

The Youth Career
Counsellor

PERTH OPPORTUNITY GUIDE

LOCAL INSIGHTS,
REAL
OPPORTUNITIES



www.theyouthcareercounsellor.com.au



Why this guide exists

The Perth Opportunity Guide was created to shine a light on the real pathways available to young people in Western Australia. Too often, students and parents hear only fragments about “the job market” without a clear picture of where the opportunities actually are. This guide brings together local insights, industry priorities and pathways showing young people that Perth is full of possibilities, if you know where to look.

Top 10 places in Perth for volunteering & work experience (youth-friendly):

Volunteering isn't just “free work” it's the fastest way to build skills, networks and confidence before your first paid job. In Perth, groups like St John WA, Surf Life Saving or Perth Zoo give you real responsibility that employers notice. By saying yes to these opportunities, you're showing initiative and gaining stories for your resume that set you apart. Think of volunteering as your career test-drive you learn what excites you, what doesn't and who you want to become.

1. **St John WA:** first-aid/event support & youth cadets; massive real-world experience hours each year.
2. **Surf Life Saving WA** - surf rescue, beach patrols, youth leadership (Bronze Medallion = employability gold).
3. **Foodbank WA** - warehouse, kitchen garden & nutrition programs; structured volunteer shifts.
4. **Perth Zoo (Docent Association)** - education/visitor engagement; competitive but fantastic for animal-care pathways.
5. **RSPCA WA** - animal welfare, op-shop retail, outreach (good for allied health/animal care pathways).
6. **Lifeline WA** - crisis-support training & supervised shifts (excellent for psychology, social work, nursing).
7. **DFES** (SES/Marine/Fire & Rescue volunteer roles) - emergency response, teamwork, logistics.
8. **Australian Red Cross WA** - retail, migration support, emergency services; broad entry points for teens/young adults.

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9. **Ronald McDonald House Charities WA** (Nedlands) - family support near PCH; rostered shifts, great for health pathways.
10. **Starlight Children's Foundation** (Perth Children's Hospital) - hospital volunteering & events; creative engagement roles.

Tip: Use Volunteering WA's directory to find age-appropriate roles near school/TAFE.

Top 10 largest Perth/WA-linked companies:

Big companies like Wesfarmers, Woodside and Fortescue don't just provide thousands of jobs they shape the training and skills Perth's future workforce will need. For young people, these employers offer graduate programs, apprenticeships and clear career pathways across retail, energy, logistics and mining. They also set the standards for recruitment, meaning if you can crack their process (ATS resumes, interviews, work experience), you'll be ready for almost any employer in WA.

(Useful to target for grad programs, apprenticeships & internships. prioritise divisions operating in WA.)

- **Wesfarmers:** ~120,000 team members across Bunnings, Kmart/Target, Officeworks, chemicals/energy. wesfarmers.gcs-web.com
- **Fortescue:** ~21,042 employees (iron ore & green energy). investors.fortescue.com
- **South32:** ~9,906 employees (diversified mining; Perth HQ presence).
- **Mineral Resources (MinRes):** ~8,456 employees (mining, services, lithium; strong WA footprint).
- **Woodside Energy:** 4,602 people (2024 headcount; oil & gas, LNG, new energy).
- **Alcoa (Australia):** ~4,250 employees in Australia (refineries & mines in WA).
- **CBH Group:** ~1,400 employees (Australia's largest co-op; grain supply chain across WA). IBISWorld

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- **Chevron Australia:** major Perth employer in energy; graduate & vacation programs (size varies by project cycle).
- **Austal (*Henderson shipbuilder*):** major WA defence shipbuilding employer (check annual intake each year). [Defence](#)
- **VEEM Ltd (*Canning Vale*):** advanced marine manufacturing; growing with defence & superyacht demand. [VEEM Ltd](#)

Top 10 “up-and-coming” WA companies to watch:

Start-ups like OncoRes, Power Ledger and Uluu may be small now, but they’re creating industries of the future medtech, green energy and sustainable materials. Getting involved with these companies early (through internships, projects or even following their growth) helps young people see that careers don’t have to follow the old mining-only path. They’re proof that Perth is no longer just about resources it’s about innovation, problem-solving and making global impact from WA.

- **OncoRes Medical:** AI-guided breast-cancer surgery device; Perth-based medtech.
- **Argenica Therapeutics (ASX:AGN):** neuroprotective drugs (stroke/brain injury); Nedlands HQ.
- **Power Ledger:** energy-trading & traceability tech (blockchain) headquartered in Perth
- **Hazer Group (ASX:HZR):** low-carbon hydrogen & graphite process; Perth HQ.
- **Pentanet (ASX:5GG):** Perth fixed-wireless & cloud-gaming network operator.
- **RaptorTech:** mining collision avoidance & fleet optimisation; 2024 WA IOTY finalist.
- **Materia Health:** smart organ/tissue transport device; WA IOTY finalist.
- **Hermes & Soteria:** tailings dam subsurface monitoring (mining safety); WA IOTY finalist.

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- **SeaStock:** asparagopsis seaweed for methane reduction; WA IOTY finalist.
- **Uluu:** seaweed-based biodegradable plastics; WA IOTY finalist.

Top 10 emerging industries in Perth/WA (2026–2030):

1. **Battery & critical minerals value-adding** (lithium, nickel, rare earths processing; Kwinana/ Kemerton corridors).
2. **Renewable hydrogen & ammonia** (Pilbara/Mid West; updated WA strategy to 2030).
3. **Defence shipbuilding & sustainment** (Henderson precinct; AUKUS sustainment & shipbuilding ramp-up).
4. **Space downstream** (sensors, ground stations, data) — WA space strategy 2024–30.
5. **Decarbonisation services & emissions tech** (measurement, verification, carbon accounting across mining/energy).
6. **Oil & gas decommissioning** (WA holds ~89% of Aus offshore decommissioning task by mass; big multi-decade work).
7. **Automation/robotics for resources** (autonomous haulage, remote ops, robotics maintenance).
8. **Cyber security** (government & critical-infrastructure demand; national strategy 2023–2030).
9. **Medtech & biotech** (Harry Perkins precinct; OncoRes/Argenica pipeline).
10. **Advanced marine & manufacturing** (VEEM gyros/propulsion; defence supply chains).

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Top 10 emerging roles (entry pathways TYCC can prep for):

Over the next five years, Perth will see rapid growth in clean energy, defence shipbuilding, automation and cyber security. These industries are backed by government funding and global demand, meaning they'll need a new wave of skilled workers. For young people, this is your signal: don't just chase "safe" jobs look at where the investment and opportunity is flowing. Being adaptable and willing to upskill in these areas will make you future-proof in Perth's changing job market.

(Based on WA industry strategies + national workforce studies)

- **Electrical & instrumentation technicians** (clean energy & grid) — huge national shortfall.
- **Battery/chemical process technicians & engineers** (lithium/nickel/REE).
- **Hydrogen plant techs** (electrolyser ops/maintenance) & ammonia handling.
- **Defence trades & marine systems techs** (shipbuilding/sustainment, composites, NDT).
- **Autonomous systems/robotics technicians** (mining haulage, drones, sensors).
- **Cyber security analysts/engineers:** GRC & OT-security specialists.
- **Geospatial & remote-sensing analysts** (space/downstream data, mining & enviro).
- **Sustainability/ESG & carbon accountants** (Scope 1–3, LCA).
- **Decommissioning engineers/project controllers** (offshore).
- **AI/ML engineers & data product managers** (industry automation & decision support).

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Top 10 roles likely to shrink or be heavily automated by 2030:

Just as new roles are rising, others are being replaced by AI and automation routine admin, data entry, telemarketing and even cashier work are already in decline. For young people, this doesn't mean there won't be jobs it means you need to aim for roles that require human judgement, empathy and creativity. Instead of being threatened by AI, think about how you can work *with* it letting machines handle the boring tasks while you focus on the skills only humans bring.

(Directionally from global studies; "automated" ≠ "disappear" - expect task-shift + upskilling.)

- **Data entry/clerical & routine admin** (scheduling, basic record-keeping).
- **Basic bookkeeping/payroll processing** (rule-based).
- **Telemarketing & outbound call handling.**
- **Retail cashiers (self-checkout/automation).**
- **Routine customer support (FAQ/chatbot tiers).**
- **Proofreading/basic translation** (LLM assist).
- **Bank/insurance clerks & claims processors** (straight-through processing).
- **Postal/sorting & routine warehousing** (vision robotics).
- **Simple paralegal tasks & boilerplate drafting** (document AI).
- **Low-complexity HR screening/scheduling** (agentic tools), while higher-touch HR persists.