

Employment – Best places to look

Sometimes, the hardest part about getting a job is knowing where to look for it! There are a few suggestions below that will hopefully take some of the pain out of the job search process for you and provide some hints to let you tap into the job market.

If you are starting to look for work, make sure that your resume is up to date and ready to go. If you haven't got one then you may want to look over the resume fact sheet.

Networking

The old saying "It's not what you know but who you know" still rings true when job hunting. As a professional artist it is probably one of the more effective ways to find work. You can benefit from having access to a large pool of people, most of who value your artform and are willing to support artists. Networking is a great way to find out about jobs even before they are advertised. Many artists underestimate the extent of their existing personal networks. When you are looking for a job, consider approaching people already in your circle and ask them to keep an eye out for you. By doing this, it's not all up to you. Your personal network may include:

- Parents
- SCOPE adviser
- Other relatives
- People in your industry
- Friends
- Neighbours
- Artists in your Company
- Previous employers
- Teachers (past and present)
- Contacts at University/TAFE/School
- Health Professionals/Supports
- Add your own as you think of them

Internet

Another great way to look for jobs is on the Internet. You can register on job searching websites and set up a profile so that roles matching your description are automatically sent to you when they become available.

The following websites are a good place to start:

<http://www.artshub.com.au>

<http://www.careerone.com.au>

<http://www.seek.com.au>

<http://www.mycareer.com.au>

<http://www.jobsearch.gov.au>

You can also look directly at company websites and search for their career, employment or human resources section.

Community Noticeboards

Many local communities have noticeboards where people will advertise for work. This can often be the place where you can advertise your own self employment options. Many professional artists have made quite a comfortable living from self employment options as it can lead to potential small business opportunities down the track.

Recruitment Agencies

Many artists are away on performance tours for long periods, with breaks in income in-between. As a result, short-term contract work is often suitable for them. In this case it may be a good idea to contact private recruitment agencies. Most of these agencies specialise in particular areas of the job market. Have a look in the **Yellow Pages** for a comprehensive list.

Market Research Companies

Participating in market research can be a useful money earner which also allows you to be flexible with your hours. You may be asked to assist with completing surveys, or in some cases focus groups, to find out what consumers think about particular products/services.

Summary

As you can see there are many ways to find work. Hopefully these ideas have prompted you to think about which ones may be right for you. Remember that success may not come from using just one strategy. Try to combine a few of these methods to improve your chances. Searching will take up some of your time and energy, so be prepared for that – It will be worth it in the end.