

Tip Sheet No 1 – Finding the Right Career

Many people fall into a career or job without much thought about what suits their personality and interests. They can become a square peg in a round hole, and experience dissatisfaction with their work life. Given the amount of time each person typically spends at work during their lifetime, it's important to invest some time and energy to figure out what career or job is right for you. Like they say, find a job you love and you'll never have to work another day in your life!

Whether you are thinking about a career change, or a change has been thrust upon you, take the time to think about what you really want to do before embarking on a search for your next job.

What influences your choice of career?

Some people know what is right for them from an early age, while others spend a lifetime trying to figure it out. Your choice of career should ideally align with the following:

- **Values.** Your values reflect what is important to you in life. Some values reflect how you like to operate, and how you expect others around you to operate. Other values reflect elements of your life or work that provide satisfaction and enjoyment, such as relationships, financial independence, health and freedom.
- **Interests.** Everyone has interests – hobbies they enjoy, topics they like discussing, causes they are passionate about, activities they like doing. When we work in areas of interest, our enjoyment level is higher, and the work easily holds our attention.
- **Abilities or aptitudes.** These refer to things that we are naturally good at and can do without much effort. Some examples include verbal skills (being good with words), numerical skills (being good with numbers), problem solving, logic and reasoning, music, languages, and sporting ability.
- **Skills.** A skill is something you can do relatively well, usually as a result of practice. Transferable skills are those which apply in more than one job and which you can take with you from one job to another, such as teamwork or communication skills. Everyone has transferable skills which they can use when marketing themselves.
- **Qualifications and training.** Qualifications and training can be increased during your working life. If you do not have the appropriate qualifications for a particular career or role at present, you can work towards obtaining them, once you know what is required.
- **Goals and lifestyle.** The goals which you set yourself and the type of lifestyle which you wish to live both have a strong relationship to your choice of career.
- **Personality.** Everyone has a distinctive set of personal characteristics or qualities that are fairly consistent over time, which make them who they are. This is often referred to as our personality. People with certain personality characteristics are better matched to certain types of work. This is because our personality influences our preferred activities and ways of working.

Recommended Books

[What Color Is Your Parachute? A Practical Manual for Job-Hunters and Career-Changers](#)
by Richard Bolles (updated annually)

Useful Links

www.jobguide.deewr.gov.au OR www.myfuture.edu.au – Both sites contain a searchable list of occupations, each with a description plus personal and educational requirements, links to courses and more.

<http://joboutlook.gov.au> - provides information on around 400 jobs in Australia. Job Outlook provides useful information on things like job prospects, weekly earnings and type of work.

www.business.gov.au - Australian government site with useful information on how to start your own business.