

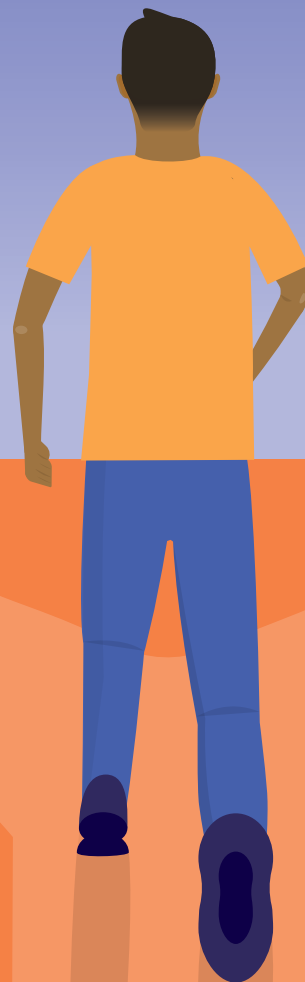


Australian Government

 National  
Careers  
Institute

# SUPPORT FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER YOUNG PEOPLE

Your career:  
What's next for you?



Your guide to education,  
training and work

[yourcareer.gov.au](http://yourcareer.gov.au)

# Are you an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young person?

What will you do after school?

Are you thinking about a job or doing some training or study?

Maybe you're thinking about moving away from home?

Life after school is full of different options and exciting opportunities.

When considering next steps after school, the first step is to think about the types of interests/strengths you have and the sorts of things you like doing. That may help you decide what you want to do.

You might be surprised how many jobs there are to choose from in your area. For example, you could work in:

- community and personal service as an aged and disabled carer or paramedic
- construction as a labourer, tradesperson or engineer
- education as an assistant teacher, academic or principal
- health as a healthcare support worker, psychologist, nurse or doctor
- business as an accountant, analyst or financial planner
- environmental care as a land or sea ranger or environmental scientist.

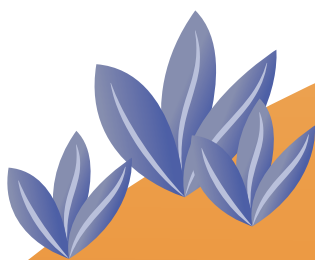
These are just a few options, but there's plenty more out there.

You may have no idea what you want to do when you finish school — and that's totally fine, too.

The **National Careers Institute (dewr.gov.au/nci)** has developed this resource to explain some of the options, financial assistance and support available to help you figure it out.

This resource also connects you with people and professionals you can talk to about your decisions and who will help you along the way.

As you'll see throughout the pages of this booklet, you can check out the types of jobs, training or study options that may suit you, and find out more by visiting the **Your Career** website ([yourcareer.gov.au](http://yourcareer.gov.au)).



# What support is available to me?

There are many programs and support services for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are setting out on their journey after school.

These services empower young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to make informed career and pathway choices.

On the following pages, you'll find some of the support available nationally, as well as those offered in different states and territories.

These are just some of the support options available - there's plenty more out there. You can also seek help from your family, teachers or community.



## NATIONAL SERVICES

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### Educational Access Scheme

Aims to help students who have experienced significant educational disadvantage receive an offer to university. Visit [uac.edu.au/future-applicants/scholarships-and-schemes/educational-access-schemes/](https://uac.edu.au/future-applicants/scholarships-and-schemes/educational-access-schemes/).

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### Indigenous.gov.au

A website celebrating the achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and that brings together stories, news and community information in one place. It also connects you with government services and programs and your closest regional office. Visit [indigenous.gov.au](https://indigenous.gov.au).

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### The Indigenous Student Success program

Provides funding to universities to help students take on the demands of university and succeed. Universities offer scholarships, tutorial assistance, mentoring, safe cultural spaces, and other personal support services. For more information visit [niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/education/indigenous-student-success-program](https://niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/education/indigenous-student-success-program).

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### Toorong Marnong Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) Hotline

An annual hotline for Indigenous students seeking advice about university entrance. This 24-hour service is available from ATAR release until the beginning of Semester 1. The line is staffed by Indigenous academics and support staff. Visit [vaeai.org.au/support-for-koorie-learners-heading-to-university/](https://vaeai.org.au/support-for-koorie-learners-heading-to-university/).

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### The Community Development Program (CDP)

The Community Development Program (CDP) ([niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/employment/cdp](https://niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/employment/cdp)) operates across 75 per cent of Australia and supports around 40,000 people, predominately in our remote areas. The program aims to support job seekers to build skills and gain employment.

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### Youth Off The Streets

Supports young people who have a desire to move forward but face significant financial and personal barriers which make their everyday goals a struggle. Visit [youthoffthestreets.com.au/get-support/](https://youthoffthestreets.com.au/get-support/).

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## STATE AND TERRITORY SERVICES

### Australian Capital Territory (ACT)



#### **Australian Catholic University's (ACU) Dhara Daramoolen unit**

See tailored study options, entry pathways, scholarships, and student services available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. There are also Indigenous Higher Education units at the NSW, Queensland, Victorian and South Australian ACU Campuses. View [nacchocommunique.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/iheu\\_dhara-daramoolen.pdf](https://nacchocommunique.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/iheu_dhara-daramoolen.pdf).



#### **Gugan Gulwan**

This Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders youth centre, located in Wanniasa, works with its clients through a range of personalised programs. Visit [gugan-gulwan.com.au](https://gugan-gulwan.com.au).



#### **The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation Program**

Helps students achieve academic and career goals and offers educational programs and support services. The program is delivered through the University of Canberra College in close collaboration with the Ngunnawal Centre. Visit [canberra.edu.au/future-students/get-into-uc/pathways-programs/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-foundation-program](https://canberra.edu.au/future-students/get-into-uc/pathways-programs/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-foundation-program).



#### **Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre**

Provides a meeting place and support-base for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff at the Australian National University. Visit [anu.edu.au/students/contacts/tjabal-indigenous-higher-education-centre](https://anu.edu.au/students/contacts/tjabal-indigenous-higher-education-centre).



#### **The Yurauna Centre**

A student support centre at Canberra's Institute of Technology provides tailored Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander courses, study support and cultural advice. Visit [cit.edu.au/study/cit\\_yurauna](https://cit.edu.au/study/cit_yurauna).

### Northern Territory (NT)



#### **The Northern Territory's Office of Youth Affairs**

Brings together many programs and services available to young Territorians including scholarships, financial assistance, recruitment assistance, and help with gaining work experience. Visit [tfhc.nt.gov.au/social-inclusion-and-interpreting-services/office-of-youth-affairs](https://tfhc.nt.gov.au/social-inclusion-and-interpreting-services/office-of-youth-affairs).

## New South Wales (NSW)



### Post-school options fact sheet

The NSW Government has a fact sheet with lots of useful information, all in one spot. It covers everything from fee-free government subsidised training and sporting academy opportunities to scholarships for Indigenous students undertaking science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) qualifications. Visit [education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/career-learning-and-vocational-education/post-school-options/fact-sheets/13-fact-sheet-aboriginal-youth.pdf](https://www.education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/career-learning-and-vocational-education/post-school-options/fact-sheets/13-fact-sheet-aboriginal-youth.pdf).

## Queensland



### Queensland Government

The Queensland Government Student support and services site offers information on school-based traineeships and Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications, as well as scholarships and grants for Indigenous students and school leavers. Visit [qld.gov.au/education/schools/student/indigenous](https://www.qld.gov.au/education/schools/student/indigenous).

## South Australia (SA)



### TAFE SA Aboriginal Access Centre

Helps students access and participate in vocational education, including in regional and remote locations. While studying at TAFE SA, a Training Support Officer can be made available to students for the duration of their course. Visit [tafesa.edu.au/services/aboriginal-support](https://www.tafesa.edu.au/services/aboriginal-support).



### The Workabout Centre

Offers a range of services to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to make a successful transition from school to work, higher education or further training. School leavers can access support up to 12 months post-school. Visit [education.sa.gov.au/parents-and-families/curriculum-and-learning/aboriginal-school-programs-and-initiatives/workabout-centre-aboriginal-students](https://www.education.sa.gov.au/parents-and-families/curriculum-and-learning/aboriginal-school-programs-and-initiatives/workabout-centre-aboriginal-students).



### Various South Australian universities encourage Aboriginal students to access higher education and help once they have enrolled in a course

- **South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) ([sace.sa.edu.au](https://www.sace.sa.edu.au)):** SACE supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to complete qualifications and develop the skills they need to succeed, while maintaining their cultural identity.
- **Wirltu Yarlur ([adelaide.edu.au/wirltu-yarlur/](https://www.adelaide.edu.au/wirltu-yarlur/))** at Adelaide University.
- **Wirringka Student Services ([i.unisa.edu.au/students/student-support-services/wirringka-student-services](https://www.i.unisa.edu.au/students/student-support-services/wirringka-student-services))** at the **University of South Australia**.
- **Yungkurinthe ([students.flinders.edu.au/support/indigenous-student-support](https://www.students.flinders.edu.au/support/indigenous-student-support))** at Flinders University.

## Tasmania



### Get Job Ready with the Aboriginal Employment Portal

Get access to a range of resources, advice and tools to support you to be job ready and gain employment with the Tasmanian State Service. Visit [dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/ssmo/aboriginal\\_employment\\_strategy](https://dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/ssmo/aboriginal_employment_strategy).



### Riawunna Centre

Provides a culturally welcoming space for students to study and access academic and cultural support at the University of Tasmania. Visit [utas.edu.au/uni-life/aboriginal-students-riawunna](https://utas.edu.au/uni-life/aboriginal-students-riawunna).



### TasTAFE

Get the skills you need for the job you want. See what TasTAFE has to offer and their range of services to support your training and career goals. Visit [tastafe.tas.edu.au/students/support/atsi-support](https://tastafe.tas.edu.au/students/support/atsi-support).

## Victoria



### Marrung education scholarships

Marrung education scholarships support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to complete years 11 and 12. There are 20 scholarships of \$5,000 each (\$2,500 per year over two years). Visit [vic.gov.au/marrung#marrung-education-scholarships](https://vic.gov.au/marrung#marrung-education-scholarships).



### Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (VAEAI) Wurreker Brokers

Wurreker brokers are located throughout regional Victoria, and provide advice about access to training and tertiary education opportunities. Visit [vaeai.org.au/wurreker-brokers](https://vaeai.org.au/wurreker-brokers).



### Toorong Marnong

The VAEAI's university unit can help students find courses and receive further information from universities and TAFE.

Its hotline – 1800 TM ATAR (1800 862 827) – runs every December to link students to Aboriginal academic and administrative advisors. Visit [toorongmarnong.com](https://toorongmarnong.com).

## Western Australia (WA)



### Aboriginal school-based training program

For full-time Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Years 10, 11 and 12, offering the chance to gain the skills needed to keep studying after school or to find a job. Visit [dtwd.wa.gov.au/vet-for-secondary-students/vet-programs-for-secondary-students](https://dtwd.wa.gov.au/vet-for-secondary-students/vet-programs-for-secondary-students).



### Choosing a path

Offers support with selecting the right path following school. You can also hear from some like-minded individuals about how they chose their path after school. Visit [jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/aboriginal-services/jobseekers/choose-path](https://jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/aboriginal-services/jobseekers/choose-path).

# Training and education options after school

It's OK if you don't know what you want to do after you leave school.

To learn the skills for the job you might want, doing some study or training can help. This section explains some of the training and study options available after school.



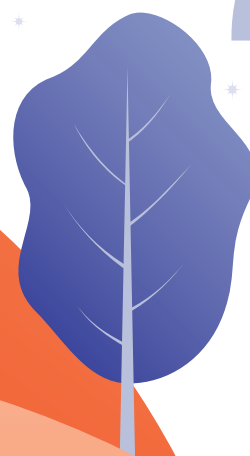
The **Your Career** website ([yourcareer.gov.au/learn-and-train](https://yourcareer.gov.au/learn-and-train)) has lots of information about different options and how they can lead into jobs.

## Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications

VET qualifications teach you practical skills to help you prepare for, and land, a job. There are thousands of courses that vary in length and cover many industries — it's not just trades. You can find information on VET courses and the providers that offer them on the **Your Career** website ([yourcareer.gov.au](https://yourcareer.gov.au)).

## Apprenticeships and traineeships

Apprenticeships and traineeships are a type of VET qualification that combines work with training so you can earn money while you're learning. You can also talk to your school about doing an Australian School-based Apprenticeship part-time while you're still in high school. You can find out more information on apprenticeships on the **Australian Apprenticeships** website ([australianapprenticeships.gov.au](https://australianapprenticeships.gov.au)).



## Higher education

Higher education studies can lead to different levels of qualifications from diplomas through to Bachelor, Masters and Doctorate degrees. The **Course Seeker** website ([courseseeker.edu.au](https://courseseeker.edu.au)) compares courses, education providers, and any requirements that you will need prior to starting.

## Support for higher education students

**Indigenous Higher Education Units (IHEUs)** are located in universities all around Australia to provide support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. They may offer academic assistance, mentoring, safe cultural spaces, and other personal support services. You can find more information and contact details for IHEUs on the **National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)** website ([niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/education/indigenous-higher-education-units](https://niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/education/indigenous-higher-education-units)) or through your university's website.

## Short-term education and training

Some training courses can take anywhere from a few hours to a few months depending on the course you select. More information about short-term VET options can be found on the **Your Career** website ([yourcareer.gov.au](https://yourcareer.gov.au)).

For more information on higher education short courses, visit the **Course Seeker** website ([courseseeker.edu.au](https://courseseeker.edu.au)).

Once you start a course, you can usually move between courses if you change your mind, speak to your education institution about how to do this.



# Government careers

The Australian Government is one of the country's biggest employers and has jobs available to suit many skill levels and areas of interest.

This section explains some of the employment programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people who want to get jobs in the Australian Government.

You can find more information on each of these programs by searching online.

- **The Australian Defence Force ([defencejobs.gov.au](https://defencejobs.gov.au))** offers many different jobs and ways to join. Their specialist Indigenous recruitment team can answer any questions you have and help you find the pathway best suited to you.

- **The Australian Federal Police Directions Program ([jobs.afp.gov.au/job-opportunities/directions-program](https://jobs.afp.gov.au/job-opportunities/directions-program))** is an employment program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 18 years or older. It's a great start to a rewarding career in the Australian Federal Police.
- **The Indigenous Graduate Pathway ([apsc.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/indigenous-careers](https://apsc.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/indigenous-careers))** provides a rewarding career in the Australian Public Service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander university graduates.



# Financial assistance

This section explains some of the financial support and other assistance available to you as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.

Sometimes you might feel like there's a lot of options and information out there, and even though there's people to help, you still aren't sure where to start.

## ABSTUDY

ABSTUDY is a group of payments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and apprentices.

There are a number of different payments available depending on your situation, including:

- **ABSTUDY Away from Base Assistance** to help you attend short-term activities as part of your training or studying.
- **ABSTUDY Fares Allowance** to help with travel costs between your home and where you study or train.
- **ABSTUDY Incidentals Allowance** to help with the costs of training or studying.
- **ABSTUDY Living Allowance** to help with living costs while you're training or studying.

If you get an ABSTUDY Living Allowance, you may also be able to get other payments, including:

- **Relocation Scholarships:** A once-a-year payment if you move to or from a regional or remote area for higher education study.
- **Remote Area Allowance:** A regular extra payment if you live in a remote area.
- **Rent Assistance:** A regular extra payment to help you with the cost of renting.

- **Student Start up Loans:** A twice-a-year loan you can get if you're a higher education student.

You can find out more about the payments and which one you might be eligible for on the **Services Australia** website ([servicesaustralia.gov.au/abstudy](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/abstudy)), or by calling the Centrelink ABSTUDY line on 1800 132 317.

## Other financial assistance

- **Destination Australia ([education.gov.au/destination-australia](https://education.gov.au/destination-australia))** provides funding for scholarships to domestic and international students, supporting them to study and live in regional Australia. To check which providers are offering scholarships visit the **successful providers list ([education.gov.au/destination-australia/resources/destination-australia-2023-list-successful-providers](https://education.gov.au/destination-australia/resources/destination-australia-2023-list-successful-providers))**. To apply, go directly through your provider.
- **Scholarships and grants for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students** may be available through your university or TAFE. Check out the scholarships section of your institution's website or make a time to speak with a student advisor to explore these opportunities further.
- **Tertiary Access Payment (TAP) ([servicesaustralia.gov.au/tertiary-access-payment](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/tertiary-access-payment))** is a one-off payment of \$5,000 to assist school leavers from remote areas who move more than 90 minutes from home to study. You don't need to be receiving ABSTUDY payments to get a TAP.

# Applying for jobs

Are you starting a new job or maybe you're switching jobs? This section has some information to help you get ready.

## Visit the Your Career website

The **Your Career** website ([yourcareer.gov.au](http://yourcareer.gov.au)) is a great place to start. It has a lot of helpful and easy to understand information for job seekers.

## Choose your job search strategy

There are many websites advertising jobs nationwide, including the **Workforce Australia** website ([workforceaustralia.gov.au](http://workforceaustralia.gov.au)).

However, sometimes roles are not advertised online, and you might be able to find out if there's something in your area through word-of-mouth. Ask around and use your network to let people know you're looking for a job.

## Create a resume

A resume is a document that describes your skills and experience. You'll need to submit one to apply for a job. There is information on the **Your Career** website ([yourcareer.gov.au](http://yourcareer.gov.au)) about how to make a resume and what it should include.

## Prepare for the interview

To get ready for the interview, be sure to:

- find out about what the job involves
- practise talking about your experience and skills
- think about answering questions like: "What motivated you to apply for this role?" and "What value do you bring to this role?"
- talk to your family and friends or people in the community who have also worked in the industry or have, or had a similar job

## Let your skills shine

Don't forget about the skills, strengths, and experience you already have.

For example:

- a sports team where you learnt communication and teamwork
- computer skills from school
- problem-solving skills
- customer service experience from a casual job.

## Put your best self forward online

Think about what you're posting on social media. How would you feel if a future boss saw it?



# Get ready to start work

Once you have a job there are a few things you will need to set up.

How will you get to work? Do you need special clothing? Do you need tools?

There are a few things all Australian workers need before they can start their jobs.

## Tax File Number

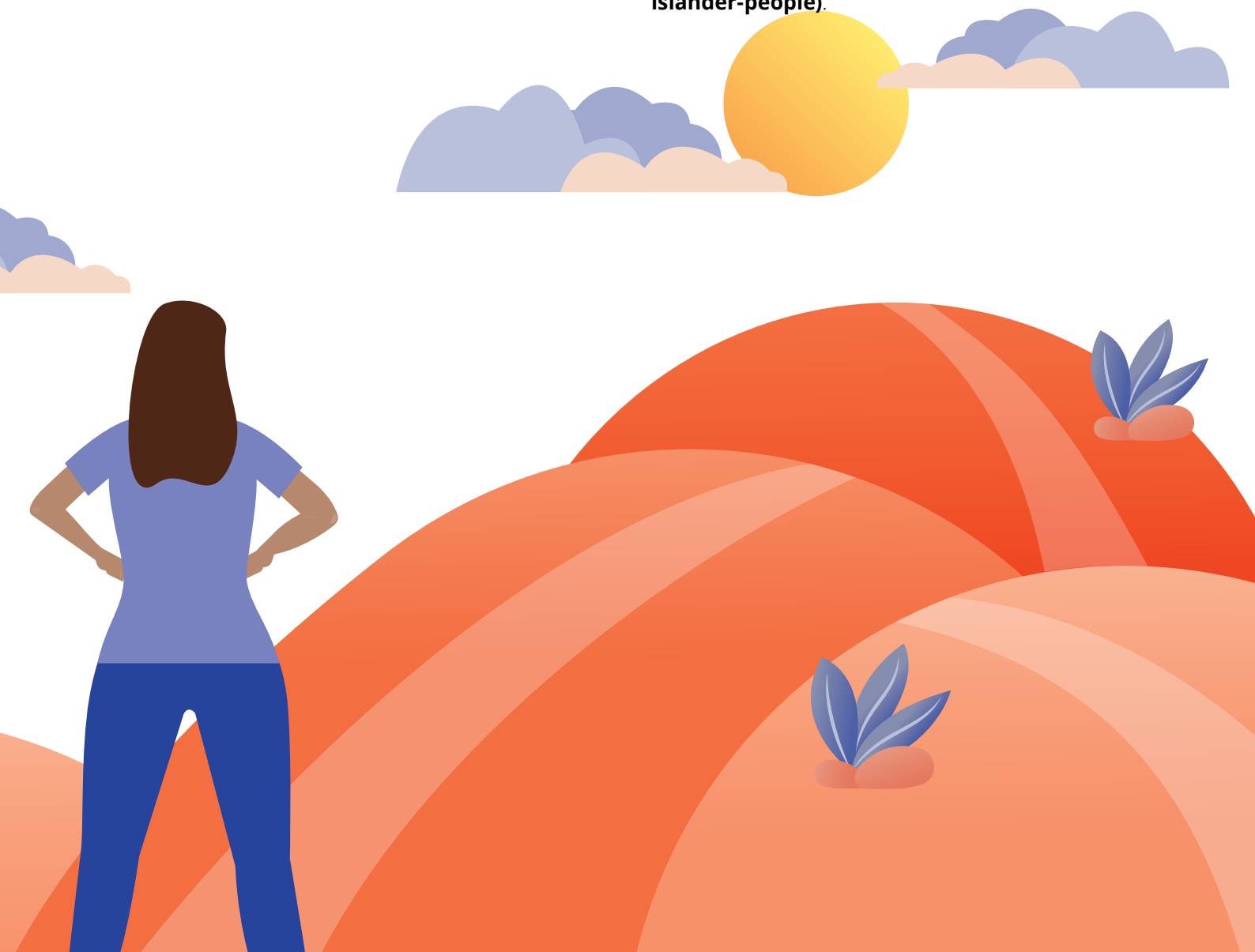
A tax file number (TFN) is your unique number in the Australian tax and superannuation systems. Applications for a TFN are free and you can apply for one on the **ATO** website ([ato.gov.au/Individuals/Tax-file-number/Apply-for-a-TFN](https://ato.gov.au/Individuals/Tax-file-number/Apply-for-a-TFN)).

## Superannuation

Super is money set aside during your working life for when you retire. You can find out more about super and how to get set up on the **ATO** website ([ato.gov.au/individuals/super](https://ato.gov.au/individuals/super)).

## Understand your rights

Make sure you understand your rights at work. You can find information and resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the workplace on the **Fair Work Ombudsman** website ([fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people](https://fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people)).



# You're not alone

Leaving school can sometimes be challenging. There are plenty of people you can talk to if you need support.

## Your school can help

Your career practitioner, guidance counsellor, school psychologist or wellness team can provide wellbeing support, help you identify the right options for your circumstances and provide information on what's available in your state or territory.

## Where to find help

When it comes to taking the next step in your education and career, the most important thing to remember is you don't have to go it alone.



**Headspace**

1800 650 890

[headspace.org.au](https://headspace.org.au)



**Beyond Blue**

1300 22 4636

[beyondblue.org.au](https://beyondblue.org.au)



**Lifeline**

13 11 14

[lifeline.org.au](https://lifeline.org.au)



**Kids Helpline**

1800 55 1800

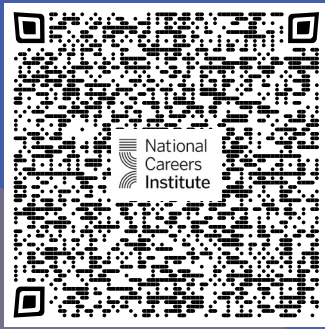
[kidshelpline.com.au](https://kidshelpline.com.au)





# Your journey starts now

Download your copy of the SLIK.



[www.yourcareer.gov.au/schoolleaver](http://www.yourcareer.gov.au/schoolleaver)

