



# Community Learning Pathways Project Snapshot

## What is the Community Learning Pathways Project?

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This trial project was funded by Skills Tasmania and aimed to provide opportunities for young people and adults to take the first steps to further study or paid work through offering taster courses in two vocational areas with employment growth – Caring and Hospitality & Tourism.

The courses have been offered at the Northern Suburbs Community Centre in Launceston and at the Devonport Library through a partnership between the University of Tasmania, TasTAFE and several community organisations.

**For more information**  
> [utas.edu.au/clpp](https://utas.edu.au/clpp)



# Project details

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## Who

The project targeted young people and unpaid carers living in Launceston's northern suburbs and East Devonport.

## Where

The sites chosen were familiar, local and accessible to the target communities – Northern Suburbs Community Centre and the Devonport Library.

## What

A series of free non-accredited taster courses in areas of jobs growth – Hospitality & Tourism and Caring – were piloted. A key focus was on offering an inclusive, supportive and positive learning environment that recognised all participants' skills and contributions. The pilot included offering two methods of delivery – weekly sessions over six weeks and a blend of face to face and online modules.

## When

Based on community consultation, the taster courses were timed to lead in to the tourism season and accredited course intake periods to help participants articulate into further opportunities. The courses worked around school holidays and public transport to ensure barriers to participation were minimised.

## Method

The taster courses were delivered using a strengths-based approach in working with each individual to highlight their existing skills, skills they wanted to work on, and the steps to get there. Each session was facilitated by the same person and included three main stages:

- Reflection and review.
- Industry focused learning activity/s (e.g. guest speaker or site visit).
- Reflection and review.

# Project learnings

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- There is a demand for community-based non-accredited learning opportunities offered in local, accessible and familiar environments.
- The use of social media has been an effective way to promote, recruit and communicate with participants.
- The importance of place-based learning drawing on local industry speakers and experts.
- The role of key local leaders in 'spreading the word' cannot be understated.
- Connecting with and investing in relationships with course participants is powerful in shaping learner confidence and aspirations.
- All people have existing skills that can be useful in new and emerging job markets.

## Content

To reframe the commonly held perception that learning must be assessed, the taster courses did not include formal assessment tasks or exams. The courses were focused on building learner confidence through experiential learning which included site visits, guest speakers from relevant local industry and supplementary online modules.

## Pathways

The project team worked with each participant to map out a pathway for further learning, paid work or volunteering opportunities and provided further information or referral to other courses or resources as needed, such as resume writing skills.

## Celebrations

Celebrating the successes of each participant included providing a certificate of participation in an informal 'graduation' ceremony held with local community leaders.

# Project outcomes

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Project evaluations have shown several key outcomes for participants:

- An increase in confidence to pursue further learning or paid work because of participating in a taster course.
- Participants reported learning new and relevant skills.
- Each participant developed an individual learning pathway plan for 'what next'.
- Participants broadened their knowledge of the types of skills needed and work available in each sector.
- Over 90% of participants have gone on to paid work, accredited study or volunteering.

# Participant feedback

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"This taster course has given me the confidence to get back in the workforce" **DAVID, ROCHERLEA**

"It's great these courses were offered locally for people like me who fall between the cracks – not a teenager and not in a nursing home" **MARY, EAST DEVONPORT**

"I never knew the tourism and hospitality sector was so broad" **CONNER, DEVONPORT**

"It was a really great course... I didn't know where to start. Now I do" **MIN JU, MOWBRAY**