

# What's it REALLY Like...

Matching Learning with Jobs

[wirl.nellen.org.au](http://wirl.nellen.org.au)

## WIRL Information for Participating Businesses

**What's It Really Like (WIRL)** is an exciting program engaging students with practical industry activities through a series of supported workshops and site visits with participating businesses and industries.

WIRL partners with local industry to offer place-based learning and skill development that is linked to curriculum and career pathways. The program introduces Year 9 and 10 students to industry and employment opportunities before they make important subject decisions for their senior study years.

### HOW IT WORKS

- ▶ The WIRL project supports schools to recruit Year 9 students who are interested in local industries and businesses.
- ▶ The project has supplied the teachers with resources that enable them to negotiate an on-site visit to a range of local businesses.
- ▶ The teacher will contact the owner/ employer to discuss the possibility of an on-site workshop.
- ▶ Employers liaise with the teacher to establish the date and time, and likely activities, for the on-site workshop.
- ▶ The workshop(s) can be a couple of hours or all day. It's up to the employer.
- ▶ The workshops provide an introduction and potential relationship between employers and students who may choose to go onto the next step of formal training, placement and even employment. Allowing both employer and student to 'try before you buy.'
- ▶ The students are brought to the work site, ready for authentic work experiences.

### BENEFITS FOR PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES

- ▶ Create strong partnerships with local schools. The school becomes the "go-to" place for businesses to find the 'right' employees.
- ▶ Positive engagement with young people, their families, and the wider community.
- ▶ Find new employees who can fill the short-term peak periods of employment cycles.
- ▶ Promote your business and industry locally, creating loyal customers and supporters.



## PARTICIPATING INDUSTRIES



AGRICULTURE /  
HORTICULTURE



HEALTH CARE / SOCIAL  
ASSISTANCE



FOOD & FIBRE  
MANUFACTURING

## EXAMPLES OF WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

Be creative! The activities can take an hour or two, half a day, or all day. It really is up to the employer to come up with suitable activities that will be interesting and show the reality of the industry.

The teacher will work with you to tailor your activity with the group of students matched to your workplace. Group sizes vary, some activities may be suited to small groups or pairs, while others work best with a larger group. Some examples of potential workshops are listed below:

AGRICULTURE / HORTICULTURE	HEALTH CARE / SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	FOOD & FIBRE MANUFACTURING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Pruning and weeding</li> <li>▶ Bio security</li> <li>▶ Fertilizing</li> <li>▶ Picking and harvesting</li> <li>▶ Farm tour</li> <li>▶ Feeding animals</li> <li>▶ Weighing animals</li> <li>▶ Drenching and marking</li> <li>▶ Shearing and crutching</li> <li>▶ Using a race</li> <li>▶ Working dogs – caring, grooming, training</li> <li>▶ Milking and hygiene</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Food distribution via Foodshare</li> <li>▶ Child care/ aged care facility tours</li> <li>▶ Using prosthetic devices</li> <li>▶ Making casts</li> <li>▶ Making orthotics</li> <li>▶ Preparing a dental hygienists' tray</li> <li>▶ Hospital tour</li> <li>▶ Simulated examinations and check ups</li> <li>▶ X-rays, ultra sounds and CAT scans</li> <li>▶ Case studies from deidentified clinical notes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Wine making – all steps from vineyard to winery</li> <li>▶ Weaving material</li> <li>▶ Cheese production</li> <li>▶ Ice cream production</li> <li>▶ Logging and timber milling</li> <li>▶ Bread making</li> <li>▶ Sewerage management and treatment – grey water</li> <li>▶ Smoking meats</li> </ul>

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“In the eight years I have been doing this program, I have employed two of those people as full-time employees to give them a start because when I was 17 and left school, getting a job in Agriculture was easy. Today, there’s not many young placements around, and everybody wants experience.”

Damien Smith, Farmer



[www.rdv.vic.gov.au](http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au)



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