This fortnight’s edition of Guidance and Careers Matters has information about employment outlooks in selected industries, aviation scholarships and activities for students on the school holidays. The career in focus is an Occupational Therapist.

Employment Outlooks in selected industries

Each year, the Department of Employment produces Employment Outlook reports for selected industries, each of which provides an overview of past and projected employment growth, and examines sectoral employment, the regional distribution of industry employment, workforce characteristics and recruitment difficulties faced by employers. These reports are typically used by Departmental staff, employment service providers, industry bodies and career advisors, as they provide an accessible and comprehensive overview of industry employment.

Following is a list of the more recent reports, which can also be downloaded at the Labour Market Information Portal

2014 Reports
- Construction (DOCX 681KB)
- Manufacturing (DOCX 542KB)

2013 Reports
- Mining (DOC 614KB)
Aviation Scholarship Applications available now

The Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA) is aware that the cost associated to entering the aviation industry and maintaining skills once qualified can be a burden to current and potential future pilots and technical trainees. To emphasise the importance of new people entering the regional aviation industry and the continued education of current people we have arranged partnerships with member organisations to award scholarships to individuals meeting the criteria to assist them completing their studies or that advance current participants in regional aviation skills. Currently there are 3 categories of scholarships available through the RAAA. These are:

Apprentice Scholarships,

Licenced Aircraft Maintenance Engineer Scholarships, and

Pilot Scholarships.


Other Local Supports and Information
QPAC “Out of the Box” Children aged eight and under are invited to attend the biennial ‘Out of the Box’ festival this June/July. Hosted by the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC), Out of the Box provides a range of cultural activities designed to support learning, play, curiosity and discovery for children.

Moreton Bay Region Libraries

June 2014 School Holiday Workshops are available for students aged up to 17 years. Available activities include: screen printing, cyborg makeup, jewellery making and other great applied activities.


Career in focus

**Occupational Therapist**

Occupational therapists assess and treat people who, because of illness, injury or circumstance, are limited in their ability to undertake the activities of everyday life. They assist people to regain lost functions, develop their abilities and social skills, as well as maintain and promote independence in their everyday lives to enhance health and wellbeing.

Occupational therapists may perform the following tasks:

- conduct tests to assess functional, emotional, psychological, developmental and physical capabilities
- plan and direct specific therapeutic programmes for individuals using recreational, remedial, social, educational or vocational (job-related) activities
- select and design a variety of activities that improve an affected movement or function and help individuals to regain personal care skills, such as eating and dressing
- assist people to gain or regain skills in social, leisure and work environments through graded individual or group therapy and activity programmes
• monitor the progress of individuals and assist with the coordination of an appropriate health team
• assist children with disabilities to integrate into education programmes in schools
• assess the ability of injured workers to return to their usual employment or perform alternative duties
• design and modify the everyday environment of clients to allow for better access and independence
• advise on the use of specialised equipment, such as home modifications, adapted kitchen utensils, wheelchairs and other assistive technologies that help people within their environment
• assess the need for, develop and run health education programmes
• act as consultants to industry and government organisations
• undertake research
• teach in academic institutions, generally at tertiary level
• assist with policy development for health and other areas.

**Specialisations:**

Occupational therapists may work in areas such as:

-**Aged care:** providing programmes and equipment for people with medical and social problems associated with ageing.

-**Disabilities:** working with people who have an intellectual, physical or sensory disability through planned activity programmes over long periods of time.

-**General medicine:** working in hospitals or private practice to assess and treat individuals with physically disabling diseases or injuries.

-**Occupational health:** assessing the safety of work environments and injured workers, providing rehabilitation and advice about adaptations for their return to the workplace.
-Health promotion: assisting people who want to achieve a balanced and healthy lifestyle.

-Paediatrics: working in hospitals, private practices or schools to assess and treat children with disabilities, developmental delays or learning difficulties.

-Psychiatry: assessing and treating individuals with mental illness and behavioural disorders through programmes involving such things as stress management.

-Vocational rehabilitation: assisting injured workers to return to work.

**Personal Requirements:**

- patient
- able to show initiative and have a flexible attitude
- practical, innovative and observant
- good problem-solving skills
- good interpersonal and communication skills
- able to maintain client confidentiality
- able to work independently or as part of a team.

www.jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au

**Courses/Qualifications**

Students must complete a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy from a university. The following Queensland universities offer Bachelor of Occupational Therapy:
ACU, CQU, Griffith, JCU, SCU, UQ, USC

OP and Ranks vary and entry to the courses is competitive. Refer to the most up to date QTAC guide for information on the most recent OPs for entry to Bachelor of Occupational Therapy.

*Information in this bulletin was gathered from a variety of sources including publicly available websites, institutional and organisational newsletters, student and career advisers and guidance officers. Every effort has been made to ensure the information provided is accurate and up-to-date at the time of publication. Check individual organisation websites for current information.*