

Expand Your Horizons

In today's world of work you can choose almost any job you want. You do not need to feel limited to doing the jobs your parents and grandparents did. You are a generation who are not locked in by the same gender bias and stereotyping that has occurred in previous generations. More and more, young people today are accepting the challenge to adopt non-traditional work roles – and are thriving!

1. Think of the subjects you chose in senior school and what made you choose those subjects. Maybe there a subject you would have liked to have taken Eg Dance, Early childhood Studies, Physics, Engineering – but was influenced by either a comment from someone or by cultural beliefs or your own values to believe that subject was only for “boys” or “girls”? What kind of attitudes will help to eliminate this type of gender bias?

In small groups look at these statements and discuss what impact they might have on decisions young people make today.

2. What would be the advantages and challenges of adopting non-traditional work roles?

Advantages: Eg. Breaking the mould and forging new pathways

Challenges: Eg. To feel accepted in the workplace

3. With your group come up with a list of jobs that are typically ‘male’ or ‘female’:

Male: _____

Female: _____

Choose one in a non-traditional work area that appeals to you and then argue why / why not that would be a great job for you to try.

Would you be willing to investigate this career path more seriously? Why / why not?

4. Very often the people who are willing to seriously consider a job in a non-traditional work area experience difficulty in actually securing work in that area. What changes do you feel need to happen to eliminate gender bias and stereotyping?

Don't let gender bias and stereotyping stop you from following your career dream. Create your own opportunities!