist will meet with you, your child and the school before the critical decisions about subject selection and work experience options are finalised.

They'll also stay in touch during the year to check that everything is going to plan and to answer any questions you or your child may have. They'll be available as a sounding board to explore options, such as vocational education training services.

After each meeting the vocational specialist will provide you with a brief summary of what was discussed and what you all agreed to do.

At the end of each year the vocational specialist will complete a summary of what was achieved during the year and will also include what meetings or activities are planned for the next year.

Who will be involved in your child's School to Work Support Program?

You and your child are involved in deciding who you think is going to be the most helpful in assisting you to make the required important decisions. Your child's **icare lifetime care** coordinator, case manager and vocational specialist will be involved, as well as appropriate support staff from your child's school. For instance, the career counsellor, the principal, the year coordinator and learning support teachers may be involved. They'll know your child and understand all the available options.

Does my child have to be involved in the School to Work Support Program?

No. You, your child and the school may determine that they have the skills and experience to provide appropriate supports with subject selection, work experience and determining career pathways, and the external assistance of a vocational specialist is not required.

If things change at any time during high school, we can provide the additional support of the School to Work Support Program.

Where can you get more information?

You can contact either your child's case manager or **icare lifetime care** coordinator to get more information, or to talk about your child's possible involvement in the program.