

Title of Resolution:

Better support for students to prepare for their post-school futures

Wording of Resolution:

VIEW Clubs of Australia call on Australian governments to ensure all young people have access to high quality, targeted careers education in primary and secondary schools that help them to prepare for the future world of work, and plan meaningful careers.

Rationale:

By improving the delivery of careers education across the country, students will be more confident and capable to navigate an incredibly difficult labour market, and be better prepared to find decent jobs and build a career over time. This will in turn help smooth the progress from secondary school into the wider world of work, reducing the number of young people who disengage during this transition. This resolution relates to the work of The Smith Family via its careers education initiatives.

Arguments for the resolution:

- It is important that school students begin to understand the world of work from a young age onwards, are as prepared as possible to navigate a difficult labour market, and understand how to plan and pursue a career.
- • Australia is experiencing its first recession in almost thirty years due to the disruption that COVID-19 has caused to our community and economy.
- • Prior to the recession, it was already challenging for young people to find secure, well-paid, meaningful employment after leaving school. Young people's employment prospects have been further damaged by the impact of COVID-19.
- There are opportunities for Australian governments to improve and expand the suite of careers education programs they offer to students. This includes ensuring that initiatives are targeted and age appropriate, guided by the latest evidence and leverage leading practice.

Arguments against the resolution:

- Schools already provide a sufficient level of careers education, notably via careers advisors and programs offered predominately to senior secondary students.
- There is limited space in the various state education curricula to expand careers education programs beyond senior secondary students.
- The best form of careers education is for young people to work in different jobs and learn through an employer, not through school-based programs