



Reboot

More Stories from Transition to Work



**Workforce
Australia**
Employment Services

Delivered by
OCTEC Limited





Introducing Transition to Work

Workforce Australia Transition to Work (TtW) is an Australian Government program assisting young people aged 15 to 24 at risk of long-term unemployment to develop appropriate skills and attributes to attain meaningful employment (including apprenticeships or traineeships). The program also aims to connect these vulnerable young people with education and training institutions for further education opportunities. The program has been delivering services since 2016, and is contracted to continue supporting young people until at least 2027.

Introducing OCTEC

OCTEC Limited is a not-for-profit community organisation providing high quality employment, training, advocacy and youth services from service locations across Eastern Australia. We provide services to all participants regardless of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, religious belief, marital status or disability. We actively seek to understand the needs of our participants including disadvantaged or long-term jobseekers, training participants, disadvantaged or isolated community members, community organisations, government agencies and local businesses. We are flexible in the delivery of our services, allowing us to meet the changing needs of all we serve.





Reboot

More Stories from Transition to Work

OCTEC delivers Transition to Work in five regions of Eastern Australia – the Capital Region (including the ACT), Central West NSW, South Western Sydney, the Riverina, and Illawarra South Coast (Wollongong and northern half of region). We have a participant caseload of more than 3,200 young people and we assist them to develop personal and vocational skills, to build work-readiness and commence career journeys.

In this booklet you will read selected stories of these inspiring young people. You will read how, in partnership with their OCTEC TtW Consultants, they have been able to overcome barriers and take positive steps towards lives of personal and financial independence.

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OCTEC CEO

It's my pleasure to present to you, *Reboot – More Stories from Transition to Work*. Following on from our 2021 publication, *On Track*, this is our second booklet to feature the stories of young people in this important program.

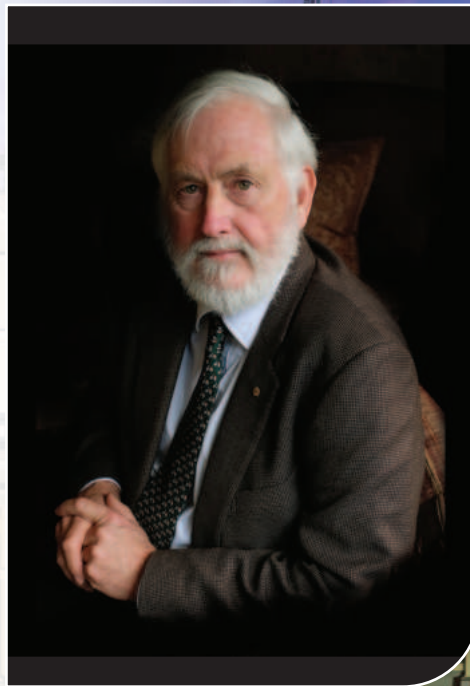
From the earliest days of our organisation, OCTEC Limited has been committed to building communities by assisting disadvantaged people on their journey to employment. Since 1976, young people have been at the heart of what we do. The Australian Government's youth pre-employment program, called Workforce Australia Transition to Work (TtW), is very much core business and a natural fit for our organisation.

Today, OCTEC delivers TtW from locations across Eastern Australia. We have more than 3,200 young people on our TtW

caseload and it's been our pleasure to work alongside these participants, giving them a chance to build a career, achieve their dreams and goals, and reboot their lives.

I would like to thank our TtW National Manager, Charissa Mossop, and our wonderful team of managers, consultants and support staff for their hard work and achievement. The work they do each day makes a real difference in so many young lives. I hope you will enjoy reading these inspiring stories as much as I have.

Andrew McDougall OAM
CEO OCTEC Limited



OCTEC Transition to Work National Manager

For many young people today, particularly those who are disadvantaged or disconnected from education, the challenges of starting a career must seem overwhelming. This is where OCTEC and the Australian Government's Workforce Australia Transition to Work (TtW) program come in.

Cost of living pressures have had a profound impact on the financial and social wellbeing of many young Australians. And, in a time of low unemployment, the national youth unemployment rate remains stubbornly high.

For many disadvantaged young people, their lives have become more difficult and complex. They need some assistance to enjoy the stability that most other Australians take for granted. This is where OCTEC and TtW come in.

Our TtW Consultants work closely with each participant, assessing their unique strengths, skills, goals and dreams, as well as any barriers that may prevent these attributes from being

realised. We equip young people to compete in their local labour market through the development of individual job plans and through coaching in the skills required to secure employment. We connect participants to vocational training, including access to relevant qualifications, licences and accreditations. We also connect young people to specialist assistance – such as mental health support and cultural services. In short, through TtW, OCTEC offers disadvantaged young people a chance to 'reboot' their lives.

Our organisation began as a youth vocational service in 1976 and, almost 50 years later, we continue to help young Australians develop practical job skills, enrol in local education and training, connect with support services, and find work in their local areas. The stories you will read in this second OCTEC TtW booklet highlights more of the amazing experiences our consultants and participants share every day.



Charissa Mossop
Transition to Work
National Manager



Options and Apprenticeships Indya

I was only 16 years old when I first came to OCTEC TtW in Wagga Wagga. I'd dropped out of school earlier than most people do, and I had no experience at work.

Coming to OCTEC was really good for me because they gave me so many options and things to do. Their TtW consultant, Neisha Mullen, began asking me about what things I wanted to do with my life. I was interested in hairdressing, but I didn't really know how I would get a job in that industry. I didn't know much about business stuff at all. Neisha suggested I enrol into a Certificate III in Business course, run by OCTEC Training, which I did. OCTEC even gave me a laptop so I could do my study.

At the same time as I was studying, Neisha helped me create a résumé, and taught me about searching for jobs. We went online looking for jobs and practiced job interviews.

As we went along, OCTEC found a hairdressing business that was looking for an apprentice. Neisha got me an interview and they gave me a work trial. ***Things went really well and they offered me an apprenticeship!***

I wouldn't be an apprentice hairdresser if it wasn't for Neisha. She got me out of my comfort zone and helped me to mature a lot, becoming a more professional person to get me into the workforce. I'm so glad I got the help I did from TtW. Otherwise, I don't know where I'd be going with my life.

Determined to Succeed Dylan

I first came to OCTEC TtW in Liverpool after I'd just been released from jail. I left school early as a kid and I didn't have much experience at work. In fact, it'd been more than six months since I'd had any kind of paid work at all. But I had a partner and a child to think of, and we were struggling to pay for the things we needed.

At OCTEC, I met Taani Teapa, who connected me with local community services which helped my family out with food and clothes. Taani and I worked on my résumé and I went to job clubs which were run at the OCTEC office each week. Getting involved in this kind of activity made me realise what was out there. *I became really determined to succeed.*

When a container crew job came up with a freight company, I immediately said to Taani *"put my name forward, and I'll do it"*. Taani arranged an interview on the phone and I got the job! OCTEC paid for a safety kit and work clothes and in October 2024, I started my first job in almost a year.

Working with OCTEC was awesome. Now I have a job. I can afford to drive to work and pay the bills. Best of all... I'm able to provide for my little one.





The Career I Wanted **Angus**

Even though I had a Bachelor Degree, I couldn't seem to get a job. I didn't have much work experience and no real confidence. So, when I first came to OCTEC TtW in Belconnen, my consultant, Gunjanjot Kaur began helping me learn more about the job market and how to get involved.

Gunjanjot helped me in really practical ways, like how to develop a professional résumé, and to write a cover letter which specifically addresses the criteria of a job vacancy. We practiced job interviews, going over the type of questions employers ask people when they're applying for jobs.

I began to secure some interviews, but missed out on the actual jobs, which was pretty disheartening. Still, Gunjanjot

helped me to use these experiences as a way to learn and improve my approach. This kind of guidance significantly helped with my confidence.

As time went on, and with Gunjanjot's continued assistance, I was offered two positions – one being a Visitor Experience Host at the National Gallery of Australia.

As someone with a passion for art, this was a perfect fit. ***Now, I have found a position that allows me to enter the career I always wanted.***

Coffee, Cuisine and Purple Prayers Elizabeth

When I first came to OCTEC Transition to Work, it really felt like life had been long and hard. There had been a breakdown of relationships in my family and I was struggling with my mental health. And, after months of rejection from every job I had applied for, I wasn't feeling very hopeful that I would find any job, let alone the right one for me.

Still, I continued to put myself out there, continued to apply for jobs, despite the rejection, and now I'm working in a great local Wollongong restaurant, with a team that values me, that supports me, and I couldn't be happier. *I'm really excited to see where my progress in this role will take me.*

I'm thankful for the people and the support I was given during my time at TtW, and would like to give special thanks to my OCTEC consultant, Emily Sevim, who helped me throughout this

whole process. It was Emily who helped me realise my potential. She was always in my corner, giving advice and encouragement. She even arranged for me to attend a National Empowering Women into Employment Workshop, which was amazing!

And this hasn't just been about finding a great job! *During my time in TtW, I also self-published my very first book!*

Purple Prayers: A Notes App Full of Sin, is now available worldwide on Amazon. Please check it out!

This year has had a lot of ups and downs, but I'm proud of myself for finding a job that supports me, and for self-publishing a book that has been years in the making. Good luck to all those who are in the same boat, the right job will find you, just keep applying yourself! And don't be afraid to ask for help.



Nothing but Success **Andrew**

I left school before finishing Year 10. I'd just got out of jail. I had Dyslexia. What hope did I have of finding a decent job? This was all before I came to OCTEC TtW in Lithgow, and met Erin Rainsford.

I told Erin I was keen to start work. I'd done a few jobs here and there in the past, but now it was time to turn my life around and get serious. I didn't mind what work I started with, I just wanted to get going. Problem was ... what could I do? I didn't have much confidence in myself.

OCTEC helped me get my motorbike licence. Erin got me thinking about jobs and how to apply for them. She started contacting different employers and she found a printing company that was prepared to give me a try. Erin arranged

an interview for me, and I must have gone okay because they offered me a work trial for a month. This led to a job as an apprentice printer.

Since I have been working with Erin and OCTEC, I've had nothing but success. Nothing is ever an issue for them. As well as helping with my bike licence, they helped me to get a forklift ticket. Everyone there has been really supportive and working with Erin has made achieving my goals so much easier.





Doing Better **Phoenix**

It was my high school that put me onto Transition to Work. I'd kind of split from school and I had a lot of anxiety and no work experience. This was back in January 2024, when I was 16 years old.

I went to OCTEC TtW in Braddon, and met with consultant Illecia Astill. I didn't much like going to the office, but Illecia helped me to come out of my shell. As we started talking, I told Illecia I was interested in some sort of apprenticeship, but I didn't know how I was going to get one.

Illecia and I started looking for apprenticeships and even applying for some. When I missed out, instead of being disappointed, Illecia showed me how to learn from the experience.

What could I do better next time?

Eventually, we found a tiling apprenticeship that I was interested in. With Illecia's coaching and help, I put in an application, got an interview and I was offered the job!

Because of health and safety, there are some certificates and training you have to do in tiling, like Silica Exposure training and a White Card. OCTEC arranged and paid for these. They also paid for work clothes and safety boots.

My job is going well, I'm learning heaps and I have TtW and Illecia to thank for it.



Second Time Around **Caleb**

I'd been in TtW before, but I didn't stick at it. Then, in 2024, I came back to TtW with OCTEC in Griffith. I'd only done school to Year 7, so I didn't have a lot of experience or education. I had money worries and my self-confidence was really low.

On my second time in TtW, I met with Skye Hubbard. I told Skye that, even though I'd dropped out before, this time I was going to make things work.

I was looking for an apprenticeship and I was determined to make it a success.

Skye helped me with job preparation things, like creating a CV and doing practice interviews. As time went on, I could feel my confidence growing. Skye helped me connect to an Australian

Apprentice Support Centre which had an apprentice mechanic vacancy on their books. After I got the job, to help with costs, OCTEC paid for safety gear and some of my tools.

I must admit, it was pretty cool to hear from Paul, my apprenticeship support person, when he said, "Caleb is performing very well. He is punctual, reliable and communicates well in the workplace."

Huge Motivational Boost **Talicia**

A friend put me onto OCTEC TtW. I was pretty anxious and not very enthusiastic about doing any programs, but I did go along to the OCTEC office in Wollongong.

At OCTEC, I met Victoria Figueira. It was Vic who helped me build my confidence. She was the one who helped me to move outside my comfort zone and look at other options in my life. With Vic, I was able to talk in a comfortable environment about my goals and aspirations and realise what I wanted to do. ***I felt very supported throughout this process and got a huge motivational boost from my discussions with Vic.***

Working has helped my mental health dramatically and I am very thankful for the routine that work has brought me. I would like to encourage anyone who suffers from mental illness to have an employment goal, as this

has helped me with my mental health. My journey into employment has helped me to accept who I am, helped me to connect with new people and also to reconnect with old friends. It has changed my life.

I would like to send a big thankyou to Vic, and OCTEC TtW in Wollongong, for the support they have provided me, from my very first appointment, to regular check-ins to see how my work is going and how I am coping. OCTEC also assisted me with the cost of safety gear, which has been very highly appreciated.





Everything is Great! **Kieren**

Anxiety made it really hard for me to get out there and find a job. That was before I came to OCTEC TtW in Campbelltown.

It was early 2024 when I connected with Alison Maclean from OCTEC. Alison took the time to listen to me and hear my story. I told her I'd worked a bit in fast food, but really wanted to do something in the community sector, because I felt like it was where my personality would fit.

Alison told me about a local care service provider that was an OCTEC partner. This employer was always looking for staff. The trouble was, I didn't have the experience they were looking for. Alison negotiated with the employer for me to be hired as a care sector trainee.

This meant I could earn income as I developed the skills and experience I needed.

Because travelling to my new job involved driving, OCTEC assisted me with the cost of fuel. They also covered the cost of new work uniforms. Even after I started work, Alison has kept in regular contact to make sure everything is OK. ***I definitely can say that everything has been great since I started working in my new job!***

Skills for Life

Education and training are an essential part of OCTEC's delivery of Transition to Work services. Through our own Registered Training Organisation, along with partner RTOs, we work to equip disadvantaged young people with the skills, knowledge and qualifications they need to compete for work in the open employment market and achieve their personal career goals, while also meeting the skilled labour needs of local employers.

A recent example of OCTEC's TtW skills focus was our work with One Training, providers of the "Skills for Life" training program for First Nations young people in Central West NSW. Skills for Life builds confidence, self-worth and a sense of belonging among participants by offering culturally-centred education. The program aims to revitalise First Nations culture and empower and equip participants with essential employability skills and specialised labour market training.

This in turn helps participants create pathways to great careers. The program incorporates four stages, covering: cultural revitalisation and connection, digital literacy, industry-specific training, and support into employment.

OCTEC TtW Consultant Verity Morris saw Skills for Life as a great opportunity for our First Nations TtW participants in the Central West, and encouraged each of them to check it out. As a result, eight OCTEC participants were enrolled into Skills for Life.

Of the eight who commenced, seven graduated – close to a 90% completion rate, an outstanding achievement for this type of program. The graduation ceremony was attended by OCTEC TtW consultants as well as our Deputy CEO, Stephen Nugent.

Participants were enthusiastic about the program and their achievements.

Tayissa: ***This was a great program. It helped me build the confidence to speak up, and I even became confident enough to speak in front of the class. My anxiety has improved and I have come out of my shell so much. I really enjoyed learning more about culture, meeting new people through the program and hearing other people's stories. I built the courage to speak about my own culture and shared my knowledge in culture after listening to others.***

Janaya: ***I started the program very shy and quiet. Now, I feel confident with speaking to everyone and I even built the confidence to speak in front of the entire group. The group came together really well and it felt like we were one big family.***

An Outstanding Success **Neisha**



My name is Neisha Mullen, and I'm an OCTEC TtW Consultant in Wagga Wagga. One of the great things about my job is seeing disadvantaged and disengaged young people turn their lives around and realise success. One of these recent participants was Amber.

professional résumé and to develop her personal communication skills, particularly in the way she presented herself during job interviews.

We began cold-calling employers, as part of Amber's career development, and then, thanks to

Amber was 17 when she came to our site. Having left school early, she was quiet and shy, and unsure what she wanted to do with her life. As we began working together, I found Amber to be a polite and optimistic young woman. We spent time building rapport and trust. I assisted Amber to develop a

OCTEC's strong partnerships with local providers, we identified a Group Training Organisation which had a traineeship in administration at a local car dealership.

To assist Amber make a great start, and to offset the employer's costs, OCTEC purchased business attire as well as a laptop to assist Amber with her traineeship study.

Since her placement I've continued working with Amber and her GTO Field Officer, Danielle, who has been extremely positive in her feedback, saying: ***"We are thrilled with the outstanding success that Amber has had in her new position."*** She has proven to be a valuable asset to the team, with constant positive feedback from her host employer. We are very grateful for the continuing relationship with OCTEC, and the ability it gives us to place job-ready candidates into apprenticeships and traineeships."

My Own Cheer Squad **Lilly**

I really had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. I left school before Year 12 and didn't think I had much going for me. Then I went to OCTEC TtW in Shellharbour.

At OCTEC I met with Bonnie Brightling. During one of our appointments, I told Bonnie I was caring for my terminally ill dad and that got us thinking about careers in the care industry. *The problem was, even thinking about going to a job interview really scared me.*

So Bonnie spent time with me practicing job interviews. We went to careers expos together and I could feel my confidence beginning to grow as I learnt more about what job searching actually involved. After a few setbacks, Bonnie helped me get a job at a juice retail outlet. This meant I

could start earning income while I began thinking about study options for a care career.

Bonnie assisted me to enrol into a Certificate III in Community Services course. Because the study was online, OCTEC paid for a laptop and I got started in early 2025! I just love coming in for my TtW appointments. *With OCTEC, it's like I have my own little cheer squad.*



A Blessing Taif

Being an OCTEC participant is a blessing. They helped me with everything regarding work.

I first went to OCTEC TtW in Liverpool at the end of 2023. I am very thankful to have met with TtW Consultant Trinity Smith. She helped me with all my needs and dilemmas. I didn't have much work history and I was not so confident. Also, I didn't have my own car and needed to find a job where I could get to it by public transport.

Trinity helped fix my résumé so that it would attract more employers. Because of this help, I was able to find my first job as a receptionist. Trinity would check on me regularly, to make sure everything was okay. But then, when my first manager refused to pay me, I contacted Trinity and her advice did not disappoint.

She told me exactly how to handle the situation and how to be professional.

After I left this first job, Trinity immediately stepped in and helped me to find a better one at a food outlet. I really loved this, because I love working with food and meeting new people.

Trinity even offered to drive me to work when my first shift started very early in the morning. Such dedication!

When I had a few problems with my next manager, Trinity was available to give me advice and tips on how to manage the situation professionally. Trinity is very kind, hardworking, professional and dedicated to her job. I am so grateful for the assistance I received, from job searching to experiences in the workplace.



Becoming Job Ready

Over recent years, Australia's cultural diversity has continued to grow, and grow significantly. This is not only true of our urban communities, but also in the regions. For example, in the Riverina area of south-west NSW, the percentage of residents who speak a language other than English has almost doubled in the past decade.

OCTEC's Transition to Work teams are dedicated to equipping young people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds with the skills and confidence they need to secure meaningful local employment.

In Wagga Wagga, our "CALD Job Ready Workshops" give our participants the opportunity to develop their vocational English skills in a supportive, career-focused environment. The workshops incorporate practical, hands-on training in key job seeking skills, including:

- assisting participants to develop outstanding résumés and job application letters

- helping job seekers navigate the job application process, both online and in-person

- cold-calling employers - boosting participant confidence by contacting businesses directly to unearth potential vacancies
- encouraging proactive post-application communication with employers as a tool to receive feedback and improve future job applications.

In addition to these workshops, OCTEC has partnered with a local McDonalds to provide interview training and mock interviews with participants. These provide invaluable experience, allowing participants to improve their skills in a safe and supportive environment.



Not only have the Job Ready Workshops empowered CALD participants to improve their confidence, skills and employability, the partnership with McDonalds has led to actual offers of employment. In the first three months of the program, four of our CALD TtW participants were offered paid employment with McDonalds.

OCTEC appreciates and acknowledges the continuing support of partners like McDonalds, allowing us to change the lives of disadvantaged young people, and to strengthen local communities.



Hopeful and Enthusiastic **Leshae**

I left school before Year 12. I was shy and struggling with my mental health. I needed to find my own place to live. These were the things I was facing when I first came to OCTEC TtW in Wollongong.

Victoria Figueira was the name of my OCTEC consultant. I told Vic I was determined to overcome my shyness and make something of my life. I told her I'd previously completed barista training, which was pretty good, and we wondered if hospitality was something I could pursue as a job.

Vic arranged for me to enrol in a Certificate III in Hospitality. When I missed the Responsible Conduct of Gambling module due to illness, Vic helped me to complete that component separately. *I could feel myself getting more hopeful and enthusiastic.*

When a bar attendant position became available with a local employer, Vic helped me to apply for the job and I was successful! In early 2025, I started earning an income!

Today, I'm eager to not just have a job, but to build a career. I've always been passionate about early childhood education and I've recently enrolled into a Certificate III course. *OCTEC TtW has been really helpful in my journey to study and employment.* And I just want to say thank you to Vic for all the help she's given me.

A Better Future **Amara**

I was 17 when I first came to OCTEC TtW in Belconnen. This was in April 2024. I'd left school early, didn't know much about job searching, but I needed to sort out paying the bills and finding somewhere to live. I'd previously worked for a painting business but was let go without any real explanation, after only two weeks. This didn't help my confidence much!

At OCTEC, I worked with Gunjanjot Kaur. I told Gunjan I wanted hands-on work, particularly in painting and decorating. Gunjan helped me to write a really professional résumé, and the two of us began contacting local painting businesses.

It was then that Allan Brookman, OCTEC's Workforce Development Coordinator came into the picture. With his contacts in different industries, Allan knew of a local painting contractor that was looking for a brush hand. With coaching from Allan and Gunjan, I got the job!

Gunjan kept in contact with me after I started, to make sure things were going well. Because of her, I have a great job with a great company. Now I am making a stable income and I'm able to support myself. *Through TtW I have a better future!*



Hard Work, Setbacks and Now a Career **Siannah**

It was mid 2024 when I first came to OCTEC TtW in Orange. I'd left school early, didn't think I had many skills, and certainly no work experience. My mental health wasn't great and I had no money.

When I came to OCTEC, I spoke with Melanie Waterton, one of the TtW Consultants. *Melaine reassured me I had the attributes a lot of employers were looking for. That really made me feel better about myself.*

Melanie and I completed one-on-one sessions, talking about job search and practicing things like employer interviews. I told Melanie I was interested in hospitality and that I'd previously done an RSA course.

As time went along, Melanie began encouraging me to apply for actual jobs. She said it was an opportunity to improve both

my interview technique and the quality of my applications and résumé. It became obvious that one of the things I needed to win a job was my own driver's licence. I only had my Ls. So, OCTEC arranged and paid for me to start driving lessons.

It took hard work, and a few setbacks, but I was eventually successful in winning a bar tender job at a local restaurant. OCTEC paid for work clothes and Melanie keeps in regular contact to make sure all is well. For the first time, I'm earning good money and building myself a career.



Putting Money Where Their Mouth Is **Gypsy**

A lot of people say they want to help you get a job, but I reckon OCTEC is different. **They put their money where their mouth is.** They sure did with me.

Before I came to OCTEC TtW in Ingleburn, I'd done a lot of different jobs, but I wasn't sure which path to take. I hadn't finished my HSC, but I did like the idea of starting my own business. I just didn't know how that could possibly happen!

At OCTEC, I worked with consultant Samantha Cookson-Fraietta. I told Samantha about the trouble I had learning things, and she suggested I do a Certificate III in Business, but that I do the study online, so I could work at my own pace. OCTEC paid for reading glasses, course fees, and even a laptop to help me study.

Meanwhile, I needed to earn money. I told Samantha I wanted to give something back

to the community, and she began to contact potential employers. One of those employers was OCTEC itself. They had a vacancy for an Indigenous Mentor. Samantha thought I had the right attributes for such a position. She helped me write a cover letter and prepare for an interview. I must have made a good impression, because they offered me the job.

OCTEC paid for Working with Children Checks and work clothing. They allowed me to 'job shadow' an experienced mentor so I could learn how to do the role correctly. **I really enjoy helping people and OCTEC gave me that opportunity.** I've also had the good fortune to work with First Nations people across our local community. Now, thanks to OCTEC, I'm studying, earning money, and giving something back.



I Couldn't Be Happier **Dezaleigh**

My school years were really tough. For quite a long time, COVID meant I was away from my teachers and friends. Things were really hard for my family as well. We were facing homelessness and were forced to live in two small and separate houses. The future seemed bleak.

After school, I was referred to OCTEC Transition to Work in Tolland, and met with consultant Neisha Mullen. I told Neisha I was interested in things like art and education. ***I'd always been interested in childcare and early childhood education, but I had no relevant experience and I was very anxious about the whole situation.***

Neisha spent time with me, helping me set out a job search plan. We spent time discussing pathways to the career I wanted and did things like practice job interviews. I wanted to learn to drive, and Neisha helped me practice for the

driver knowledge test and I got my Ls on the first attempt. Neisha also arranged for references and support letters for my family, to help them find suitable housing.

One of Neisha's other participants had recently secured a job with a local childcare centre. The employer told Neisha they were looking for a suitable candidate for a childcare trainee vacancy.

Neisha encouraged me to send them my résumé. I was offered an interview and then a work trial. This led to an offer of paid employment.

I still regularly catchup with Neisha to discuss how my

traineeship is going. ***Honestly, I couldn't be happier than where I am right now.*** OCTEC supported me to find a dream job. I love working in childcare and I feel more confident in myself. I'm ready to go for my Ps and my family now lives in a house with enough room for everyone. I don't think I could have come this far without the support of OCTEC, Neisha and TtW.



Happily Employed **Cameron**

Starting with OCTEC TtW in Shellharbour and meeting with consultant Storm Dallas, really turned my life around.

I'd left school in Year 11. I wanted to complete more study, since I didn't have my HSC. And I had never worked. I didn't even have any kind of work experience. It was February 2024, I was 18 years old, and I didn't think I had anything going for me.

Storm and OCTEC showed me otherwise. They provided me with all the information and assistance I needed to move forward with my goals. They arranged for me to complete pre-employment training, both in OCTEC and with another provider. I gained knowledge about the workforce. And I started to learn more about myself.

I also started to learn about the hospitality industry and, because this seemed like a good match for me and my personality, Storm then helped me to enrol into a Certificate III in Hospitality course. OCTEC assisted with transport costs and driving lessons. They paid for a White Card and assisted me with study.

As part of the Certificate III, I did work experience at a Leagues Club in Kiama. I did the work placement component of my course at a beachfront café in Warilla. And this placement led to the offer of a job at the same café.

In less than 12 months, I've gone from a person with no work experience at all to being happily employed. That's all down to Storm, TtW and OCTEC.



Workforce Australia

Employment Services

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