My name’s Mia. I go to Methodist Ladies’ College. I’m in Year 11 and I’m doing a 3–4 VET Business.

I had quite a few friends who went to MLC and who were already doing the VET program and I had a conversation with one of them who was about two years older than me and she said, ‘Have you heard about VET subjects?’ I’m like, ‘No I haven’t, and she explained them to me and said, ‘Nah they’re a really good class that you can go into and you get a certificate at the end and I was like, ‘That sounds great, something I can use after school.’ And when I finish Year 12 in 2020, my VCE VET subject will include into my final ATAR.

So next year in Year 12 I’ll be studying English, Further Maths, Hospitality and Business Management. I’m finding that my VET subject is, we’re relating more back to the real world in the sense that we’re talking more about current events, like different terminologies that may be up and coming so I feel that we go more into depth about certain things that my other subjects in business wouldn’t in VCE that are more like practical skills, that once I go into the workplace I will have to use every day. So they’re skills that you wouldn’t be taught in my VCE Business Management class but they’re more practical and I’ll be using them throughout my career no matter what path I go down.

We do certain units like, um, how to communicate effectively within the workplace, and we’ll learn about business documents and how they operate. And we’ve learnt about occupational health and safety and all the relevant laws like the Privacy Act and how that applies to most businesses. And we’re going to learn about like different management systems, like how we do certain filing within businesses, alphanumerical filing and things like that. Or also the newer, like, technologies such as like iCloud and how information is stored and where it’s stored and also, like, the pros and cons of storing information like that.

We don’t just do things within the classrooms, sometimes my teacher also takes us around the school because we’re quite a large school, we’ve got loads of different departments and we go to, like, our computer technology area that we call the CCC, and we talk to the men and the women who work in there, which is basically a small business and they talk about what they do, the technology they use, the different processes that they have to go through to help our school run. And we also went to our print room and we talked to the man that works there and he explained the different technology within there as well and how that contributes to our school.

I’ve found that I’ve been able to use skills I’ve learnt within my classroom to, for example, with my work placement I’ve been able to transfer them, and they’ve been very relevant and, like, I’ve talked to some of the people that actually work in those businesses and they say, ‘Oh no we actually use that and we do that’. So it was good to know that the skills I was learning in class I actually would use once I finish school and that are relevant to the real world.

I want to work in Property Evaluation and with my work placement that I was able to do within my 1–2 I went to a Property Evaluation company in the city. I learnt quite a few things within that and I also was able to create those connections with real live industry and that business that I went in to do my work placement is the career I want to pursue in the future, so I’m really happy I was able to make that connection early on, so within the future once I finish the degree hopefully I’ll be able to say, you know, I’m really interested in working for your business, would you consider it? And just starting those connections early on I think is only going to aid me in my quest to find a job in the real world honestly after school finishes.

I would recommend VET subjects to anyone and everyone honestly. It doesn’t matter what your interests are, I honestly feel that you could find a passion or interest within VET subjects and that they’re transferable to everyone and anyone. It’s given me a lot of confidence within myself because I’ve been doing well at this subject I’m like, ‘No I can actually do this and I can do my last two years of school and be able to learn skills that I can use and I know I will use later on’.

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