



It's the final countdown

MORE than 30,000 Queensland Year 12 students are counting down to the release of their OP scores online on Saturday.

The scores, to be released on the Queensland Studies Authority student connect website, will give them a clearer indication of whether they are likely to be offered their first choice of next year's university courses.

Professor Robyn Gillies, who teaches guidance and counselling at the University of Queensland, advised students likely to have to reassess their careers to seek help from professional guidance officers.

Learning as much as possible from parents and their friends and their jobs was also a good strategy.

"Above all, don't panic," she said. "Take your time and be prepared to change your mind about careers and career pathways."

Students will have until January 5 to change or add preferences before the place offers are made by various tertiary institutions on January 12.

What ideas do our young people have in advance of year 12 and receiving their OP scores?

Harry French, of The Gap, and Jim Jeffries, of



DECISION TIME: From left, Jim Jeffries, of Paddington, Thu Nguyen, of Sunnybank, and Harry French, of The Gap.

Paddington, interviewed in a Quest Newspapers' poll in Brisbane CBD, will both be in year 12 next year.

Both, however, said they found it hard to look that far ahead.

Harry thought he would like to be an architect but wasn't quite sure.

"It depends on my OP score."

The 17-year-old's reason for choosing his future vocation was an interest in graphics at school.

"I know I'll have to work hard next year," he said.

Jim, 16, of Paddington, has no ideas about where he will

be going after finishing school next year.

"I'll see how it goes," he said. "I'll probably be looking for a job."

"I want to go to university eventually but I'll be bridging it and having a few jobs before then."

Thu Nguyen, 18, of

Sunnybank, will be entering her second year of social work degree at QUT next year.

"I had no idea what I wanted to. There were too many options."

"Mum suggested social work and I'm glad she did. I love it."

DEADLINE LOOMS

Reception staff in Queensland medical practices can enhance their careers with a nationally accredited Certificate IV. Applications for the next course, starting in February, close on December 23. The qualification is offered jointly by Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local, and Healthfirst Training Australia. Phone 3630 7300.

RAIL JOBS PLAN

A national centre of excellence to plan for future skills needs in Australia's \$17 billion rail sector will be established in Queensland. Rail Skills Australasia will conduct a skills audit throughout the sector and develop initiatives such as mentoring and graduate programs. The rail industry supports more than 12,000 jobs in Queensland.

8000 GRADUATE

More than 8000 Griffith University students have graduated from one of 14 ceremonies in Brisbane, Logan and the Gold Coast in the past week.

WELL ON TRACK

More than 90 people are expected to be trained for work in coal seam gas mines in the first year of a training centre at Acacia Ridge. A six-month course will be a mixture of theory and field training for skills involved in operating and maintaining gas wells, and compressor stations.

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