

How to apply

To be eligible for VES, you will need to be:

- enrolled in an undergraduate degree in Social Work or Psychology at a Canberra university, as either a full-time or a part-time student;
- in final year of degree, or second to final year of degree; and
- an Australian citizen.

Students who are interested in applying for the program will need to provide a letter of interest and a copy of their resume (including their academic qualifications to date).

Applicants will then be short listed and interviewed. Commencement of employment will be dependent on satisfactory reference and pre-employment checks.

For more information contact the DHCS Human Resource manager on 6205 0081 or the manager Care and Protection on 6207 1075. Visit www.dhcs.act.gov.au



Give yourself the edge

Are you a student in
social work or psychology?

Looking for a rewarding career?

Explore VES

the Vocational Employment Strategy
offers paid work experience
and the opportunity of
a great career in
social work or
psychology



What is VES?

ACT Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS) has terrific opportunities for social workers and psychologists to work with children and young people.

The **vocational employment strategy** (VES) is a DHCS initiative designed for students in their final year (or near to final year) of psychology or social work studies, to gain work experience in semester breaks.

The program also encourages participants to consider further employment with DHCS once they have obtained their qualifications.

How does the program work?

DHCS will provide participants with a paid flexible 12-week placement—in the Office for Children, Youth and Family Support that will complement study courses.

Program participants can negotiate with their work area to ensure their placement fits with their study or other commitments. For example, the 12 weeks may be taken as:

- 9 weeks of full-time work at the end of the academic year, combined with 3 weeks of full-time work in the break between the first and second semesters.
- 8 weeks of full-time work at the end of the academic year, with one day of work per week for 20 weeks during first and second semester.
- 6 weeks full-time work in two 3 week blocks—before and after Christmas/New Year closedown, plus 2 weeks full time work during the break between first and second semesters, and one day per week for 20 weeks during first and second semesters.

Participants studying part-time may be offered more than the required 12 weeks of work placement on a pro-rata salary basis, working up to three days a week.

Participants who begin the program in their second to last year will continue into their last year—dependent on fulfilling the requirements of the program (i.e. providing evidence of successful completion of course of study).

Program participants who are employed by DHCS for 12 months after graduation—will be reimbursed their final year HECS.

How much will you be paid?

VES participants will be appointed on a temporary contract basis at the ACT Government entry level of Administrative Services Officer Level 2 (ASO 2)—paid on a pro-rata basis for 12 weeks each year.

Salaries paid to program participants are assessable income.

Career Opportunities

While there is no guarantee of permanent employment following the successful completion of the VES program, participants may be appointed to vacant Health Professional 1 (HP1) vacancies, subject to the successful completion of the program.

Program responsibilities

Program participants are required to:

- attend the work placement provided by DHCS and achieve a satisfactory standard of work performance;
- achieve satisfactory academic results;
- provide DHCS with copies of academic results;
- notify DHCS immediately of any changes in their circumstances, including change of personal details; and
- advise Centrelink when they commence employment, if necessary.

DHCS, as the employer is responsible for:

- providing the participant with a paid 12 week work placement, (or equivalent), for each full year of the program;
- providing reasonable assistance to ensure participant's success including mentoring and maintaining regular communication with the participant; and
- ensuring the participant is aware of his or her responsibility to remain eligible.