

# School is NOT working for me...!

School is compulsory for all young people, but as you get older other pathways open for you – like TAFE, apprenticeships and traineeships, and full-time work.

Sometimes, there are different roads you can take to get to the place you want to be!

Working out the best road to take depends on:

- How old you are (the older you get the more choices you have)
- What your interests are
- What's been happening for you (have you been out of school for ages? Have you been excluded – kicked out of school? Have you been passing all your subjects and doing ok?).
- Caring responsibilities (you might be looking after your parents, or you might have a baby or brothers and sisters to take care of, or you may be living by yourself)
- What career or job you want (do you need Yr 12? Do you need to go to TAFE or university?)
- What your parents (or the adults you live with) think – they might have really set ideas on what you should be doing, so maybe you need to talk it through with them...!

Everyone is different. You need to make the best choice for you. Talking to people like guidance officers, youth workers, parents, friends etc can help you make the right choice.

You're not alone in working it out!

Some tips that might help you make a decision:

- Think it through. Usually you don't have to make a decision overnight.
- Think about what has worked for you in the past, and where things have been a bit of a challenge for you. If school hasn't worked, how will this new idea be different?
- Work out what sort of job (or jobs) you would like to have, and what you need to do to get there.
- Get lots of information about all your options.
- Make a list of all the good and the bad things about each choice.
- Make sure you have your facts right – speak to someone who knows about this stuff (Guidance Officer, youth worker, someone at the TAFE or school you want to get into).
- Write things down. It can be easy to forget bits.
- Don't freak out! No one expects you to know EXACTLY what you should be doing. People change their minds throughout their lives. People change their jobs.

## People to talk to:

If you are still at school and you feel ok talking to people at school, think about speaking to:

- The Guidance Officer (they can help you sort out subjects, what jobs or careers interest you and what paths you can take to get to the job you want).
- A deputy principal
- Your year coordinator
- A Youth Support Coordinator – YSC - (if you have one in your school)

Explain what's happening for you and where you want to be (or what your interests are). If school is not working, talk to them about why. Maybe things can be done to make it easier for you? Maybe your school can help with a different timetable, more support, or a school-based apprenticeship?

A lot of the problems young people have at school can be fixed!

If you have left school, haven't been to school for ages, or don't feel okay about talking to someone at school, you can chat to:

- Inala Youth Service, especially the Youth Connections Team
- Headspace
- Someone at the TAFE or place you want to enroll in
- Your parents or adults you live with
- Your friends or your friend's parent if they are pretty cool and supportive
- A family friend, uncle, aunt or community member who listens to you and supports you

Getting an education is important. What you think and how you feel is important as well. You don't need to work it out alone and if something's not working, maybe it's time to sort it out...?