



## • MIND MAPPING

# Consult your brains trust

Emily Power

Visualise what you want out of your career and you may very well be halfway there.

So says the Melbourne careers counsellor taking an intimate approach to directing disgruntled students and workers to their true calling.

Youth and careers coach Elwin Hall, from The Protean Connection service, gets a picture of clients using the mind-mapping technique.

She teases out personal information and uses a detailed map to brainstorm the ideal career path.

Hall was introduced to Tony Buzan's mind-mapping technique in 1999 and believes she may be the only careers adviser in Victoria using the method.

Her clients are mostly the younger generation who want help to plot a path to their perfect career.

"I have a particular interest working with 15 to 30-year-olds," Hall said.

"I think at that time (30) they have been sucked into the vortex of work, mortgage and set patterns of behaviour."

A map is drawn with branches representing beliefs, family, fears, likes and dislikes.

Over three or four sessions with Hall, clients share personal stories and bring along items such as meaningful photographs.

"Someone will show you a photo of them playing hockey, and you get some lovely data about their leadership qualities that they don't see in an ENTER (school score)," Hall said.

She said fear of the unknown and financial pressures diverted some people, particularly those with creative personalities, from their preferred career.

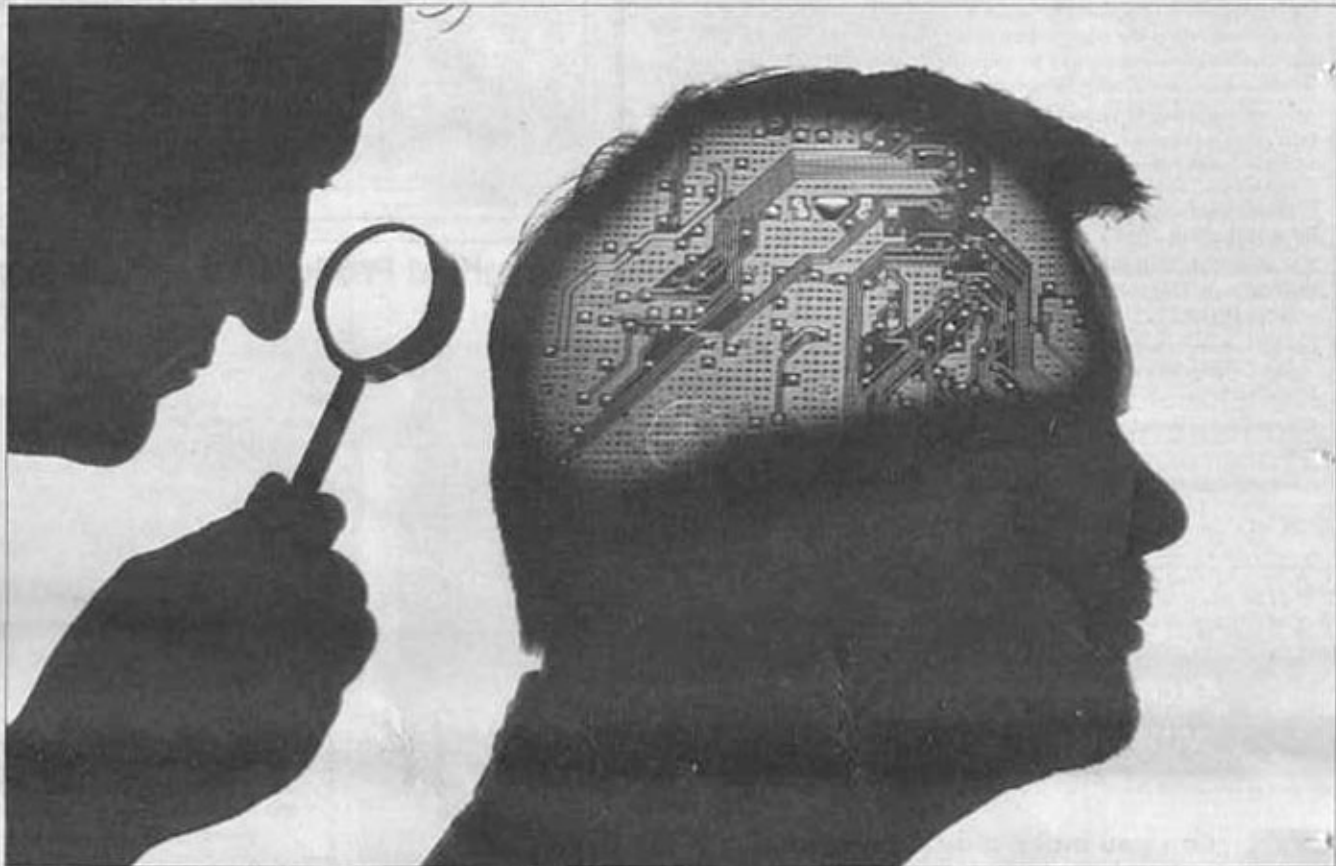
"I had a boy who got a 94 ENTER two years ago, and he was terrified to go with his first choice," Hall said.

"He went with the traditional choice, rather than the creative choice."

"What they are consistently asking me to clarify are their fears."

"Fears are the motivators."

She said people needed only apply the map's principles to work out their life priorities and then how their career path could complement that.



Mind mapping can help put you on the path to your ideal career.