



Australian Government



National  
Careers  
Institute

# Is Work Important?

## Area B: Learning and Working Exploration

The economies of the world's nations have become increasingly interconnected. For example, a computer chip designed in Australia may be produced in a Korean factory and used in a German-made VCR. It is then sold in countries all over the world. While this global trend has opened many opportunities it has also created problems.

### Activity

Think about the community where you live and see if these trends affect you in any way

Trend	Affect
Transport	
Job Opportunities	
Education Opportunities	
Cultural Diversity	
Personal and Community Safety	

This global trend has also impacted on the world of work. Today work is not only more mobile but also more flexible. You have the opportunity to almost pick and choose not only where you will work but also when you will work.

BUT - have you ever considered why it is important for you to work?

**Let's look at some reasons together.**

# Why Work?

## The economy:

Australia is listed in the top 15 richest countries in the world but have you ever wondered how a country makes its money? Wealth can come from a variety of sources including industry, exports and taxes. The harder people work the the more goods and services that will be produced and the more money the government will make in taxes.

How does the government spend the money people pay in taxes?

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What do you think would happen if everyone decided they didn't want to work?

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## The community:

Compare these 2 scenarios.

### Community 1:

Everyone who lives in Happyville is always busy. They work hard all week and socialise on the weekend. They have a great shopping centre, medical facilities, public transport system and schools are close by. On weekends, the children are involved in many of the nearby great sporting facilities while families and teenagers alike are often seen enjoying the beautiful and well maintained parks found in their community.

### Community 2:

The people who live in Misery spend a lot of time watching TV. Many of them have chosen not to work because they can't see the point. They spend many hours blaming the government because they have an unreliable bus service, a shopping centre where half the shops are closed because the owners are sick of being broken into and there are not enough doctors in the area to adequately look after the community. Bored teenagers hang around the streets because there is nothing else for them to do. Park equipment needs repairing and every where you look there is graffiti.

How does the government spend the money people pay in taxes?

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What do you think would happen if everyone decided they didn't want to work?

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### Your family:

How will a regular income help your family? What are some of your daily needs that must be met? Work with a friend and come up with as many things as you can that the income from a job will provide for a family.

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### Your Health:

Researches now believe that unemployment is associated with a large number of health risks and that work has a positive influence on the health of families and children. **State whether you agree or disagree with the following statement and why.**

“Work is central to our self-esteem and how we view ourselves has a direct affect on our health outcomes”.

I agree / disagree with this statement because

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Look at what you have identified as being important to you. If you want to be successful and achieve *your* dreams and goals then only one person can make that happen. That person is *you*.

Work is more than just earning money. List some of the other advantages of regular work:

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### Personal Needs:

What are some of your dreams? What are some of your goals? What kind of lifestyle do you want? And how will work help you to achieve them?

Identify below just how important these items are to you for the future	Very	Kind of	Not al all
To drive a new car			
To wear designer label clothing (E.g. Roxy, Billabong etc.)			
To be able to afford regular holidays			
To have a reputation of honesty in my community			
To qualify in a job either through Uni, TAFE or a trade			

To be in a solid personal relationship and have a family of my own			
To own your own home			
To be financially secure			
To be fit and healthy			
To be involved in the community in some way			

**Just think, if no-one worked we wouldn't have any hospitals, schools, shops, movie theatres, and the list goes on.**

More than ever before, you will find that working conditions are very flexible and meet the needs of almost everyone.

Look at these different work alternatives and give some examples for each one and day who might best suit that alternative. We have done the first one for you.

**Self-Employed:**

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**Volunteer:**

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**Casual:**

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**Contract:**

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**Part Time:**

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**Entrepreneurship:**

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In the future you may need to consider one of these work alternatives to fit your personal circumstances and lifestyle.

While a job and steady employment will help you to achieve some of your goals you will need to **combine your work role** with your community and family roles in order to achieve *all* of these goals.

**What is your plan to make sure your dreams and goals come true?**

My plan includes:

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**Whatever job you choose, try and make sure it fits your skills and abilities.**

**The more planning you do, the greater chance you have of being happy in your career choice.**