

News & advice

WORK ON YOUR CHOICES



HAPPY: Chris Hooper indulged a passion when choosing his career.
Picture: MATT LOXTON

Combine interests and research for the best career choice, Melanie Burgess writes

PASSION is an important factor when choosing a career but a bit of research is helpful, too. While most people consider their interests before making a decision, just one in eight people say their career choice is based on industry data, SEEK research reveals.

Its poll of 1400 people on Twitter shows 53 per cent choose their career path based on their passions, while 20 per cent follow the advice of a parent or teacher, 14 per cent align their career with the school subject in which they scored highest, and just 13 per cent turn to job growth forecasts.

Good Education Group content manager Patrick Evans says there are many factors to research before settling on a career. "Salary is an important aspect but no the only thing," he says. " (You should also

research) the availability of jobs in that career, whether there is going to be growth or decline, the likelihood of securing a job (after study or training), the opportunities for growth (once you are in the industry), whether you need a qualification and the cost associated with university or training."

Ultimately, though, Evans recommends people pursue a career they will find fulfilling.

"Salary is front of mind for everyone but just because a job pays well is not enough of a reason to choose it," he says.

"Find a career you are passionate about."

Evans says people can avoid "chopping and changing for the sake of it" by putting thought into their career choice in the beginning.

Good Education Group's The Good Universities Guide website offers information on more than 500 different occupations, including how competitive the job market is, whether training is required and the types of soft skills needed to succeed.

In the 12 months to March, the most popular careers on The Good Universities Guide based on search volumes were Australian Federal Police officer, border force officer, physiotherapist, paramedic, flight attendant, medical practitioner, medical imaging technologist, university lecturer, art therapist and park ranger.