



NATIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT WEEK

"Get excited, get involved and get results!"

Get the life you Love!

FACTSHEET 2

INTRODUCTION - Event Ideas

You may already have an idea for your event or you may not. Don't discard an idea because it is new, hasn't been done before or starts out as a joke. It may just be a new idea.

Event Suggestions

There are many types of great events you can run to suit your requirements and your resources. You can create a careers event for any age group, organisation or community – on any theme. (As one of our NCDW registered event organisers put it, "Career is something that's dear to everyone's heart, everyone's got an interest in it...")

Career development is not just for students. You can organise a careers event for any age group, for example, for pre-schoolers – activities like, "what do you want to do when you grow up?" or "what do your parents do?" or for return to work parents – activities profiling changes in the workplace and adapting skills, or for retirees (who aren't ready to stop working) – activities like an evening of part time or volunteer opportunities. The ideas are endless – why not use our event search at www.ncdw.com.au (OR www.aussiecareerweek.com) to help you get inspired!

The examples below illustrate the fact that different events will be suitable for different target audiences:

- ➔ A street party could be a great event to organise – share skills and learn something new from those in your local community
- ➔ Parents can discuss careers in a fun way with their children at home by organising a role-swap. Dress the children up in your roles, and let them take control for the evening! It's never too early to start your children thinking about "careers" but make it fun.
- ➔ Schools, TAFEs and universities have a large and sometimes varied audience. There's a huge opportunity to create fun, thought-provoking lessons that showcase career development and engage young people. One fun activity is a photography, drama, writing or poetry competition with a career focus. A tour of local industries can be interesting too. Activities within the classroom, lecture hall or school include debates, career themed movies and competitions, games or treasure hunts (with career related clues of course)
- ➔ Open days are great for career guidance centres – they can help to introduce more people to the service and get people actively involved in career management
- ➔ Paint the town RED (the colour of the NCDW Campaign) – this sounds grand but it is as simple as covering the existing spot lights on buildings (maybe your community hall) with RED Cellophane, perspex or a RED bulb and then organise a career development function maybe for your local seniors group or a 'career change' evening for 'baby boomers'. But don't forget to get permission!

If holding an event is new to you or your organisation, then the path is clear to create whatever type of *National Career Development Week* event that works for you and your audience. You might find the right event for you listed below. The resources, including the *National Career Development Week* website, will give you a lot to work with, and the publicity generated nationally will add a buzz to your event.

Build in the slogan, theme and messages. The slogan for *National Career Development Week* is "*Get the life you love!*", and we are also encouraging all Australians to "*get excited, get involved and get results!*" One of the key messages of *National Career Development Week* is "*your career just got bigger*", so events that help people understand they have more skills, knowledge and aptitude than they realise (gained from their 'non-job' life roles) would be ideal.

Another key message is "*get the skills to manage your career*", which is about people taking ownership of their own careers and learning how to best manage themselves and their life roles. The *National Career Development Week* website www.ncdw.com.au (OR www.aussiecareerweek.com) includes a range of useful links to help people with their particular needs.



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If you already run a careers related event, feel free to include it in the *National Career Development Week* calendar – regardless of the date. You can also give your event a *National Career Development Week* flavour and encourage people to "*get excited, get involved and get results!*".

Event Ideas for Student activities

- ➔ Hold a poetry or writing competition for students with a theme such as their dream career
- ➔ Run a trivia day/night with career questions
- ➔ Have students write up their parents careers including paid work, interests and volunteering
- ➔ Develop a display in your local shopping centre
- ➔ Arrange a special career-themed assembly
- ➔ Hold a morning tea and career storytelling with pre-school children at a local school
- ➔ Ask children to tape record stories of the lives and careers of older people
- ➔ Run a seminar on careers, jobs or volunteering with local business people
- ➔ Turn your classroom into a game show set and have fun career related questions and some small prizes.
- ➔ Have students compile a 'Passport' of where they've been in life and a list of their dream destinations. Then encourage them to plan their 'trip'!
- ➔ Have a volunteer talk at your school assembly about how their volunteer experiences have helped or shaped their paid work
- ➔ Have fun with a competition, game or treasure hunt with careers related clues
- ➔ Hold a BBQ in the park to celebrate life roles
- ➔ Run an online treasure hunt - give participants a list of things to find, some clues and career development websites to use
- ➔ Run a colouring competition for younger children focusing on jobs in your area
- ➔ Have students write up their parents careers including paid work, interests and volunteering
- ➔ Invite a career development practitioner to do a Q & A
- ➔ Arrange a special screening of a movie that has a careers focus or career messages
- ➔ Run a local career festival featuring information on a range of occupations in your area
- ➔ Organise a bus tour of the local industry and important businesses
- ➔ Run a photographic competition (positive images of different careers)
- ➔ Arrange a debate on a modern career theme
- ➔ Organise 'speed career meetings'. Pair people up for five minutes to talk about aspects of their careers and life, before rotating them to talk to someone else. Have pizza afterwards to discuss in a larger group what you learnt
- ➔ Arrange an activity with the theme 'Walk a mile in my shoes' – match the footwear to the job!
- ➔ Run a series of short radio segments leading up to NCDW, including career identification questions
- ➔ Include word games on career development in your weekly or monthly newsletters
- ➔ Use Reality TV shows to create an idea, for example Bond University's "Job Interview Idol".

And don't forget your event doesn't have to be huge – just tailored for your audience.

Event Ideas for Businesses and other organisations

- ➔ Participate in a Career Expo or event in your local community or at your local school or college to profile your industry
- ➔ Offer to provide a speaker to local community and service groups profiling career roles within your organisation or industry
- ➔ Provide career mentoring opportunities for your employees



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- ➔ Offer "try a job" opportunities within your organisation to help your employees understand the job requirements and duties of their co-workers
- ➔ Organise career seminars for your employees to assist in their career development within your company
- ➔ Turn your office into a game show set and have fun career related questions and some small prizes
- ➔ Have seminar attendees compile a 'Passport' of where they've been in life and a list of their dream destinations. Then encourage them to plan their 'trip'!
- ➔ Have a volunteer talk to your organisation about how their volunteer experiences have helped or shaped their paid work
- ➔ Offer volunteer opportunities to staff to participate in local community volunteer programs
- ➔ Have fun with a competition, game or treasure hunt with career related clues
- ➔ Organise a champagne breakfast with other organisations in your area
- ➔ Invite a career development practitioner to do a Q & A at a staff seminar
- ➔ Hold a BBQ in the park to celebrate life roles
- ➔ Run an online treasure hunt - give participants a list of things to find, some clues and career development websites to use
- ➔ Hold a cheese and wine tasting with a guest speaker on career development
- ➔ Organise a discussion on participation in the workforce from mature aged people and seniors
- ➔ Arrange a special screening of a movie that has a career focus or career messages
- ➔ Run a local career festival featuring information on a range of occupations in your area
- ➔ Organise a bus tour of the local industry and important businesses to foster staff/business relationships
- ➔ Run a photographic competition (positive images of different careers in your organisation)
- ➔ Arrange a debate on a modern career theme
- ➔ Organise 'speed career meetings'. Pair people up for five minutes to talk about aspects of their careers and life, before rotating them to talk to someone else. Over lunch discuss in a larger group what was learnt
- ➔ Conduct "pride of workmanship" or "excellence" awards for your staff.

Remember - your event doesn't have to be huge – just tailored for your audience.