



Lowes Liverpool has been hosting local Retail Workplacement students since 2010. Lowes is an iconic, Australian owned retail menswear chain which sells school wear, men's casual wear, workwear, business and formal wear, men's outsize clothing, socks, underwear, shoes and accessories. Established over 100 years ago, they now have over 200 stores across Australia.

John Ristevski, the current store manager at Liverpool has been with Lowes for over 25 years. He has been managing the store for the last 3 years, hosting many local students during this period.

John is passionate about retail, having started his career at 17 years old in men's fashion, he has not looked back.

John says the best part is *'the interaction with people'*. He enjoys assisting customers and providing great customer service. He also enjoys managing his team. Mentoring and developing staff is another gratifying aspect of his role.

John is a real example of the company's mission, vision and values of providing a **'great range, great value, while delivering great customer service.'** This is what makes LOWES stand out from the competition.

John enjoys hosting Retail Workplacement students and views it as an opportunity for him to provide the student with an insight into retail operations. He enjoys sharing his experience and knowledge.

The students are not the only party to gain from Workplacement. John has managed to find excellent staff through hosting students and sees it as an opportunity to find *'great people out of it'* and recruit future employees.



This has been the case with student Sam. At the completion of his one week of Workplacement, John offered Sam a casual position in sales while he continues his studies. John was so impressed with Sam's abilities, enthusiasm and the interest he had shown, that he could not pass up the opportunity to make him a more permanent team member.



Asking Sam, what the best part of his Workplacement was he answered *'Everything!'* It gave him an opportunity to experience work life and the various areas of retail. He loved the customer interaction but also pointed out that he loved working in the store and with the team. He stated that *'everyone was so friendly and supportive'*.



Workplacement is a one week placement in businesses to enhance student's skills learned in the classroom.

Year 11 and 12 students studying a Vocational Education and Training course for the HSC must complete a mandatory component of 70 hours workplace learning.

If you can host a student for a Workplacement or would like more information, please contact our: Employment Liaison Consultant – Chrissy Potamianos (02) 9822 9370 or email chrissy@swconnect.org.au

Sam is currently studying a Cert II in Retail Services through his HSC, and before the Workplacement was not too sure what direction he was going to take after high school. Now he is certainly considering Retail as a potential career option. Undoubtedly, John and the team's encouragement and support has helped.

When Sam was asked what he would say to fellow students considering a school based VET course and undertaking Workplacement, he said '100% go for it! It is awesome. It helps you to understand the industry and what it entails.'

John encourages other businesses to consider hosting Workplacement students as it gives businesses an opportunity to showcase their industry and product, as well as recruiting future staff.

