Learning Outcomes

The information in this career resource will develop your:

- Understanding of why expanding your career options is an important part of career decision making.
- Knowledge of different techniques and tools for expanding the range of career options you are considering.

Why is Expanding Your Career Options Important?

The quality of the career decisions that you make can be influenced by the amount of research you have undertaken. If you only research a small number of possible career options, you risk missing out on a range of other potentially promising career options, some of which may be perfect for you. You also risk making a hasty decision that you may not be happy with. So at any career transition point in your life, it is important to explore all potentially promising career options before you decide on your preferred options for now.

Below are some techniques you can use to expand the range of career options you are considering.

Consider Non-traditional Occupations

You may unconsciously limit the range of career options you will consider to only those that seem to be traditional for your gender. As young as 6-8 years of age, children start to reject occupations that they consider to be inappropriate for their gender. Unless these early stereotypes are challenged, young people can unconsciously limit their career options to occupations and courses that are considered to be traditional for their gender. So, it is important that you make a conscious effort to explore the full range of career options, including those that may be non-traditional for your gender. For example, some females may be reluctant to consider a career as an Engineer. Just because the occupation of Engineer is currently male dominated, it does not always have to be that way. Engineering is currently more females than males work as Aged and Disabled Carers, but both men and women can be Aged or Disabled Carers.

Consider Similar Occupations

Each occupation you explore using an online or hard copy occupational information resource such as the myfuture website or the Good