

# MCI in Specialist and Alternate School Settings: Interview Tips

## Overview

In addition to mainstream schools, My Career Insights (MCI) is available to all **students aged 15+** in government **specialist and alternate school settings**. Schools decide which students are capable of completing the program after considering their individual literacy, comprehension and concentration capacity alongside any relevant disabilities.

### Benefits of MCI in specialist settings

- Helps students explore strengths, interests, and preferences and future possibilities
  - Connects to curriculum activities (especially VPC)
  - Builds resumes and supports work experience preparation
  - Prepares students for interviews
  - Assists with pathway planning
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## Supporting Students in Interviews

You will be working with young people to give them opportunity, confidence, support, and skills towards their future engagement and planning.

### Key Tips

- Build rapport: explain the process, be curious and open-minded.
  - Students may be offered 1 of 3 pathways as can be seen in [Profiling Pathways in Specialist settings](#)
  - Most students complete Optional Aptitudes with many only completing the Interests questionnaire. -> Confirm profiling pathway and check results in Morrisby Manager to encourage further questionnaires if appropriate eg. Personality, Priorities.
  - Some students complete Elemental Aspirations profiling which is a modified and shorter version of the Interests questionnaire only.
  - Most students are already thinking about post-school options. Listen / validate their ideas.
  - Adjust interview length and content to suit attention span. Create pauses / space to allow time for student to think / respond.
  - Use communication aids if helpful or provided eg. emoji cards, stress balls.
  - Avoid assumptions about their future directions.
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## About the Young Person

- Spend 5–10 minutes getting to know them (supports, work placements, favourite subjects).
  - Focus on the person, not their disability.
  - Use a conversational style and narrative to go beyond the profile where helpful.
  - Ask about work, volunteering, and interests at home and school.
  - Refer to visuals (career suggestions pictures, WOW diagram, YouTube case studies).
  - Highlight that careers include jobs, volunteering, lifelong learning, and community roles.
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## My Choices and Next Steps

- If their chosen career isn't listed, show how to search and add favourites.
- Use the Explore tool if students struggle to contribute.
- Encourage them to remove irrelevant options from suggestions.
- Keep qualification levels realistic (usually VPC and full-time employment), while noting higher study is possible later.
- Discuss possible VET subjects and show tabs for exploring, apprenticeships, and traineeships.
- Link Next Steps to current activities (work experience, community involvement, TAFE connections).

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### Preparing for Post-School Transitions

Preparation reduces anxiety and builds confidence. Encourage students to consider:

- Job interests and goals
- Travel training and money management
- Work experience, voluntary/community work, part-time jobs
- Vocational training or courses
- Health, fitness, and personal presentation
- Hobbies and interests
- Positive mindset about post-school transition and exploring the world of work

#### Discussion prompts:

- What are your goals / What do you want to do in the future?
  - What skills do you need to reach them?
  - What jobs/activities do you like or dislike?
  - What experience/skills/abilities do you already have?
  - Do you prefer inside or outside work?
  - Would part-time or full-time work suit you better?
  - How will you travel to work?
  - What supports do you need to learn and keep a job?
  - Would supported or open employment suit you best?
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***For your own professional development, you may like to explore some of the resources on the following page...***

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## Resources

1. This one is great to ground us all and a good starting point. [NOT SPECIAL NEEDS March 21 – World Down Syndrome Day #NotSpe on Vimeo](#)
2. **'Supporting Consultants working with students with anxiety and disability'** Penne Dawe's 2023 ACCE Webinar <https://youtu.be/2H4bHr9se38>
3. [National Disability Insurance Scheme \(NDIS\)](#)
  - *Preparing for conversations about work goals and how NDIS can help:* [Let's talk about work](#)
  - *Choosing an Employer:* [Provider finder](#)
  - *Pathway to Post School Life:* [Pathways to Post School Life](#)
  - *School Leaver Employment Goals worksheet*
4. Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training (ADCET) resources for disability in tertiary education: [ADCET](#)
5. **School Leaver employment Supports (SLES)** help participants move from school to work and are available in the final year of school and directly after leaving school <http://www.ndis.gov.au/providers/working-provider/school-leaver-employment-supports>
6. **Disability Employment Services (DES)** may be able to assist with finding work and can offer incentives to employers [Disability Employment Services - Disability Support Pension - Services Australia](#)
7. **Access to Tafe (VET) Courses** [My Skills – Australia's Training Directory](#)
8. **Tafe Specialist Employment Partnerships** can assist in finding training and study towards future employment. [TAFE Specialist Employment Partnerships - USEP](#)
9. **Australian Apprentices** with a disability and their employers may be eligible to receive additional assistance under the Australian Apprenticeships Incentive Program. A range of incentives are available including Disabled Australian Wage Support, assistance for tutorial, interpreter, and mentor services. Assistance is also available through the Employment Assistance fund which helps people with disability and mental health conditions to purchase a range of work-related modifications and services. Employers can access the scheme via Job Access or through Disability Employment Services Australia [Disabled Australian Apprentice Wage Support Program - Services Australia](#)
10. **DAAWS Disabled Australian apprenticeship Wage Support** is an Australian Government incentive payable to an employer who employs an Australian Apprentice who satisfies the disability criteria in an Australian Apprenticeship [Support for Australian Apprentices with disability.pdf \(australianapprenticeships.gov.au\)](#)
11. **Melbourne Apprenticeship Disability Network** may be able to assist with information if interested in an apprenticeship or traineeship [Melbourne Apprenticeship Disability Network - NDCO Victoria](#)
12. **Apprenticeship and Traineeship** information can be found here [Apprenticeships advice and support | Australian Apprenticeships](#) including Aptitude quizzes which are a good tool to discover the skills that may be needed in a particular apprenticeship or traineeship.