SOCIAL WORK CAREER SNAPSHOT

JCU Careers and Employability

CRICOS Provider No. 00117J
January 2024

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This information is correct as of January 2024. JCU Careers and Employability does not endorse any of the organisations listed.

Think of areas of Social Work that interest you and seek out volunteer opportunities in that area. For example, if you're interested in working in health, you could volunteer with a patient support group. If you wish to develop your counselling skills or crisis support experience, you could be a Lifeline Crisis Supporter.

Volunteering opportunities are available through the Red Cross, Beyond Blue, Cancer Council, Centacare, Vinnies, Food Rescue Initiative, Orange Sky, Indigenous Community Volunteers, Lifeline, and PCYC,

Further opportunities are advertised through:

- FNQ Volunteers
- Volunteering North Queensland
- Townsville Community Directory
- Cairns Community Directory

Employers are interested in what you can bring to the position and the organization that will set you apart from other applicants.

Be proactive, get involved and stand out from the crowd.

- Become involved in community activities, organisations, and events. Employers value community engagement.

- Undertake extra courses to build your knowledge. Check out the Mental Health Professional Network seminars or the professional development offered by AASW, e.g. Social Work Online Training (SWOT) modules. Keep a record of your training on your LinkedIn and resume

- Consider joining JCU Social Work students or JCU Cairns Social Work Students.

Job Opportunities

Currently the **highest ranked industry for employed people** in the Cairns and Townsville regions is **Health Care and Social Assistance**. 12,800 (f/t) 9,500 (p/t) people in the Townsville region and 13,300 (f/t) 8,500 (p/t) people in the Cairns region are employed in this industry area.
Source:Labour Market Information Portal, Employment by Industry December 2022.

Researching job vacancy listings will give you an understanding of the range of employment **opportunities** available for Social Work graduates and an insight into employer expectations.

You can **work towards filling skills, knowledge and experience gaps you identify** to ensure you are competitive when entering the graduate labour market.

Job Sites:

- JCU CareerHub
- Seek
- APS Jobs Australian Public Service
- Smart Jobs Queensland Government
- CareCareers
- Queensland Health
- LinkedIn Jobs
- CareerOne

Graduate Recruitment Sites

- Queensland Government Graduate Portal
- Australian Public Service Graduate Portal
- Prosple
- GradConnection

Media

Employer websites, Facebook pages and LinkedIn accounts provide information on job opportunities and current topics of interest for Social Work professionals.

Research employer groups and fields of interest on **LinkedIn** e.g. Aged Care Facilities Australia; Disability Support Agencies in Australia; Drug and Alcohol Services Australia, or Social Work, Community Development, and Mental Health.

Graduate Programs

Graduate programs are paid structured professional development positions offered by large organisations and government departments to recent graduates.

Successful applicants are provided on the job training and mentoring within the organisation. Candidates are usually **recruited throughout their final year of study** for commencement in the following year.

While many graduate programs will be tailored towards a particular degree, a number of organisations will run graduate programs recruiting from a wide variety of degrees.

Investigate deeper and you may discover an exciting opportunity not previously considered.

Graduate programs are advertised through employers' websites and social media (e.g. the Australian, Queensland and other state government graduate portals) and through the graduate recruitment sites:
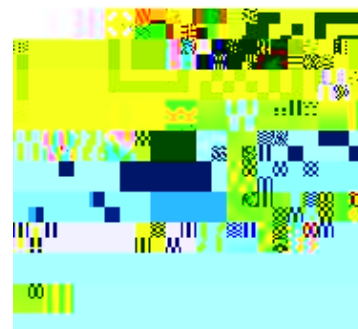
- Prosple
- GradConnection

JCU Careers Resources

As a student, consider accessing JCU Careers resources and be job ready by developing your Employability

Careers and Employability - JCU Australia

Build you employability skills and fine tune your Application Skills

- **Resumes**
- **Applications Documents**
- **Interviews**
- **LinkedIn**

For further ideas access
Career Ready Plan