

EPPTV Episode 2 Transcript

Jazmine (Host)

Hey and welcome to another episode of EPPP TV. My name's Jazmine Huggins and today we're going to be talking about decision time.

Some of you might be making decisions about your careers right now while others probably haven't thought about it yet, and that's okay. We're going to be talking to a bunch of different people including some recent graduates to hear what they have to say about making the right career decisions. But before we get to that, a couple of people wrote in last week to ask what kind of music I play. Well, I'm really into Dance Hall, UK Afroswing and Afrobeats, so artists like Burna Boy, and Mr Eazi and Wizkid. I did a live set on Instagram the other day but I can't wait to be back playing once COVID's over. Anyway, that's enough about me. Let's get into this episode of EPPP TV.

Student (Guest)

A lot of people reckon you need to go to uni to make decent money. Is it possible to earn a good salary by doing a trade?

Jazmine (Host)

Great question. Our next guest is a former vocational student of the year and the guy who's made a nice, little life for himself on the north coast. Let's see what Liam Muldoon has to say about money and a whole lot more.

Thanks for joining me Liam.

Liam (Guest)

Hey, how ya going? Thanks for having me.

Jazmine (Host)

Firstly, where are you at the moment?

Liam (Guest)

Currently, in the classroom. So I teach part time for TAFE New South Wales, so I've just finished up teaching a TVET course for the day. So yeah, currently in the classroom, just finished up.

Jazmine (Host)

Nice. So to kick things off, we've had a question from a student. They're wondering if it's possible to earn a good salary by doing a trade.

Liam (Guest)

Yeah look, totally is. From my personal experience, I've been very fortunate. I've had some really great jobs which have come about through my trade. So I actually started out in live vehicles as a mechanic, did my trade in live vehicles and moved into the heavy side of things. And eventually, I ended up in mining. Mining's a great way, you know, of making money in Australia. I think everybody knows that. Filled with plenty of opportunities. I was working in mining doing, basically, a week on week off, and taking home some serious money and working only half the year. So, yeah look, definitely is. I mean, I can speak to my personal trade as a heavy diesel mechanic. My experience to that is obviously as well I've mentioned, but I know that they're national average current salary is about \$110,000 a year for a diesel fitter, so it's not chumps change, it's not too bad. And when you compare that to some of the salaries that you get from a university degree education, it's comparable if not better.

Jazmine (Host)

Jazmine: Yeah, not bad money at all.

Liam (Guest)

Yeah.

Jazmine (Host)

So it sounds like you've had a couple of different decision times. How old were you when you decided you wanted to do something mechanical?

Liam (Guest)

Look, I went through and did my HSC, finished that and had no idea what I wanted to do, and sort of fell into the apprenticeship as a mechanic because I had a general interest in cars. I was a bit of bogan I guess, I liked cars, so it was a bit of a natural progression. It was pursuing a bit of a passion of mine and ended up in the role and I haven't looked back since. I've been in the trade for around about 16, 17 years now. Never wanted for a job, never gone too tough, it's always been a really good trade to have.

Jazmine (Host)

And what did your parents think about your career plans? Were they into trades themselves?

Liam (Guest)

No, no, so both my parents are university educated. So my father is a principal, a school principal and my mom's a CNS, so a clinical nurse specialist, so both highly trained, highly educated people. I guess, having that conversation with your parents about wanting to do a trade can be something that can be difficult, but I think the reality as with most parents, is they want what's best for you, and nobody really knows what's best for you other than yourself, so if you got a genuine passion for something, obviously, I think it's wise to at least look out in it and try to chase those goals while you can.

Jazmine (Host)

And lastly, what advice would you give to someone that's looking at doing a trade?

Liam (Guest)

Yep look, for me, it's been fantastic. My trades left me or has me I think very financially secure, particularly during these difficult times with COVID-19 where classes and essential roles, I haven't been short on work, I haven't applied for a job in a lot of years, jobs come to me. So it's fantastic in that sense. Monetary-wise, it's been very good, and the ability to travel as well. I've traveled a lot through work, so that's also a massive perk of the job which is something I would've had no idea going in as a mechanic. I would've never thought that I could travel and see amazing places and do different things, so look, consider it, if it's something you're interested in, definitely have a look at it. It's definitely a lot of benefits there. So yeah, I'd strongly encourage it.

Jazmine (Host)

Well it was great having you on EPPP TV. Thanks for the chat, Liam.

Liam (Guest)

Thanks very much for having me. I really appreciate it.

Jazmine (Host)

Have you ever felt that maybe school just isn't for you? If so, you're not alone. Plenty of successful people have gone through periods where they hated school. Our next guest who's skipping school by year eight and couldn't wait for the end of year 10 to come around. Let's hear from Kelsey Commons, a New South Wales Training Awards Ambassador.

So you graduated last year and I heard that school wasn't really for you. Tell me a little bit about that.

Kelsey (Guest)

Yeah, I was just really struggling. I felt disengaged. I was just not happy. I just wasn't showing up, my attendance started getting really bad.

Jazmine (Host)

Yeah.

Kelsey (Guest)

I just wanted to drop it out as soon as I could.

Jazmine (Host)

Why didn't you drop out?

Kelsey (Guest)

I didn't think my mom would agree to that. I thought that an easy conversation would be "Can I move schools?" And hoped that that worked out.

Jazmine (Host)

So what was that like when you moved schools in year 11?

Kelsey (Guest)

Yeah, I moved in year 11, for year 11 and 12. It's probably the best decision I made. That conversation with mom and dad was a bit difficult. It took me about a week to work up the nerve to try and, even attempt, saying "Hey, can I move? "I really don't wanna be here." But yeah.

Jazmine (Host)

What did they end up saying? How did you convince them?

Kelsey (Guest)

Yeah, they were just scared about the unknown of what was to come. They weren't too sure about what's a VET school, you know. But eventually, my mom agreed to go on a tour and checked out the campus and she fell in love with the school just like I did.

Jazmine (Host)

Wow, what did you love about it?

Kelsey (Guest)

Just the atmosphere of the school was completely different. Everyone seemed happy, and they were enjoying what they were doing. It was very hands-on so it was a completely different feel.

Jazmine (Host)

What was some of the things that you were studying?

Kelsey (Guest)

Yeah, I was doing Screen and Media and Live Production and Services or Entertainment as it's commonly known.

Jazmine (Host)

Yes.

Kelsey (Guest)

And hospitality.

Jazmine (Host)

Okay, and are you still following on from that now?

Kelsey (Guest)

Yeah.

Jazmine (Host)

Have you gotten in to entertainment?

Kelsey (Guest)

I've just started studying a Bachelor of Film.

Jazmine (Host)

So exciting.

Kelsey (Guest)

Yeah.

Jazmine (Host)

How are you finding it?

Kelsey (Guest)

I'm absolutely loving it. I've just started, I'm two weeks into the course, but ready to keep moving.

Jazmine (Host)

Awesome, well good luck and thanks for joining me on our socially distant walk.

Kelsey (Guest)

Thank you.

Jazmine (Host)

There's a lot of things to consider when it comes to choosing a career that's right for you. To give you an idea of what some of those are, I'm catching up with David Youman to hear what he has to say. Hey David, thanks for joining me on EPPP TV. Today's theme is decision time, so I just wanted to pick your brain a little bit. I'm wondering, where should you start when it comes to thinking about a career?

David (Guest)

Yeah look, thanks for having me on. Look, I think the most important thing for kids these days or students is to do some research. So there's plenty opportunities out there. There's some great websites and in particular, there's two really good websites or career exploration websites that are MyFuture and LifeLauncher, and both of them have hundreds of job opportunities or job descriptions, and give the students plenty of information that they can take away and think about their career pathway.

Jazmine (Host)

Okay, and aside from the websites, who are some people that you could suggest kids can talk to about making good career decisions.

David (Guest)

Yeah look, I think one of the first steps is talking to a careers advisers at schools, and then some teachers that they're comfortable with talking with, and of course, one of the most important people to talk to is their family and friends. Take the opportunity to talk to a trades person that's doing some work on mom and dad's house. Take the opportunity to talk to some older students in year 11 and 12 that are doing subjects that you've got an interest in.

Jazmine (Host)

And I feel like a lot of parents probably have an idea of what they'd love they're children to be getting into when they're older. What advice can you give to students that might wanna go a little bit like left of center? Should they follow their passions or should they kind of stick to practical career choices?

David (Guest)

I think it's really important to have an interest in a career. So if your interest is a little bit left to what mom and dad think, have a good discussion with them. Arm yourself with some information or some research that you've collected and go through the process of talking about the career that you're thinking of doing with your parents. And look, if they still don't come on board, setup a meeting with the careers adviser and they're happy to talk to parents and yourself together, and we might be able to work through some of those career websites, and it might bring mom and dad around to your way of thinking. And it's good to have inspiration and a passion because that's what's gonna keep you in that field and in the job.

Jazmine (Host)

Okay great, and how important do you think subject selection is in school?

David (Guest)

It's very important. It's a transition time where students moving from school to really thinking about where they're direction is heading in a career aspect. Not all kids are gonna, or students are going to have the subjects that they want to have, but I think it's really important for the students to choose subjects that they're interested in, and that they can feel like they'd do well in. Remember, it's a long haul, the HSC time, so they've gotta have an interest, they gotta have a passion and most of all, they gotta apply themselves to the best they can to the subjects they've chosen. I mean, if they've chosen the wrong subjects early in the time, they may be able to change early in year 11. They might need pre-requisite courses to get into university courses. So that might be the case. They might have to go do some other studies or they might have to choose an apprenticeship or traineeship or a bridging course. So that sorts of things are options for students.

Jazmine (Host)

Okay, that's great David. Thanks so much. So there you go. I guess it's never too early to start thinking about your career.

David (Guest)

No, definitely not. It's a great time now and it's an exciting time.

Jazmine (Host)

Perfect, thanks so much for the chat.

David (Guest)

Thanks.

Student (Guest)

Where can I go to learn about other career options?

Jazmine (Host)

That's another great question and it's one that our next guest should be able to shed some light on. Earlier, I caught up with Tammy Sofranic from Skillsroad. Hey Tammy, thanks so much for joining us today. We had a student ask a great question a little bit earlier. Basically, they just wanted to know where they can go to find different kinds of jobs, so not just trades.

Tammy (Guest)

Tammy: All right, so I may be a little bit biased to suggest this, but if you do go to skillsroad.com.au, under career search, we actually have over 300 pages of careers that are broken down into the information that you need to know. So we have information such as what kind of qualifications you may need, what kind of certificates are necessary for that particular career, what employers are looking for, so everything that you need to get yourself started in a particular field of work.

Jazmine (Host)

That sounds amazing. What are some of the tools that are accessible?

Tammy (Guest)

So we have several digital tools that are free and quite easy to use over on Skillsroad. So just to name a few, our most popular, most utilized tool by far is our career quiz. So this a very short, about a 10-minute quiz, that you can take and it's very handy to do at the very start of your career, because it outlines your skillset, your strengths, your weaknesses, and based on that information, it highlights what industries and what particular jobs you're best suited for. So very good tool to start with. In addition to that, we also have a job fit test that assesses how ready and prepared you are to start a career in a particular field of work. So another handy tool to check out. We also have virtual reality 360 which I'll tell you more in a minute as well. We also have free,

beautiful resume templates. In addition to our digital tools, we have a one-on-one career coaching program. So that's a little bit different to our digital tools. It's a very personalized experience where us, career coaches, work one-on-one with our users. And lastly, I would also just like to mention that we also have a completely designated section for parents, teachers, and career advisers. So we know that they play a very important role in early careers as well.

Jazmine (Host)

That sounds fascinating and I understand that you have a psychology background.

Tammy (Guest)

That's right.

Jazmine (Host)

So how important do you think it is for students to understand their strengths and weaknesses?

Tammy (Guest)

It's very important and that's why we always emphasize and stress the importance of taking our career quiz that was designed by a fellow psychologist. The reason why stress this is because we don't want our users to be wasting their time testing and trying careers that are not in line with their strengths because that's where they're gonna have a lot harder time reaping good results and being successful. Instead, we want them to identify that from the start and ensure that they're setup on the right path.

Jazmine (Host)

So what kind of jobs does the virtual workplace 360 cover?

Tammy (Guest)

So we focus on several industries mainly that would be healthcare, hospitality, creative industries, construction and manufacturing. But as we're talking about this, I just wanna note that it does cover extensive and different jobs within each of that field. So for example, if we're talking healthcare, of course, it's not just doctors and nurses. It goes way beyond that. So you'll get a chance to see, first hand, what does it look like to be working in different roles within that industry.

Jazmine (Host)

And so say you're working outside of the healthcare system, some jobs don't really have a clear pathway for students. What advice would you give to people that are looking to go a little bit in a different direction that isn't maybe so clear?

Tammy (Guest)

Yeah, good question. So my suggestion would be, I would encourage them to be explorers, to go on an exploration journey. Meaning, do their research and find out what would be good alternative pathways that can lead them to that career. A good tip would be to find people and professionals that are already working in that field. They can usually provide as first hand information and really good insights and tips from their own experiences, and my last takeaway, I think, would be to work on their attitude. You know, we are living in very rapidly changing times, we all have to be agile, and nobody really has a very clear and mapped out journey, and that also applies to that group as well. So they do need to keep a bit of a flexible attitude.

Jazmine (Host)

That's great advice. Thanks for joining me, Tammy.

Tammy (Guest)

Thank you so much.

Jazmine (Host)

Let's check out one of the career profiles from the Skillsroad virtual reality tool now.

Joshua (Guest)

Hi, I'm Joshua Juris and I'm a carpenter for Arden Architectural Staircases. I started my apprenticeship in year 10 as a school based apprenticeship. I was really interested after woodworking in school and I thought it'd just be the perfect role for me. I've always just loved working with my hands. Always loved the finishes with what I do as a carpenter because it's always on display, it's for everyone to see. In high school, I had quite a large project in woodwork in year nine that I just made a kitchen bench top for home. It was then that I realized that yeah, I was a carpenter for life. The biggest surprise to me since starting my apprenticeship was just not getting my hand held like at school.

Here in the big, wide world, when the boss needs a job done, he's expecting it to be done to the highest possible standard. Yeah, the transition from school to my apprenticeship was made so much easier just with my career adviser and my boss talking to each other and made my life a hundred times easier.

This job would really suit someone with a keen eye, attention detail, someone that is willing to listen and learn, and someone that just wants the highest possible finish and is proud to finish their work. What I enjoy most about my job is the finishes, and putting all the hard work and effort into a certain job and then coming to the end of the job and seeing it all just come together. My number one tip to job seekers would just be keep your head up, don't be afraid to ask your question, always listen, and don't feel intimidated to ask a question, just let it go.

Jazmine (Host)

I'm about to speak to Ashlee Kelly from Careers Link New South Wales. With mass gatherings on hold, thanks to COVID, some of you might be wondering what that means for careers fairs. Let's hear what Ashlee has to say about that.

Hi Ashlee, thanks so much for joining us today at EPPP TV. Can you tell us a little bit about the My Journey Careers Expo?

Ashlee (Guest)

Yeah, no problem. So the My Journey Expo is a unique online event that will be held on the 22nd and 23rd of July, and it's aim is to help students looking at vocational career pathways and exploring their options while giving them the opportunity to engage with prospective employers.

Jazmine (Host)

Awesome. Well, we've actually been talking a lot about parents' involvement with students and their career pathways. Do you think that this would be a good event to invite parents along to?

Ashlee (Guest)

Yeah, I definitely encourage students to participate in the event with their parents. The running time that we've set for this event is 12 pm to 8 pm. This allows for parent participation. We also know that parents are a huge influence in their children's lives and future career choices so we definitely recommend that parents attend.

Jazmine (Host)

Awesome. What kind of employers do you think will be at this expo?

Ashlee (Guest)

At this stage, we have, we're expecting to have over 100 exhibitors attending the event with some of New South Wales' largest government and non-government employers, as well as registered training organizations and colleges from around the state.

Jazmine (Host)

And how can students interact with them?

Ashlee (Guest)

So the platform that we're using for the My Journey Expo has a number of features

that will allow for students to interact with exhibitors. The main being the chatroom. So the chatrooms are able to be text-based or audio-based, as well as a number of presentations taking place in the auditorium throughout the event.

Jazmine (Host)

Great, thanks for the chat, Ashlee.

Ashlee (Guest)

No problem, thanks for having us.

Jazmine (Host)

So if you're interested in attending the My Journey Careers Expo, here's what you need to do. Schools need to register by e-mailing expo@careerslinks.nsw.edu.au. Once your school's registered, you need to visit myjourney.vfairs.com to register for the event.

So that's it for another episode of EPPP TV. I hope you got something out of it and that you're feeling good about what the future holds. Next episode, we'll take a closer look at some of the vocational training options that are available to you.

Thanks for watching and see you next time.