

Lost the passion? Look for a new job

Changing careers can be difficult but extremely rewarding. Job-seekers might have to work hard winning over prospective South Australia employers – but more job satisfaction can follow.

It does not matter if you are a senior solicitor, flight attendant, cleaner or high school teacher.

If you have lost your passion for work, or decided you must leave your current profession for a different reason, it's never too late to embark on a new career adventure.

A career change should be exciting.

But before leaving one career and starting a new one, there needs to be clear direction.

Not having focus is like having a bow and arrow, but with no target to aim for. There is no bullseye.

Employers have an uncanny sense of picking out the candidates who have not done their homework and who are superficial in their new career commitment.

Here are some guidelines to consider before changing careers.

DON'T throw in the towel at your existing work too early. Most career changes take time, research and training.

EMBRACE the process – don't let fear hold you back!

GET serious and set yourself a time limit. Work to a deadline (avoid getting stuck for months, not really moving forward).

STAY organised with your research, especially with your paperwork and files.


CONSIDER a different role in the same industry – and this can give you time to consider an internal promotion.

TALK to those in the industry and see what the job prospects are like. Websites such as www.jobsearch.gov.au can be helpful resources.

ASK for some work experience or volunteer in your field of interest – try before you buy.

IDENTIFY transferable skills/training you have to offer and match them to each new job (your resume and cover letter must impress).

Talking to a professional career consultant is highly recommended, because they have the expertise to work through career confusion in a prompt and effective manner.



One thing that needs to be acknowledged when changing careers in SA is this: employers are quite conservative.

Phone calls are not always returned and key people are reluctant to meet. One needs courage to get out there and build networks to get offers of employment.

One employer admitted: “Yes, I am one of the conservative employers.

“Whoever I interview has got to prove to me that they are there, not to take but to give.

“One of the most common errors interviewees do is talk about a future that isn’t relevant to my workplace.”

So the lesson here: Make sure you speak more to an employer’s needs than your own.

Be clear in why you are moving from one career field to another. The words that employers want to hear are job satisfaction.

The good news is, when you get your foot in the door and prove your worth, SA employers are generally accepting and loyal.

When ready and prepared, roll up your sleeves and contact employers and key people.

Show your enthusiasm! Stay strong. The extra effort you put in will eventually pay off.