

Automotive Mechanic

Chris is learning the skills to become an apprentice mechanic:

“I didn’t know what to do at the end of Year 10. I was going to try to get an apprenticeship but didn’t know how I would go.”

Chris believed the hands-on experience his VCAL program provides would really help him achieve his dream of becoming a motor mechanic.

Chris studies Certificate II in Auto Technology at TAFE and VCE VET modules in light vehicle automotive offered by the school.

To complement his learning he is undertaking a two-week block of structured workplace learning with David Nutter Ford before starting a one day a week placement.

When Chris completes his VCAL, he will have gained sound skills and a basic knowledge of the automotive industry including parts, component manuals and servicing.

Fixed Operations Manager at David Nutter Ford, Des Piggott, believes the vocational training undertaken as part of VCAL has positive benefits for employers.

He also believes VCAL’s focus on applied learning prepares students for the workplace.

“They’ve got realistic expectations about what the job involves,” says Des.



EMPLOYER:

“The training and structured workplace learning a young person gets with VCAL gives them a clearer understanding of the industry, so there will be less surprises when they start full time employment and they’ll be more likely to stick with it... If they’ve already completed certificate modules at TAFE (as part of the VCAL) that counts towards an apprenticeship, it means they’ll need to spend less time off-site training and will be capable of doing more for the business at an earlier stage.”

Des Piggott

David Nutter Ford, Berwick

The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) is a hands-on option for Years 11 & 12 students. It gives students practical work related experience and the literacy, numeracy and personal skills they need to take them into further training or their ideal job. Like the VCE, it’s a recognised secondary qualification. **For more information about VCAL, phone 1800 828 262 or visit www.vqa.vic.gov.au**