Industry Pathways in the VCE and VCAL

A pathway to your future
Community Services and Health

The large and diverse workforce of the Community Services and Health industry makes a major contribution to the health, welfare and care of Victorians from the very young to the aged.
Community Services and Health is one of the largest employing industries in Victoria. It takes in seven sub-sectors: hospitals; pathology and diagnostic imaging services; allied health services; other health care services; residential care services; child care services; and other social assistance. The industry employs people in many and diverse occupations, including nurse, medical technician, aged carer, disability carer and early childhood educator. Some of the less common, but no less important, include therapy aide, audiometrist, cardiac technologist, optical mechanic, prosthetic/orthotic technician, and youth worker.

By completing the Industry Pathway in Community Services and Health as part of your VCE or Senior VICAL, you have started a pathway to an entry level position in health, community services or early childhood education through your VET options. By completing your senior secondary certificate you also have the option of completing a diploma or in some instances a degree. The maths and English skills you develop in your Industry Pathway will also assist you as you move to positions requiring diplomas or degrees or if you seek to enter these courses directly from school. Because the industry has many different options, another benefit of the Industry Pathway is that the experience you gain through workplace learning and VET studies will help you understand the type of employment you are most interested in.

To gain the Industry Pathway in Community Services and Health you must complete a VCE or Senior VICAL that includes the Industry Pathway program of studies and 80 hours of workplace learning. The content of the program varies by choice of certificate (either VICAL or the VCE), but must include options from the VCE VET program in Community Services and Health or a school-based traineeship in the industry (both VCE and VICAL), English, maths (Literacy and Numeracy in VICAL) and further studies related to the industry theme. Details about the Industry Pathway in Community Services and Health are available on the VCAA website.

Industry Pathways are two-year programs that will be available from 2015, with the first Industry Pathway to be awarded in 2016. If you are interested in an Industry Pathway, you should consider your study options in Years 9 and 10 before you commence VET or other senior secondary studies.

You do not need to make a special application, but it is important that you discuss your plans with your school careers advisor or VET, VCE or VCAL coordinator.

Any VCE or VICAL student who meets all the requirements (this applies from 2016, but the program normally takes two years to complete).

If you complete the Industry Pathway in Community Services and Health, this title will also be included on your VCE or Senior VICAL certificate. Depending on your VET options, you may also be eligible for a VET certificate.

You can still get your VCE or VICAL certificate, even if you begin the Industry Pathway and don’t complete all the Industry Pathway requirements.