

# Equine Industry

**Jess** wants to work with horses.

For most students setting the alarm clock for a 5.00am start on a school day would be unthinkable. But for Jess, who is spending one school day a week in the workplace at Gerald Egan's Racing Stables, it's all in a day's work.

**"Coming here early in the mornings has given me an idea of how it will be when I leave school and start working full time. Now I know what it's like, I'm pretty sure I want to work with horses when I finish school."**



In Year 12, Jess is undertaking a school-based new apprentice and completing structured workplace learning to receive her Certificate II in Sport and Recreation.

Angie Meechan, from Gerald Egan Racing Stables is overseeing Jess's structured workplace learning. She says the VCAL program is a great way to source future employees and have an input into their training.

**"Because it's a set period of time we get to see how the students work and get to know them. We can see how dedicated they are before deciding to employ them ourselves,"** explains Angie.

**"I think it's really good because you keep on doing your core subjects while getting the work experience that you need. Doing VCAL is going to help me get the job I'm really passionate about,"** says Jess.

Local businesses have enthusiastically embraced VCAL because it exposes students to the workplace and builds young peoples' industry specific skills that can be accredited towards an apprenticeship or further training and education down the track.

## EMPLOYER:

"I think it's fantastic that young people get this opportunity to leave high school or college with the experience they've got. They've got their foot in the door already. That's what employers want, they want experience."

**Angie Meechan**

Trainer

Gerald Egan Racing Stables

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](http://www.vqa.vic.gov.au)**