My name’s Milli, I’m in Year 11 and I’m currently completing VET Applied Fashion Design and Technology.

I decided to choose VET Fashion because I really love textiles and creating my own garments and I found that VET Fashion really tailored towards that.

At the moment we’re creating a fitted garment and that has to be something that we’d wear out to dinner or maybe to a formal or a social, something like that. And I’m creating a long dress that has a slit down the front. It’s really pretty. It’s blue and it’s a bit of a silky fabric too and it looks really nice and it flows really well.

So in the beginning we go and we research different garments that we might want to draw upon, different ways of stitching maybe or different shapes of the dress. And then we create a storyboard and we figure out, sort of, what moods we would like to go into or colours. And then we create our design brief and then after that we create three or four different sketches of different directions that we might go into and they don’t have to relate at all, they can be completely different. Off that we choose our best design and then we start to create a pattern off a basic pattern block and we create our own garment through those. And then we start looking at different fabrics we might want to use, and once we’ve got those fabrics we decide what notions we might want to add to it, whether that’s buttons or lace trimming, or the zippers we might use, things like that.

My style and creativity has changed through doing this course and I’ve also been able to find creativity that I didn’t realise I had. And it’s helped me definitely back at school in Studio Arts that I’ve really found a way to channel that creativity and how I can use it then to create something new.

So, one of the tasks that we’re completing is a redesign of a wedding dress. We get to use the wedding dresses donated to us from a local bridal boutique. Then we get to redesign the wedding dress into something completely different. I changed the long skirt into pants so it was then a pants suit and I dyed it purple so you couldn’t even tell that it was a wedding dress anymore. And it was really rewarding to, you know, go through sustainability and recycling and reusing garments is important.

This program has given a taste of, sort of, how the fashion industry works and also behind that the manufacturing industry; if I want to get into things like designing for big companies that may make lots and lots of garments, the course definitely helps. Some of the industry experience that I have gained has been through the structured workplace learning that we get to do as part of our VET course. Being able to work in the fashion industry has really helped with my teamwork skills, especially with the work placement that I did.

I’d hopefully like to be a fashion designer and VET Fashion has really helped me to create a really amazing folio, which I can hopefully use to get into a Bachelor of Fashion Design. Another benefit for completing VET Applied Fashion Design and Technology is that it contributes towards my ATAR by completing the Units 3–4 as I’m doing VCE and the certificate I am going to get is a Certificate II in Applied Fashion Design and Technology.

After we finish the units at the end of the year, we then get to show our garments through our very own fashion show, which we do at the end of the year. It really cements just how good all the garments look and how much effort and work we’ve put into them.

If I were to recommend this program to anyone I would say that it’s a lot of fun, and you get to show, you know, your style and yourself through the garments that you’ve made. It’s not up to anyone else, it’s all you.

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