

“ VET has been brilliant for me. I have found myself personally and professionally so significantly more advanced than I’d ever expected, and my self-confidence has sky-rocketed. ”

Steven Jeffrey’s journey

- Today** Carpenter managing the family building business, Jeffrey Homes, and studying a Diploma in Building Construction at Swinburne Technical University
- 2013-16** Carpentry Apprenticeship, Certificate III Carpentry and Certificate IV Building and Construction
- 2011-13** Two years working in various construction roles



**I help manage the family building firm,
and am studying for a Diploma in Building Construction,
but how did I get here?**

Steven's story

Today I help manage the family building firm, Jeffrey Homes, and am currently studying a Diploma in Building Construction at Swinburne Technical University, which is 100% about the back end of running a business. There's a lot of technical detail to cover, including the law, building regulations and health and safety, but I'm really enjoying it.

I was never really interested in academic subjects at school. I did a VET course in Building and Construction in Year 10 as a reprieve from the academic stress.

Then in Year 11, I spent one day a week working as a landscaper as part of my Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL). The VCAL has a negative stereotype, but it was a brilliant option for me. Time away from school in the real world was a saving grace away from the pressure of doing something that wasn't for me.

I wanted to be a carpenter but I went straight to work in as many different building trades as I could to gain experience. Two years later I got my carpentry apprenticeship. It was the right choice.

**VET makes you really employable.
I am working earning a good living and love what I'm doing.
A lot of people come out of Uni and can't get into a tough
job market, and get left with a HECS debt.**

**"I now have a whole load of in-depth
knowledge, and enjoy learning this way,
because it's all relevant."**