

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate Release

10 February 2025

Game-Changer for Youth on the Coast - Talent Accelerate Puts Young People in the Driver's Seat for High-Paying Careers!

Youth on the Sunshine Coast now have a unique opportunity to explore potential career paths and gain practical, hands-on experience with top local industries through the new pilot program, *Talent Accelerate*. Running from March 24th to April 18th, 2025, this 6-week internship program offers the next generation of young people entering the workforce an exciting pathway to success.

The facts:

- “The slowing supply of trained workers, combined with radical transformation of the industry through advanced technologies, presents challenges to ensure sufficient supply of workers with the right skills for the future of the industry.” - [source](#)
- “61% of businesses surveyed felt that changing technology across the economy generally was the biggest factor driving change in their business.” - [source](#)
- Manufacturing is the 4th largest industry behind mining, professional services and construction. - [source](#)
- Growth in skills demanded by employers for core manufacturing occupations such as advanced electronics and semi-conductors, robotics and automations and sensor technology has increased drastically. [source](#)

Designed to bridge the gap between school and the workforce, *Talent Accelerate*, developed by Groei Education and supported by the Australian Government's Local Jobs Program, combines online learning with industry placements, giving participants exposure to sectors shaping the future, including advanced manufacturing, food agriculture, cleantech, and energy. Participants will gain valuable industry insights and skills to better prepare them for the future job market.

“Whether they've just started a gap year or are looking for a meaningful way to kickstart their career, *Talent Accelerate* provides a head start for many young people,” says Tara Jacobsen, co-founder of Groei Education. “For many, deciding on a career path can be daunting. Programs like *Talent Accelerate* bridge the gap between school and the workplace, offering participants the chance to experience real-world industries up close.”

The program offers flexible 1-to-5-day placements each week. Participants will work with leading Sunshine Coast businesses such as Raider Targetry, Your Mates Brewing and Concept Labs, to name a few, gaining real-world experience in their chosen industries.

Talent Accelerate comes at a critical time for regional industries, particularly advanced manufacturing, which is facing a widening skills gap. According to industry data, the need for workers trained in areas like robotics, automation, and sensor technology is growing rapidly. This program aims to address this challenge by equipping young people with industry-recognised micro-credentials and transferable skills.

These micro-credentials, or “stackable” qualifications, ensure participants leave the program with a tangible record of their skills, making them more adaptable to different roles and sectors.

“*Talent Accelerate* not only prepares young people for meaningful careers but also strengthens the regional economy by connecting students with forward-thinking local businesses,” says Tara. “This initiative directly supports Sunshine Coast industries, ensuring a pipeline of skilled young professionals ready to meet the evolving demands of the workforce.”

Talent Accelerate is open to young people aged 17-25 and is fully funded by the government, ensuring there is no cost to participate. Registrations are now open for the March 2025 intake. This is the perfect opportunity for school leavers, recent graduates, University students, TAFE students, and those taking a gap year to gain real-world experience and exclusive placement opportunities.

For local businesses, educational institutions, and families, *Talent Accelerate* represents an exciting step toward building a stronger, more resilient regional workforce, one innovative young person at a time.

For more information and to register, visit www.groei.com.au/programs/talent-accelerate.

Tara Jacobsen, Co-Founder, Groei Education is also available for commentary.

Media Contacts

Adele Pargeter - PR and Communications Executive - Groei Education
e: adele@groei.com.au m:0403196377

Felicity Burns - Program Manager – Groei Education
e: felicity@groei.com.au m: 0418 482 346

###