

BANYULE / NILLUMBIK LOCAL LEARNING & EMPLOYMENT NETWORK

Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 8th

7:15 am – 8:45am

Diamond Valley Learning Centre

1. WELCOME

a) Attendance:

Kate Rhodes (Executive Officer), Gerry Fogarty (Chair), Marie McNeil, Ian Harrop, Stephen Smith, Diana Murphy, Julie Johnson, Stephen Fiyalko, Cheryle Michael, Sue Lees, Lindsay Round, Jacinta Feeley, Ross Patterson, and Jeldai King

b) Apologies: Jackie Doyle, Stephen Brackenridge, Darrel Caulley

c) Welcome: Gerry welcomed Jeldai King from DEEWR and Ross Patterson the LCP Manager. They will be talking about the Career Advice Australia evaluation and the future of LCPs.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Declaration of conflict of interest - Nil

b) Minutes of previous meeting – Wednesday, September 10th confirmed

Moved: Ian Harrop

Second: Stephen Smith

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Moved: Cheryle Michael

Second: Julie Johnson

4. BUSINESS ARISING

a) Hot topics – Youth mental health

Youth mental health will be a 'hot topic' for the November Board meeting as agreed at the September meeting. Lindsay spoke to the Board about a Forum on Thursday, October 9th on "How to Navigate the Mental Health System in Banyule and Nillumbik". This would be of interest to Board members and anyone who would like to attend can let Cheryle know. There are still a few places.

In addition Diana Murphy is contacting Barb Collard from Austin Cams about speaking at the November meeting and Kate will work with Cheryle and others to put together some papers on the topic for the Board to read in preparation for the discussion.

5. REPORTS

a) Finance Report

Stephen tabled the September report. He noted that we are progressing well with 73% of the LLEN funding spent and 66% of the LCP funding which means we are on target in terms of expenses for the year. The Risk Management Standing Committee has called a meeting for Thursday, October 16th to begin budgeting for 2009.

Moved: Stephen Smith

Second: Stephen Fiyalko

b) Staff Report

Tabled

c) Strategic Directions Standing Committee

The most recent draft of the Three Year Strategic Plan for DEECD was discussed at the Strategic Directions Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday and was sent out to the Board. Kate provided an overview of the draft plan tabled and the Board discussed the strategic goals and the corresponding key strategies.

Gerry noted that the format is different to previous years as we are no longer being mandated to cover different goals rather Boards are to identify local goals. The message is that this is our document and that it is a living document that can change. We no longer have to include governance as one of our strategic goals as governance is something that should be implicit in all of our work.

A number of issues were discussed that Kate will incorporate into a new draft of the Plan for the Board to consider. The discussion included:

- A suggestion that the goals of the “Vulnerable Youth Framework” discussion paper be considered in the strategies
- Inclusion of the Greensborough Project as one our key strategies for transition noting the high number of local employment opportunities that will result from the project
- The importance of consulting with young people and drawing on the data collected by the councils directly from young people to ensure our goals meet their needs. Next year the BNLEN needs to work with the two councils in their development of youth summits
- The need for VCAL to include a specific acknowledgement of ACE and for VCAL in ACE to be promoted as they are often overlooked when discussing community VCAL
- The concern that VET training in ACE providers again needs to be promoted along with TAFE
- The difference between real and apparent retention
- Acknowledgement of the “Get Ready” program at Employment Focus that works with TAFEs and collects valuable data on tracking students in pre-apprenticeship programs and Access programs to support reintegrating young people back into education
- The importance generally of tracking students over a long period of time, up to 18 months and intervening when necessary to ensure they have a continued career path
- Acknowledgement of the strong partnership with Apprenticeship Plus and the value of School based apprenticeships
- The importance of the community sector working directly in schools; and supporting the work of the School Focused Youth Service
- Working with the BNYSN to address housing, health and other broader welfare issues and their importance in improving education, employment and training outcomes

The importance of the discussion and the need to continue the discussion over the next 12 months was strongly supported by the Board. There was a suggestion that even though the LLEN plan was due the end of October that the Board needed to revisit both the LLEN and the LCP three year plans in terms of the direction for the Board for both programs. This would need a formal planning day and this was strongly endorsed by the Board. It was agreed that a Planning Day be organised for February next year.

MOTION: The Board endorsed the draft for the three year Strategic Plan.

Moved: Stephen Fiyalko Seconded: Lindsay Round

ACTIONS: To organise a Strategic Planning day for February, 2009

For Kate to email the Plan with the changes discussed and for the Board to provide feedback. The 2009 Annual Implementation Plan that is based on the Three Year Plan will also be sent out for comment.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

a) LCP Evaluation – Jeldai King and Ross Patterson

Ross provided a background summary of the Career Advice Australia (CAA) conference earlier in the year when LCPs were presented with the LCP stage of the Atelier Evaluation the group that has been evaluating the LCPs across Australia. Atelier is also evaluating the other CAA programs and their full evaluation will be completed next year. A draft of the stages of development framework was tabled along with a case study of a LCP.

While the evaluation is not yet policy it is looking to set a picture of LCPs in the future and DEEWR is supporting the main findings of the evaluation. The evaluation is recommending changing the reporting format which at present is very extensive to make it simpler and more outcomes based. It now focuses more on activities. The evaluation is also suggesting that LCPs need to connect more with industry using industry as a resource for schools. There is a need to link equally with what they see as the four stakeholders (Parent, Industry, Community, and Education) with the young person, the client group, at the centre.

The case study provides a tool for evaluating a LCP from a high performing LCP to a low performing LCP and the framework provides a “Profiling Matrix” to use in judging the case study. It was also noted that Atelier has written a case study for our LCP which is not yet available. The case studies tabled at the conference were from other states. When our case study is available it was suggested the Board might want to do an analysis against the matrix while being aware that we are very small LCP. Many LCPs are linked to larger organisations like group training companies hence they can offer an infrastructure and can apply for other government programs like youth pathways. The Board requested that the other two case studies tabled at the conference be sent out.

Jeldai spoke about service delivery. There is a feeling that LCPs need to use service delivery as a means to engage and enthuse stakeholders but with the aim that eventually the LCP will move away from the service in order to build on the community capacity and ensure sustainability. This compliments the direction of LLENs.

Jeldai also spoke about the future of LCPs. The current contract has been rolled over until the end of next year. While there is no certainty as yet about the future post 2009 DEEWR is aware that LCPs need to know this as soon as possible in order to avoid staff leaving. Hopefully DEEWR will endorse the continuation of the program fairly soon though the budget decisions will take longer.

b) Skills Reform

Julie suggested that the Board discuss the paper at the next meeting which is an important State Government paper that will set policy regarding VET funding for TAFE and ACE. It was agreed to agenda this for the next meeting. The link for the paper is:

<http://www.skills.vic.gov.au/corporate/directions/skillsreform>

Meeting closed: 8:45am

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 12th
7:15 – 8:45. DVLC

Barb Collard from Austin Cams (tbc) to speak about youth mental health