My name’s William. I’m currently a Year 12 student undertaking the VET Building and Construction class.

The reason why I chose to study VET Building and Construction is because really it just runs in my family. It’s something that I’d like to continue going in the future, and one of the benefits of this course is your Certificate II Building and Construction pre-apprenticeship.

So the way basically I want to do it is, I want to complete my Certificate II Building and Construction pre-apprenticeship at school, and then because that’s in Year 12, I want to finish that up. I then want to move on to TAFE and get a job at the same time in carpentry, complete my Certificate III. And then in my fourth year of my apprenticeship I’d like to do my Certificate IV, finish that up and then, maybe venture out on my own, start my own business, maybe stay with the employer for a bit more. Really it’s just all about you in the future.

Ah, so in Year 10 when I started carpentry, basically it was just all about hand tools. So your handsaw, your hand planer, all of those kinds of things. Um, you wouldn’t necessarily use power tools, you’d have to ask the teacher to do that for you. But then as you progress in Year 11 they’ll start to get you to use the small power tools, I’m talking about like drills, and all those kinds of like little things. And then when you hit Year 12 you use pretty much all of the big boy kind of stuff. You use the big drop saws, you use all of the circular saws, bandsaws, you use all of that kind of big machinery.

Ah, I’ve been building, well so far I’ve been working on a chicken coop, for my grandpa, so he can put his chickens in. Um, Year 11 and 12 we’ve been working on cubbyhouses, which we then dismantle, take to a primary school or a kindergarten, and we set it up there. We build it up there. My most favourite thing in this subject would be just the practical work. Really, instead of writing it’s just hands on. You know, you’re getting dirty, you’re getting your hands dirty, you learn more by doing that. You’re not going to learn much by staying clean.

What I’m learning now I can definitely take with me in the future. My hand skills I can take with me, my skills in power tools I can definitely take with me. Ah and because if, maybe later on I decide not to start a family business, I’d like to continue working with someone, they can see that I know what I’m doing, how I can use tools, what I’ve learnt from using tools and also what I’ve learnt from the trade centre with my carpentry teacher.

So structured workplace learning is an actual important role in this subject. Really what you’re trying to aim for is an apprenticeship, or apprenticeship trials. That way they can see what you’re capable of. And then at the end of that they’ll decide whether, OK yep this bloke’s really good I want to take him on or nah he needs to learn a bit more let him stay at school. Some of the skills that I’ve learnt in the trade centre, I’ve definitely applied them out in the worksite. Definitely, um, really, when they say ‘go cut me a piece of timber’ what I’ve learnt in the trade centre is what I’ve applied in the work site to actually, like, my knowledge to actually complete that job. Um, really if they say to me, ‘go, can you go sand this bit, make sure it’s nice and flush’ so nice and even. Um, he might come back in about 10 minutes time, he might see it’s really flush. Most of the skills you apply in the trade centre is what you would apply out in the worksite.

Yeah when you finish making something, it’s pretty much there forever, you know, unless you dismantle it really. When I built, when we built, cubbyhouses, I just did it with one person really, or with my partner. You get people who say, who actually come in and say, ‘oh, that actually looks really good’ and then you think, oh I actually did a good job and I’m proud that I’ve made that.

Yeah I’d just definitely recommend it, it’s a lot of fun, you just want to work more.

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