



Training options abound

**Peta Wittig and
Zsa-Zsa Bowie Wilson**

The days when going to university was the only way to a prosperous career are long gone.

Australia's skills shortage has made learning a trade a popular option for school leavers and career changers.

More than 500 career paths start with an apprenticeship or traineeship, according to Australian Apprenticeships.

Apprenticeships are available from Group Training Australia, Australian Defence Forces, Centrelink and the Job Network, or by approaching an employer.

Traineeships generally last 12 or 24 months and cover non-trade areas. Trade apprenticeships take three to four years.

The challenge for many people is finding the right career path. So, to help out, *mX* has reviewed the best sites.

Australian Apprenticeships Job

Pathway Service

This site uses an industry pathway chart to show the jobs and careers that can come from an apprenticeship. The self-help section includes tips on every step of the job search, as well as a link to Job Outlook that will give you average weekly earnings for an A-Z of occupations. The Information and Links section has details on wages and a search box, so you can find the Australian Apprenticeships Centre closest to you.

■ Details: www.aajobpathways.com.au

Job Juice

From thinking about job options at school to choosing a career path and getting a job, Job Juice provides advice, useful links, and contacts. The "How to choose a career" section outlines the key things you need to consider when deciding on a career path.

■ Details: www.jobjuice.gov.au

CareerOne Profile Library

An A-Z listing of about 200 stories, each profiling a real person working in a real job, is a great place to find ideas and inspiration. The job-hunting advice area also has interview tips and resume advice.

■ Details: www.careerone.com.au/jobs/job-search/pid/1171

Group Training Australia

Selects suitable trainees and apprentices and matches them to an employer and training provider.

■ Details: www.grouptraining.com.au

Apprenticeships Victoria

Provides information on apprenticeships and traineeships specific to Victoria.

■ Details: www.appsvic.com.au

Apprenticeships and Traineeships NSW

Apprenticeships and traineeships information specific to New South

Wales.

■ Details: www.apprenticeship.det.nsw.edu.au

WorldSkills Australia

A not-for-profit organisation that runs competitions to showcase the work of apprentices. The website provides dates and locations of live demonstrations so young people can see what is involved in a trade, and to talk to apprentices in person. The site also has heaps of profiles of young, successful apprentices.

■ Details: www.worldskills.org.au

Housing Industry Association

Many industry sectors have websites promoting apprenticeships. For example, the Housing Industry Association lists trade apprenticeships including carpentry and joinery, floor and wall tiling, and brick laying.

■ Details: www.hia.com.au



Apprenticeships can lead to a career in any number of industries