

Preparing young minds for their futures

THOUSANDS of Gladstone region students are expected to attend the annual career expo on Tuesday.

Run by Education Queensland and Industry Partnership (EQUIP), the event will showcase more than 40 exhibitors, making it

bigger than last year's event.

"It has grown," EQUIP work placement officer Carlie Busby said.

"We've got lots of universities involved, all of the universities in Queensland."

With exhibitors including

Ergon Energy, Queensland Police Service, Australian Defence Force, Queensland Alumina Limited, Gladstone Area Water Board, Ms

Busby said there was plenty of opportunities for students.

"It's easy to think in life you want to do something

but until you've done it and chatted to people in the occupation, you don't know," she said.

The 2017 Gladstone Careers Expo is held from 8.30am until 3pm at CQUniversity Marina Campus on May 9.



GLADSTONE TEENS GAIN CAREER INSIGHTS

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Career expo shows path

Over 1000 students in attendance

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THE Leo Zussino building at the CQUniversity Marina Campus was a hive of activity yesterday with the 2017 Gladstone Careers Expo on show.

More than 1000 students from grades 10, 11 and 12 from schools across the region had the unique opportunity to pick the brains of potential future employers with 44 career exhibit stalls on display.

The expo was run by Education Queensland and Industry Partnership (EQIP Gladstone), a not-for-profit organisation which serves as a link between high schools, industry and the community.

EQIP general manager Melissa Dennis said the exhibitors were on hand to discuss career and education pathway opportunities for students following school.

"The whole idea of the expo is to try and get students to understand what skills, qualifications, experience, results they need to get in subjects and



INFORMED: Jacinta Bradley, 15, Kiara Abrams, 15, Natasha Andrew, 15 and Isiah Ghee, 17 attended the 2017 Gladstone Careers Expo at the CQUniversity Marina Campus yesterday.
PHOTO: PAUL BRAVEN GLA090517CAREER

what they need to do now while they're at school to get better prepared for what happens after school," Ms Dennis said.

"So from there they can make more informed decisions about their future."

Ms Dennis said there was no shortage of potential career options coming out of the expo, with a distinct focus on helping students find employment in the region so they stay here and

contribute to the economic growth of Gladstone.

"We don't just have large industry here," she said.

"We have Heron Island and GAPDL for tourism, police recruiting, defence forces, local training and employment services and community services.

"So we've got a really wide range of exhibitors and that shows students there are many different pathways they can go down and it doesn't just have to be

through university."

Ms Dennis had some simple, yet effective advice for students looking towards potential career paths.

"I would encourage students to be informed through research; get online and have a look at different employer websites and find out what it's like to work for them," she said.

"If you're more informed it's going to make you try harder because you'll want to try and work there.

"Try it out before you leave high school to make sure it's what you really want to do.

"I'd also encourage students to never give up, do their best to try and develop the skills and knowledge that they need now to succeed in their future career."

Ms Dennis said that it's ok for students to change their mind and stressed the importance of work experience.

Career insights at expo

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THOUSANDS of Gladstone high school students will learn their options post-secondary schooling at a huge Gladstone expo today.

EQIP, CQUniversity and Gladstone Regional Council are hosting today's Gladstone Careers Expo for high school students in our region.

The event hosts 43 exhibitors from education and training, local government, local industry, retail, apprentice and trainee services, employment services, tourism, defence forces, police recruitment and community services.

EQIP general manager Melissa Dennis said the expo would help the hundreds of Year 12 students graduating from school this year.

Based on historical destination data trends from local state high schools, about 25% will likely transition to university to study a bachelor degree, 11% will enrol in further study at the certificate level and 47% will secure employment.

This could include apprenticeships, traineeships and full-time or part-time employment.

"Opportunities like the Gladstone Careers Expo are significant for many students as they need to work out which career or education pathway to take after school, where to find the right information and how to get started," Ms Dennis said.

"The best way for students to start this process and be informed about future career decisions is to speak with the experts at the Gladstone Careers Expo."

EQIP has provided all local schools with a Careers Expo booklet, which contains information on exhibitors and a section for students to list potential education or career pathways they may like to explore further.

Students can then target the experts on the day to find out what skills,



CAREER INSIGHTS: EQIP's students enjoying the 2016 career expo.

PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED



QAL offering industry insights at last year's event.



The 2016 EQIP Careers Expo was a great experience.

qualifications and experience they will need for that industry and occupation.

There will be a range of information stalls and practical activities for students to get involved in. NRG and GAGAL will bring electrical instrumentation boards and some of their apprentices to talk to students about the industry. Radio 91.9 Fresh FM will do live crosses during the day. Universities, Police

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— EQIP general manager Michelle Dennis

Recruiting and Defence Force Recruiting are all travelling to Gladstone for the day to discuss education and career options.

Local community services organisations will attend to ensure students know where to go for help if needed. Local industry and business

will chat to students about local career opportunities.

"EQIP will inform students on how they can start developing valuable employability skills and experience while they are at school, to support a smoother transition to work or further study," Ms Dennis said.

📍 The expo will be held today from 8.30am-3pm at the CQUniversity Marina Campus.