I’m Phillip and I’m currently doing a second year VET course in Automotive.

I had a fascination of cars ever since I was walking and talking, um, I was born next to a racetrack so ever since, I had a big fascination for it. When I first started, um, last year, in my first year, I loved it. When the teacher said, oh yeah let’s go out into the workshop, work on some engines and all that, I just thought, well this is a bit different for me.

It’s very, more hands-on, like today we’re working on brakes and how they work, how to dismantle one, how to keep brakes running smoothly in a car. Um, it’s structured as, um, in sections, so you go from one section which is just brakes and then you go to another section, you’re learning about, um, batteries and then another section engines and it just rolls on from there. So with batteries we learn how to maintain and service a battery so how to, um, change batteries, how to know if it’s leaking, um, if it’s unserviceable or anything like that. With wheel alignments and electrics of cars, that’s mainly later in the second year of VET so, first year of VET Auto it’s all the basics of how to service and then it gets into the technical side of things with, um, automotive and servicing, so as I said, electrics, how it runs and all that.

Basically at the moment I’m doing a Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation of Cars, so that’s basically your, um, basic sort of certificate you can get in the industry and then that just leads on to your apprenticeships, your TAFE courses …

The work experience I’ve had so far is working at a sort of transmission specialist, so working on automatic transmissions, manual transmissions. So basically that’s dismantling them, cleaning them up, seeing if there’s any issues with any of the small parts in a transmission. The skills that I did get from Automotive definitely, um, helped me out in working with some of the mechanics there, because they thought, oh it’s a new VET student, is he going to know much? I think, from what I knew already they were really, really happy that I knew quite a lot from the VET study that I did.

So the second time I’ve done work was the work I’m doing at the moment, which is working on road worthies for old cars, seeing if they’re all good to run on Victorian roads. I think it’s made me more confident in trying to get more work placement in the industry. Yeah.

I would easily recommend it to anyone who’s interested in the industry who’s thinking about what VET course should I do. I’d definitely recommend it.

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