



## **Embedding Career Development Practices into the World of the Non-Traditional Student**

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The University of Southern Queensland's project, Making Career Choices, is funded by the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program and aims to raise aspirations of participants into higher education.

The project is in its third iteration and has in 2017 implemented a variety of initiatives to an estimated 5000 participants classified as Non-traditional students (low SES, Indigenous, first in family, non-English speaking, rural and remote).

With a focus on schools and communities in the Ipswich, Springfield and Southern and Western Downs regions, our focus has been on providing

1. career development outreach interventions
2. employability support transition from university to the world of work

A key finding has been the need to support a population to embed Career Development practices and this has occurred by recognising an audience who can have the most influence such as those that sit supporting this cohort namely teachers, community leaders and facilitators. This has been particularly important for regional and remote communities not in a position to understand or access career development initiatives and explore meaningful possibilities.

The result has been broadening horizons and possibilities for career choice and understanding the importance of career adaptability in the merging world of world. With the talk of rapid changes for the future, our goal has been to explore meaningful futures for those who would not otherwise have considered an educational pathway as part of their career future.