

## **What are the mitigating conditions that prevent the uptake of apprenticeships and traineeships among secondary school adolescents in Victoria?**

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This presentation and paper will provide an analysis of the mitigating conditions and factors that prevent the uptake of apprenticeships and traineeships amongst adolescents exiting secondary schools. The data is based on a thesis completed in May 2000 involving analysis of theoretical research, observation in the field, and case study interviews with secondary school educators involved in Career Education and Vocational Education and Training (VET) Co-ordination. Data will be presented detailing a range of mitigating *{reasons that moderate interest}* conditions including:

- Labour market statistics that demonstrate a prejudice against youth
- Attitudes of parents, teachers and students (including peer pressure)
- Inadequate training for teachers
- A general lack of understanding and appreciation of the vocational potential of apprenticeships and traineeships
- A secondary education system that provides a curriculum that is biased towards higher education consequently serving a minority of students i.e. those who exit school and undertake undergraduate courses
- A level of inappropriate employment practices and environments
- Industries that are traditional male bastions and have received extensive publicity due to bullying and dangerous activities in the workplace

The presentation will conclude by emphasising:

- The potential value of apprenticeships and traineeships in terms of a vocational and educational pathway
- The need for a secondary school environment that acknowledges and provides equitable rewards for students that possess skills that are not based on traditional academic abilities
- One of the key purposes of education being the preparation of adolescents for their adult vocational and social lives.