

Follow your heart: the best career advice for teenagers facing the future

John Thistleton

Thousands of teenagers on Wednesday wandering through a big hall, along 100 potential paths into their future, should follow their heart says Jo Wisdom.

A careers practitioner preparing school-leavers for the workforce, Ms Wisdom says they face a complex maze, because many of the jobs they will do don't exist yet, and full-time jobs of any descrip-

tion are now increasingly scarce.

"We have underemployment and therefore career practitioners have to also say to young people and old people that when opportunities present themselves, make the most of them," she said.

"But know who you are, and follow your heart, rather than panic ... We know that people who are most productive are the ones that love their jobs," she said.

The Rotary Club of Canberra

City and the ACT Education and Training Department are running the Canberra CareersXpo on Wednesday and Thursday at the Budawang Pavilion, Exhibition Park.

Ms Wisdom does not like to generalise about young people. But she says hands on, practical young men are attracted to the construction and building industry, and young women are often drawn to the caring industries like nursing, childcare and the service industry.

"The biggest influence on young people are definitely their parents, or significant adults, and that is why it is really important adults have knowledge and support young people in the decisions they make, and encourage them ... when they are choosing something after their compulsory education finishes," she said.

Young people began deciding what they wanted to do as adults in primary school, Ms Wisdom said.

"The messages their parents give about work, careers, education and qualifications are being picked up as young as 10. Young people are either excluding or including job opportunities or work opportunities and occupations purely through messages they pick up from their parents and the way schools open up options by allowing young people to have high expectations for their future," she said.

Canberra kids create app to help 'catch 'em all' safely

Clare Sibthorpe

"Don't drive and Pokemon."

As police slap that slogan across roads in some states, tech-savvy students in Canberra have found their own way to urge people not to "catch 'em all" while behind the wheel.

Three year 10 students from Canberra Grammar School worked tirelessly for 46 hours to create an app called Parkachu, which encourages Pokemon Go hunters to play safely by combining data from the popular smartphone app with transport data from the ACT government.

George Dan, Sam Reading-Thompson and Robin Hodda entered the app into the open data competition, GovHack, which ran from July 29-31 at multiple locations in Australia and New Zealand. At the events, teams were challenged to use data to tell a story or create apps, visualisations and websites.

Pokemon Go - the app Parkachu is based on - requires users to create an avatar that changes location as the user moves around in the real world. The objective is to capture "wild" Pokemon that appear at random as the user moves about.

Inspired by the media attention on the dangers of people driving while playing the game, the students created an app that allows Pokemon Go users to see any Poke-

mon near car parks and bus stops, even showing how many car spots are available.

Just days ago, a 19-year-old man crashed his car into a school while playing Pokemon Go in Melbourne.

George said their creation encourages players to plan their routes safely by showing any Poke-

mon near car parks and bus stops.

He said the most challenging part was getting the data from Niantic, the developers of Pokemon Go. "We learned a lot of it at school, but we also self-taught ourselves a lot of the programming."

"We saw what other people did online and tried to replicate that in

a sense, but getting the data was hard."

Though the overall winners are yet to be announced, George and Sam already received the Youth Spirit of GovHack Award, for helping other teams produce their hacks despite being under the pump to complete their own pro-

ject in time. Sam said he was passionate about sharing his knowledge with his peers.

ACT government's chief digital officer Jon Cumming said GovHack was about governments sharing their wealth of data with the community and created opportunities.



George Dan and Sam Reading-Thompson, both 15. Photo: ELESA KURTZ

Detention abuse Minister told to resign

Scullion confronted by NT community

Fergus Hunter

Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion has been bailed up by members of a remote Northern Territory community over his response to the youth justice revelations that triggered a royal commission.

The NT senator - under pressure last week for conceding that previous reports about the treatment of young detainees had not "piqued his interest" - was driving through Borroloola on Wednesday, 1000 kilometres south-east of Darwin, when about 30 residents flagged him down.

With some calling for Senator Scullion's resignation, the crowd included the aunt of local Jake Roper, one of the former detainees



On web, tablet and mobile
See video of confrontation

featured in the explosive ABC *Four Corners* investigation, and other members of his family.

"They went up to Nigel Scullion and were asking him how, as the Indigenous Affairs Minister, he didn't know what was happening to the kids," Larissa Baldwin, national co-director of the Seed Indigenous climate activism group and visiting Borroloola, told Fairfax Media.

"And they were asking him about what was going to happen from the royal commission and whether there would be action taken against the guards. They were saying it's not OK to treat their kids like that."

Senator Scullion - said to be in town to deal with a constituent complaint and caught off-guard by the locals' intervention - responded that he was also shocked by the evidence from the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre and said that he had stood up for an Indigenous commissioner on the royal commission "that's what we've got".

He sought to assure locals that the joint Commonwealth-NT investigation was the "highest level of inquiry you could possibly have"

and, when told that guards who mistreated youths should be charged and put in prison, voiced agreement if there were criminal charges to be laid.

The mood was described as angry and emotional, with Wendy Roper in tears about the treatment of her nephew. Some people held signs reading "Justice for Jake Roper", "Justice not jail" and "Justice for all children in jail".

Borroloola has a population of about 1000 and is home to the Yanyuwa, Garawa, Gudanji, Mara and Waanyi peoples.

Mr Scullion was questioned by Scott McDinny, a Garawa man, who said waiting for the royal commission's findings wasn't good enough and that people wanted to

know whether the prison guards would be punished.

"The minister wasn't really doing his job because he had all the reports there and he wasn't even looking at them, he just put them under the desk and ignored them," Mr McDinny said. "I don't know what he's doing but I hope he resigns soon."

Cory Roper, also related to Jake, said offending youth should be rehabilitated in detention rather than punished and abused. "We're here today to ask [Senator Scullion] to give up his job or just walk away. Or get off our land and don't come back."

The NT senator said last week that, prior to the ABC report, he was not aware of what was happening in the youth detention system