Do you feel equipped to support your child in making important decisions about their future? If not, you're not alone! Here's some information that will help you and your child make the best decision for their life after secondary school.

— How can I help?
As a parent, you play a vital role in helping your child understand their options and make choices about their future. Here are some ways you can help:

**Talk it through**
Start talking about the future with your child as early as possible. A good place to start is the subjects they enjoy at school – these are probably the ones they will enjoy at university.

**Be informed**
Visit universities with your child, look at their websites and gather as much information as you can. Find out about scholarships and entry schemes that can help with funding or entry into university.

**Remember, it's their decision!**
Be there for support, but let your child take responsibility for exploring their options. Reassure them that they can change their mind and it’s not the end of the world if they don’t know what they want to do straight away.

— Why is tertiary study important?

**Education pays off**
University study provides longterm advantages. Education not only improves your child’s chances of gaining employment, it also means they are likely to earn more money than those who don’t go on to further study.

**Landing that dream job**
Not all careers require a tertiary education, but many do. University graduates have a wider range of job opportunities available to them and generally have more opportunities for promotion once employed.

**Personal development**
Of course, tertiary study teaches students specific skills related to their area of study, but it also builds the personal skills we know are highly valued by employers – communication, teamwork, problem solving, initiative, planning and organising, self-management, learning and technology.

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**Lifetime income by highest educational qualification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Lifetime earnings ($ millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 11 or below</td>
<td>$1.74M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>$2.07M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAFE diploma</td>
<td>$2.36M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelors degree</td>
<td>$2.90M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate qualification</td>
<td>$3.17M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: The National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM), October 2012*
— What are the requirements for entry?
To receive an offer for a University of Melbourne course, your child must:
— Achieve an ATAR above the Clearly-in Rank for their chosen course
— Have completed the applicable prerequisite subjects during Years 11 and 12.
Fine Arts and Music applicants must also pass an interview or audition. Information about ATARs and prerequisites is available at: coursesearch.unimelb.edu.au

— Are there other ways to get in?
Access Melbourne is the University of Melbourne's special entry scheme for domestic students. It can help your child get a place at Melbourne, even if their ATAR is below the Clearly-in Rank, by letting them explain any ongoing circumstances that have affected their education. Access Melbourne applicants may also be eligible for a scholarship. Information and eligibility criteria is available at: access.unimelb.edu.au

— What is the application process?
Victorian students apply for entry in their final year of high school via the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC). Your child can list up to 12 course preferences, and will receive an offer for the highest-ranked course in their list for which they are eligible. vtac.edu.au

— How much does university cost?
Domestic undergraduate students enrol in a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP), which is subsidised by the Australian Government. Your child only pays a portion of their fees – the student contribution amount. This can be paid in full at enrolment, or deferred until your child is in full time employment via an interest free HECS-HELP loan.

— Are scholarships available?
Yes. The Melbourne Scholarships Program is one of the most generous and comprehensive in Australia. services.unimelb.edu.au/scholarships

— What can Melbourne offer my child?
— Consistently ranked among the best universities in the world
— Generous scholarships
— Flexible degrees, a world standard curriculum, and over 100 majors to choose from
— Opportunity to learn from renowned researchers and industry leaders
— Special opportunities for high-achieving students
— A friendly and inclusive campus environment just five minutes from the city centre
— Opportunities to study overseas
— Exposure to real-world learning through internships, leadership experiences and volunteering
— Support while they study.

— Glossary
ATAR: Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank. Measures your child’s overall achievement in Years 11 and 12.
Bachelors/undergraduate degree: Usually the first degree taken at university.
CSP: Commonwealth Supported Place. Course fees for CSPs are subsidised by the Australian Government. CSPs are offered to all successful domestic undergraduate applicants.
Domestic student: A student who is an Australian citizen, an Australian permanent resident or a New Zealand citizen.
Prerequisite subjects: Specific subjects that must be completed for entry into a degree.
VTAC: The Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre, which processes applications for tertiary institutions in Victoria

“My parents always tried to guide me to do what I wanted and never pressured me to take any particular pathway. They were very supportive and came along to countless info sessions and open days to try and be aware of where my life was headed after Year 12. They were very happy to see me go to the University of Melbourne.”

Monique Edwards from Monivae College, Hamilton
Bachelor of Commerce, Dawn Wade Scholarship