

# Term 1 Flexi Learning Centre Newsletter 2022

St Marys Flexi Learning Centre  
Wollongong Flexi Learning Centre  
St Laurence Flexi Learning Centre, Newcastle  
Pambula Beach Flexi Learning Centre  
Eastern Flexi Network Office, Wollongong



## Eastern Flexi Schools Network

Flexible Learning Centres provide a place and an opportunity for young people to engage with learning and community.

Flexible Learning Centres operate on a common ground basis where young people are empowered to determine their own pathways.

### Contents:

What's been happening....

What's coming up.....

Network News.....

Good News Stories.....

January 26 is "Survival Day", an important time when the community gathers to celebrate the resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The day serves to acknowledge and reinforce the present and the future of our cultures



Feel Good Feb (FGF) is having the intention and taking the time to make others feel good during February and beyond. Do a kind deed for a stranger.



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION  
AUSTRALIA

Visit our website;

<https://www.ereafsn.edu.au/eastern-flexi-schools-network/>

# St Marys FLC

## A NEW TERM

## What's been happening so far.....

### Last Term.....

Everyone was happy to get back to in person schooling in Term 4 after a loooong lockdown. This term saw a number of Young People at St Marys advocate for us to get a therapy dog. Thus our Head of Campus, Michael, offered to do a debate on the issue and the Young People won with the result!! A few days later, our youth worker Nicole brought her two dogs Lucy and Lulu in to have a play with staff and students. The Young People were stoked, but not stoked enough to clear up the doggy do.

We had another round of Young People complete their White Card this term for pathways in construction/traffic control with the awesome trainer Ren. And some of them are already off and getting paid!

There aren't that many places we can all go still because of vaccine requirements and the rainy weather so we spent a lot of time in the air this term at Dom Brosco!

There were a few sad farewells to some of our Young People who are moving onto exciting new pathways and adventures.

And then there was our fantastic Graduation Ceremony and Christmas party! Awards were won, tinsel was worn, a feast was eaten.

We also had time to spray paint some T-Shirts!

### Coming up in Term 1.....

Friday electives this term – Cooking, Outdoor Ed/Camping, 'The Quiet Space'

Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Feb – Tick Tick Boom Science show

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb – Year 7/8 Immunisations

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb – Jeepz' last day!

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March – Beach Day for whole school

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> April – last day of school for YP for Term – Cables Water Park



### Good News Stories from StMFLC.....

We have some fantastic news about an amazing young person called Hayley, who has successfully commenced into an Allied Health Traineeship, which we're all so proud of. We also want to give a big shout out Ryley getting a full time job!

Also, multiple students have moved into the Badu class and have made a great start to their Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways and an awesome effort to Kia-Ish for finishing her cert. Well done all!!

# Wollongong FLC

## A NEW TERM

What's been happening so far.....

### Last Term.....

Since returning to face to face learning, young people at Wollongong Flexi have had a blast!!

We had 11 young people complete their White Card Training and 10 young people complete their First Aid Training. We also had some young people complete and receive their Certificate I in Functional Literacy and Certificate I in Sport and Recreation which was great to see.

The Merrigong class continued their interest from lockdown with forensic science back in the classroom.

Classes organised outings which included visiting Symbio Wildlife Park, walking along the Sea Cliff Bridge, drives down to Kiama and Bass Point, and also quite a few visits to the Flexi favourites, KFC and McDonalds.

We also had a Sports Day with St Mary's at Towradgi Park, graffiti workshops in Cert I Art, a Flexi Just Dance Competition, karaoke, lots of ping pong, indoor volleyball and basketball of course, a beautiful Christmas Lunch up at the Sublime Point Cafe and Function Centre, and to finish the term off we had our Graduation Awards Day with a donut van making us fresh cinnamon donuts.

### Coming up in Term 1.....

**Wednesday 2nd March** - Student Hospitality Program provides a great opportunity for young people to gain industry experience working in hotels. If interested in attending the Novotel Hotel in Wollongong from 9.30am - 2.30pm and learning all about Pastry making, Mocktail training, and so much more as well as meeting potential employers - please contact Amy asap to register your interest.



### Good News Stories from WLGFLC.....

We had a young person from Dyalgala get an Apprenticeship as a trainee chef at the Headlands Hotel.

This young person has a great passion for cooking so this successful pathway was an amazing achievement.

Our 2021 Award winners were:

- Reuben Scarf Award: Dakota
- Transformation Award: Jeremiah and Isabella
- Spirit of Edmund Award: Nakeisha
- Ambassador Award: Jazmin



# Pambula Beach FLC

## A NEW TERM What's been happening so far.....

### Last Term.....

Term 4 was a busy and eventful term at PBFLC!!

We explored the local mountain bike trails, carving our way around berms, reaching supersonic speeds and popping airs. Our young people have developed and demonstrated extreme skill in the mountain biking space.

We diced, sauteed and seasoned delicious cuisine in the cooking elective. Young people worked on their cooking skills, whilst serving up tasty dishes for the community. Honey Joys and sushi were among the most favoured dishes.

Our young people, and staff alike, showed off their skills in the deep blue. Snorkelling and surfing saw a record number of young people in the water. Showing off their ability to learn and apply new skills, each young person was able to stand up and surf a wave with style.

Murphy has made himself at home. Bringing joy with his cheeky antics and taking us all on walks as he learns how to be member of the PBFLC community.

We sadly said goodbye to our youth worker, Ashley Marsh. Her positivity and kindness will be missed by all.

### Coming up in Term 1.....

Surfing at Merimbula **Wednesday** for weeks 2 and 3 and 4.

Kosciuszko walk to the summit **Week 5 (2nd March)**.

Snorkelling **Wednesday's** Week 6,7,8,9 then activity week.

**Thursday's** Week 5, 6, 7, 8 Parkour

**Friday's** weeks 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 Laps For Life (Swimming to raise money for youth mental health)



### Good News Stories from PBFLC.....

PBFLC participated in the Eden Canoes Project. Working alongside local Indigenous mentors, we built three canoes from scratch. Tracing out plans, sawing, gluing, sanding, waterproofing and decorating our canoes before launching them on our local waterways.

Some young people were uncertain of their abilities to make a boat that floats, the staff were not! Our young people demonstrated resilience, persistence, community mindedness, leadership and problem-solving skills with expert guidance of Michael Palmer and his team. We all paddled our canoes with pride and look forward to setting sail again in 2022.

# Eastern Flexi Network Office

By the end of 2021, we said good bye to the following Flexi staff.....

Ernst & Yale - Network Office  
Antoinette, Rewi, Shaun, Ray, Emily, Joanne & Jet - WLG FLC  
Jeepez, Elizabeth & Dale - St Marys FLC  
David - St Laurence FLC  
Ashley - Pambula Beach FLC

We thank them for their amazing work and wish them all the best with their future endeavours.

At the start of 2022, we welcomed the following new Flexi staff in their new roles.....

Micheal (IT Support) & Matt (Asst Principal) - Network Office  
Emily (Asst Head of Campus), Lexi (Youth Worker), Olivia (Teacher) & Kate (Canteen Support) - WLG FLC  
Teresa (Canteen Support) & Jodie (Transitional Support Worker) - St Marys FLC  
Katie (Teacher) & Lyndon (Youth Worker) - St Laurence FLC  
Cameron & Erin (both Teachers) - Pambula Beach FLC

Please extend the warmest of welcomes and say a huge Hi whenever you can.

We also welcome Adam as our new Acting Principal across all our schools in our Eastern Flexi Network this year, whilst Ivan is covering as Acting Principal in Victoria for the Nano Nagle Flexi Network.

And some of our amazing Network staff have even been covering classes at St Marys FLC and Wollongong FLC this term, and getting to know the awesome young people at those Flexi's.



## A NEW TERM What's been happening so far.....

After 7-8 months of Working From Home, the Network Head Office in Wollongong is once again a hive of activity with staff returning to their desks.... its great to see our fellow colleagues (rather than via Zoom) and once again be out and about in the community creating opportunities for our young people.



## Good News Stories from the Eastern Flexi Schools Network ....

### EREA Charter Leadership Awards - Liberating Education

Michael Gallagher (Wollongong Flexible Learning Centre, NSW)

Michael is a teacher at the Wollongong FLC. He has worked with EREA in the Flexi space for 21 years and is regarded as an exemplary practitioner in Operating by Principles, Common Ground and Trauma Aware Practices.

His knowledge, expertise, skill and experience has contributed significantly to the successful delivery of meaningful educational outcomes for countless young people. He has re-written Certificate I and II courses that have gained accreditation and are exemplars for other providers.

Michael takes time to mentor, coach and train staff in the four Principles. He is known as the 'keeper of the four Principles' through ensuring that all in the care of young people in the Flexi environment never lose sight that these are the fundamental precepts that must be practiced to ensure young people are engaged in their learning.



He has remained passionately steadfast in upholding these Principles as a teacher and is an inspiration to others in the field.

# Connecting with community..

## Regional Industry Education Partnerships Program (RIEP)

An initiative of the NSW Government

At all of our four Flexi's we have corroborated with the above NSW government program over the last year, which have enabled our young people to attend some amazing fully funded workshops and opportunities both online and face to face.

Term 1 2022 has the following coming up, if interested please contact your Transitional Support Worker or Head Teacher at your FLC;

### [St Marys FLC](#)

Careers of Tomorrow- Series of 5 Webinars between March 9<sup>th</sup> to April 6<sup>th</sup> on Wednesdays from 1:30pm - 2:15pm –

Dates for these Term 1 webinars are:

- 9 March- Construction
- 16 March- Retail
- 23 March- Professional Services /Tech
- 30 March- Health
- 6 April – Manufacturing

**Get the Skills, Get the Job** – A program for Aboriginal students run through Kimberwalli at the Centre for Excellence in Whalan. This program has several different short courses that run for between 4 and 9 days. Each course includes some skills training and Industry involvement.

### [St Laurence FLC, Newcastle](#)

- Automotive program partnering with Auto Group dealerships
- Agricultural programs across the region
- Hospitality program in partnership with Pullman Hotels
- Renewable/Circular Economy program
- Engineering program in partnership with Hunter Net
- Aged Care/Disability program in partnership with OPAL care
- Construction programs across the region
- Employability Skills Workshops across the region

### [Wollongong FLC](#)

"Launch your Career Webinar" in partnership with TAFE, on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 10am**. Register for the session here: <https://tafenswevents.eventsair.com/launch-your-career-in-cyber-security/lyccs/Site/Register>

We have lots of ideas and programmes already in the works including the classics we know you and the students enjoy such as: Construction initiatives, Healthcare and Community Services, Hospitality, BlueScope Steel, Mining and other Industry tours. In addition to those, we are also busy developing opportunities to showcase careers in Local Government, AUSLAN Interpreting, Aviation, Cyber Security and more!

Happy Body Collective is one of a growing number of micro businesses in the Illawarra, many of which are starting online and using digital tools such as websites and social media accounts to grow their business, before ever having a physical presence.



Zig Zag Hub, a community based organisation in Wollongong, is a coworking space for our younger generation where they can connect, learn and grow. "We believe through experiencing entrepreneurship and acquiring the relevant skill-set, individuals can develop the necessary mindset to find their place in the World".

Zig Zag Hub aim to inspire and empower students to develop their own ideas, by decoding the process of generating and pursuing a business idea. Zig Zag Hub provides an opportunity to build problem-solving, critical thinking, digital literacy, public speaking, communication and creativity.

Ms Greer, from Happy Body Collective, said that the technical support they received through the Zig Zag Hub 'StartGap' program enabled them to avoid pitfalls. "Instagram is just a front with pictures. There's so much that goes into running a business behind that which you need to know - the ideal client, the messaging and even your own business, your values. We had to learn all of that," she said.

Program manager Sophie McIlquham said that StartGap is open to all types of businesses, and the focus is on preparing business founders with the fundamentals to run an enterprise. "It doesn't matter what background you're from, what StartGap is all about is giving someone of any age an opportunity to start a business."

For Happy Body Collective, without a program like StartGap, Ms Pentecost says there's little chance they would be where they are now. "If we didn't have support I might have given up because I would have looked at it as like a massive mountain and thought oh, I can't do that. I'm not that sort of person"

Zig Zag Hub are hoping to collaborate with our Wollongong FLC in 2022 to offer our young people their Young Entrepreneur 'StartGap' Program, which allows young people to work in a positive culture, helping them recognise and develop the skills needed to create positive working environments of the future.



# Careers of Tomorrow: Webinar Series

Covering five top employment  
sectors within NSW



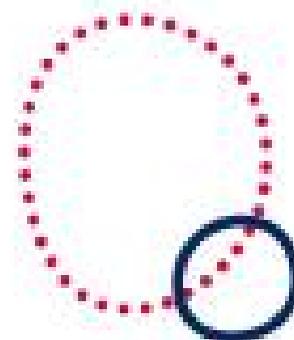
*Join us for 5 interactive webinars focusing on five of the top employment sectors within Western Sydney and across NSW. Hear from industry professionals, trainees, apprentices and graduates around pathways into the industry and gain valuable current industry insights.*

*Session will look closely at entry roles available for 2023/2024.*

## Careers of Tomorrow : Wednesdays from 1:30PM - 2:15PM

- **Construction** 9th March
- **Retail** 16 March
- **Technology** 23rd March
- **Health** 30th March
- **Manufacturing** 6th April

RSVP: [Register Here](#)



**Regional Industry Education Partnerships (RIEP)**

Christine Assanti

E: [Christine.assanti3@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Christine.assanti3@det.nsw.edu.au) M: 0457 054 880

Jane Artup

E: [jane.artup1@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:jane.artup1@det.nsw.edu.au) M: 0425436 995

Looking for a new job?  
Re-entering the workforce?

# GET THE SKILLS... GET THE JOB!

• MARCH •

**7-17**

*Business Skills*

• MARCH •

**8-11**

*Warehousing Skills*

• MARCH •

**14-24**

*Hospitality Skills*

• MARCH •

**15-25**

*Landscaping Skills*

• MARCH •

**28-31**

*Cleaning Skills*

In March, these courses will be available for people seeking employment in these industries.

Employers from these industries are ready to support you on your new journey!



SCAN ME!

**REGISTER NOW!**

For more information:  
Call us on (02) 9853 3333



Education



Kimberwalli



ANGUS  
KNIGHT  
INSTITUTE  
Enabling Success  
enabling.com.au



# Looking for a career in Early Childhood?

## 5 week course! Starts March 3!

This pre-employment course is an entry level early childhood course that provides participants with an opportunity to undertake a program that may lead to traineeships or future employment with Big Fat Smile. Big Fat Smile (BFS) is a not-for-profit provider of child education, care, recreation, cultural and inclusion services in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

The course will be delivered by ECTARC Training Services. ECTARC is an award winning registered training organisation (RTO #90331) that has delivered training and professional development for over 20 years across Australia and the team is located at the Head Office in Warrawong. This course is supported by the NSW Government and funded under Smart and Skilled.



Please complete the Expressions of Interest form by scanning the QR code below. Please note that submitting the Expression of Interest form does not guarantee placement in the program.

The course consists of the following units of competency:

- HLTWHS001 Participate in workplace health and safety
- HLTFSE001 Follow basic safety practices
- HLTAID012 Provide First Aid in an education and care setting  
(Note: first aid training will be delivered by Work Savvy RTO ID #91778)

### Eligibility

Applicants must:

- be 18 years old or over
- be no longer at school
- be living or working in NSW
- be fully vaccinated against COVID-19
- be an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident, humanitarian visa holder or New Zealand citizen
- hold a current Working With Children Check or be willing to obtain one during the 5 week course.

### SIGN UP HERE!

Scan the QR code to go to the Expression of Interest form. Enter your details and submit.



### Enrolment day/course commencement

Thursday March 3, 2022

Time: 9.30am – 2.30pm

- Lunch will be provided on first day of the course only.
- BYOD – Bring your own device.

### Completion date

28th March 2022 (5 weeks)

### Delivery

The course will be delivered as a mix of face-to-face, online sessions and home study. Participants are required to attend face-to-face study sessions every Monday (9.30 – 3.30pm) and work placement will be undertaken every Tuesday for the duration of the program at the ECTARC Warrawong office (behind Harvey Norman).

### Fees

No course fees apply as it is a fully funded training initiative.

### Important information

Big Fat Smile has a zero tolerance for child abuse and harm and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously and acted upon.

### Contact

Natalie Fernandes - P | 02 4223 1111 E | natalie@ectarc.com.au





## 'Launch your Career' in Cyber Security.

'Launch your Career' is a series of live virtual events connecting secondary students with industry to identify future career pathways.

Join us to get a first-hand look at the exciting career opportunities within the cyber security industry. Whether you are passionate about protecting the world against malicious cyber attacks, learning about current and emerging cyber security threats or understanding risk mitigation strategies, you'll discover how to pursue a career in cyber security.

# \$7.6 billion

to be spent on cyber security by 2024,  
with 7,000 more jobs expected to be  
added to Australia's economy.\*

High school students throughout NSW are invited to hear from industry professionals, teachers and alumni to get a first-hand look at roles within the booming cyber security sector, and learn more about:

- How cyber security plays a key role in our future
- Working in dynamic teams in a cutting edge field
- The amazing and diverse opportunities available
- Study options at TAFE NSW and career opportunities



### Register now for the free live virtual event

LIVESTREAM: 10 -11am, Tuesday, 15 March 2022.

TAFE NSW RTO 90003 | CRICOS 00591E | HEP PRV12049. \*Source: [www.austlii.edu.au](http://www.austlii.edu.au)

Proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with TAFE NSW, the NSW Department of Education, and Training Services NSW. Supported by Investment NSW through the NSW Cyber Hub.

[tafensw.edu.au](http://tafensw.edu.au)



**TAFE**  
NSW

## Potential Drone Program

Throughout each 2.5hr program, we will explore applications of UAV technology, through our staff's experience of flying UAVs for wildlife surveillance, event safety, and swimmer safety.

We'll also explore how UAVs are used for our other business areas away from the beach, like mapping, 3D modelling, and surveying.

Then the day transitions into a practical day of learning through experience, where we guide the students to fly UAVs in a safe indoor environment, and to start to integrate some coding and automated flight missions.

Specifically, the program is mapped to Digital Technologies, HASS/Geography and also has some science and maths curriculum links too, and I can provide the detailed unit of work shortly, which She Maps are just tidying up for us.

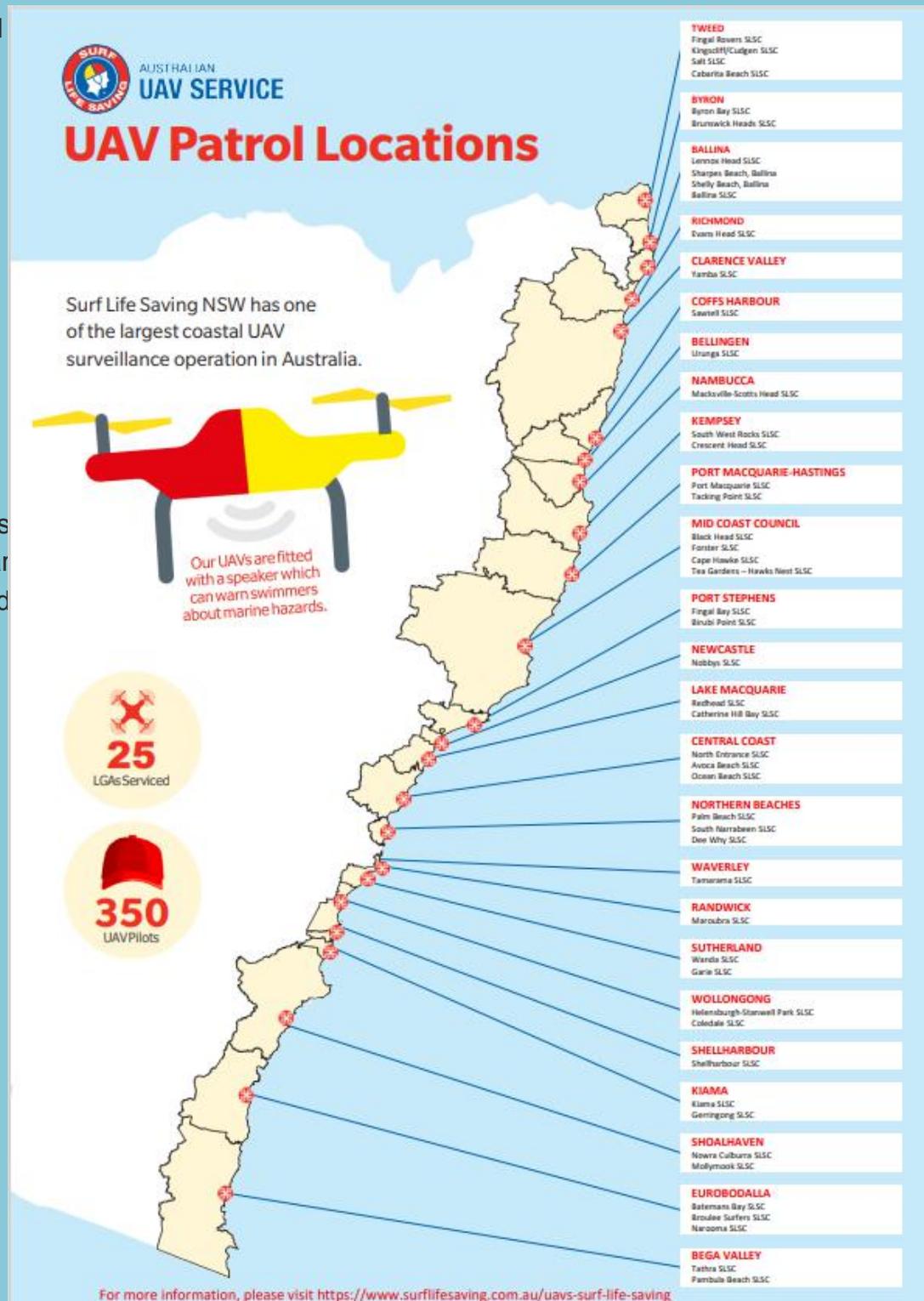
Essentially AUAVS recruit for 4-5 positions at each of the locations in the attached map every year, for flexibly rostered UAV shifts. The employment pathway is well supported and they would receive an additional two day training course to become UAV Operators prior to being rostered, and then inducted into each local area as well.

They experience around 20% attrition each year so are very likely to be looking for some committed casual staff for the spring, summer, and autumn period.

The best layout of information currently is here, but we are working on a new website for AUAVS in the background as well: <https://www.surflifesaving.com.au/get-involved/work-for-us/become-a-uav-pilot/>

Quick video here: <https://youtu.be/4yzcrzbOOko>

If interested in the above program, please reach out to your Transitional Support Worker / Head Teacher.



# NSW Cyber Ambassador Program

It takes years to build a reputation and only minutes for a cyber incident to destroy it

25,000 Cyber Security jobs in demand across Australia

## Learn more about a career in cyber security



### What is cyber security?

Cyber security is the practice of protecting computers, mobile devices, communication networks and data from digital malicious attacks. These cyber-attacks are usually aimed at accessing, changing, or destroying information; extorting money from users; or interrupting businesses.

At an individual level, a cyber-attack can result in everything from identity theft to extortion attempts and loss of important data like family photos.

In today's connected world, everyone benefits from better cyber security. Securing critical infrastructure like power plants, hospitals, and financial service companies is essential to keeping our society functioning. This cyber resilience can be achieved by raising cyber security awareness, preventing and protecting against cyber-attacks through good cyber-hygiene habits, detecting intrusions, monitoring systems, responding appropriately to incidents and performing forensic analysis after incidents.

### Find out more

Learn more about a career in cyber security, please contact [Regional Industry Education Partnerships \(RIEP\)](#) and visit [business.nsw.gov.au/info/cybersecurity](https://business.nsw.gov.au/info/cybersecurity)



# Youth Employment Social Impact Program

YESIP

## What?

**yourtown** is partnering with facilities maintenance companies to offer a demand-driven Social Enterprise program in Western Sydney. 48 young people will engage in a 5-week pre-employment program that prepares them for a paid Traineeship with **yourtown's** Social Enterprises and partner employers, as well as career pathways in construction and related industries.

## How?

Contact **yourtown** on **0419 414 515** or **8834 3000** or email [yesip@yourtown.com.au](mailto:yesip@yourtown.com.au)

## When?

Ongoing throughout 2022 & 2023

## Cost?

Free

## Who?

The pre-employment program will be available to young people aged 16 - 24 from Western Sydney: Blacktown, Penrith LGA; Sydney-South West (including Fairfield and Liverpool); Sydney Inner West (including Bankstown and Canterbury); Parramatta (including Cumberland); Sydney-Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury and surrounding suburbs.

## Outcomes?

Upon completion, participants will be guaranteed an interview for employment with **yourtown** social enterprises and partner employers. Participants will also acquire a Construction White Card, Senior First Aid, Work Readiness Skills, Asbestos Awareness, support to obtain Drivers License and much more.

