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InterAct
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Lies, Damned Lies and Statistics . . .
When a group sat down recently to consider how we assessed Year 12 or equivalent attainment, we were challenged by the multiple options to look at data. It seems that for every possible metric we could use, there were several reasons for using it—and several reasons why we shouldn’t. Yet, if we’re to make any progress on YR12E attainment, we must try to find out where we currently are and take steps to make a difference. It’s really hard to “halve the gap” for Aboriginal attainment if we don’t know what the gap actually is. I’m hopeful we can find some simple, good measures to guide the work of schools in this space — knowing that no metric is perfect. Geoff Ewens, Managing Director

Partnering In Action

ATSI Career Pathways Dinner
This event jointly organised on September 7th by Western Futures, partnership broker of Western Adelaide and AITEC had as its main objective improving youth attainment within the Aboriginal communities of Adelaide Western, Eastern and Hills by:
1. Enhancing awareness of options into further education, apprenticeships & traineeships and employment opportunities.
2. Strengthening the capacity of their family and educators to provide support.

The evening featured:
• Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (ATSI) people who spoke about their career journey, as well as speakers about apprenticeships, VET and university programs.
• A mini Expo for aboriginal teens which gave them the opportunity to speak with staff from Group Training organisations, tafeSA, UniSA and a number of employers that are committed to employing ATSI young people.

Meet AITEC’s team

Laura Garcia’s profile
After being granted last year with a visa from the government of SA and having travelled for the first time to Australia with tickets paid by Century Fox as a competition prize for watching the movie “Australia”, Laura and her family moved from Mexico City to Adelaide just a few months ago. She is a public relations and marketing professional with a twelve-year experience in areas such as: media and corporate affairs, corporate social responsibility, events management, media training, statistical analysis and market research. Laura’s passion for employability issues and parental involvement in education came from previous roles at Manpower - an employment services firm - as corporate spokesperson and manager of its Foundation. As part of the Foundation activities, Laura created and developed a social program to promote employment opportunities for people with disability, people over 50 years old and school leavers; to reach that goal she established alliances with public and private companies and schools, as well with governmental institutions such as the Labour Ministry of Mexico. Currently at AITEC, Laura is responsible for the communications tasks of the company as well as supporting the team in some of the partnerships being developed.

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Addressing the partnering needs of schools, parents & families, business and community

Workskil

Workskil is one of the largest employment services providers in South Australia and the 10th largest nationally. Their mission is to make a difference and assist individuals in realising their full potential.

Two of their key programmes include:

- **Job Services Australia.** Free employment services to job seekers registered with Centrelink.
- **Youth Connections.** As the provider for Eastern Adelaide, Workskil offers services to young people who are most at risk of disengaging, or already disengaged from education, family and/or the community.

The following eligibility criteria is applied by Workskil to identify Young People (YP) to be supported:

- Aged between 13 and 19 years
- Who have left school without finishing Year 12 or equivalent training and haven’t gotten a job yet
- Who are struggling to figure out what to do next and have personal issues that are holding them back.

This organisation provides support and assistance to a ‘clear pathway’ for the future of their targeted population.

Their services are free for YP living or hanging out in the city, Eastern, Southern or Western Adelaide suburbs.

**What kind of help is available from Workskil?**

Workskil’s Youth Workers:

- Assess YP needs and help them to develop a plan of action to achieve their goals.
- Are available for support, guidance and encouragement.
- Support YP with referrals or applications.
- Suggest possible solutions in case of facing a short term crisis.
- Refer, coordinate and advocate with other appropriate services within the community.
- Provide appropriate information that is tailored to individual needs.
- Advocate for YP or liaise with their school or other services in regards to their education/individual needs.

Careers exposed

Careers exposed is an annual one day event that showcases jobs & careers. It features employers, faculty & staff, placement agencies as well as management consultants. Its main target visitors are students - graduates, undergraduates, and job seekers.

A singular feature of this event is that students can come with their parents and gain important information on Traineeships, Apprenticeships & Cadetships. This year, Careers exposed was held on 17th August 2010 at Adelaide Entertainment Centre and for the first time it presented a parents’ lounge hosted by AITEC and Western Futures, partnership broker for Western Adelaide.

In the lounge area, representatives of both partnership brokers discussed with parents, current and emerging workplace opportunities to assist them in helping their sons and daughters make confident choices about their careers.

Sasha Dragovelic (AITEC) explaining diverse learning and career pathways to a student and his mother at Careers exposed.

Career Information available at the event...

Building, Hospitality and Motor Trades, Civil Construction, Defence Forces, Fitness, Health, Government, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Retail, Sports, and many more.
Work placements. A quality experience. (Part 1)

What is work experience or work placement? Another young kid that you have to babysit as a charity gesture for the school or community? A lackey to get the morning tea, sweep the floor or clean out the work Ute? Schools and the world of work can be miles apart.

Work Experience and/or Placement provides an opportunity to bridge this gap by bringing schools and the world of work closer.

Businesses and employers role is a vital part of the learning process as it highlights the relevance and practicality of the subjects a student studies at school.

| Differences between Work experience programs and Workplacement learning programs |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| **Commencement in Australia**                           | **Work experience programs**                             |
| **In the late 1960s and are now offered by most secondary schools** | **Workplace learning programs**                           |
| **Duration time**                                         | **Extended period of time**                              |
| **Focused on**                                            | **Helping students to gain qualifications and acquire occupationally specific skills and knowledge that lead either directly to the labour market or to vocational studies at tertiary levels.** |
| Giving students a “taste” of the world of work (observing operations and engaging in some straightforward tasks under supervision). | |
| **How are they being used at schools?**                   | **See as a way to broaden the appeal of senior secondary schooling, and to help engage students who may not be suited to, or interested in, more academically oriented areas.** |
| Comparatively is uncommon for schools to integrate work experience programs into the teaching and learning program in a structured manner. | (Source - NCVER) |

To be continued...

Out And About
Through our work on the DM Industry Pathways Program (IPP) it has been great to see the enthusiasm and positive experience that can exist for both parties when bringing together Education and Industry.

To get feedback on the proposed DM IPP, an Industry Reference Group Forum was held at the ABC studios July 27, bringing together directors and senior staff from companies and associations across print, web, audio, screen and gaming. This involved presentations of teachers’ methods and robust group discussion. Though some teachers were somewhat nervous presenting to the calibre of the industry representatives, all attendees showed such enthusiasm and interest in developing useful pathways for students attracted by DM that the forum was a great success. Many emails from the participants have come back and forwards with further feedback and discussion, making evident in this way an overall satisfaction with the outcome.

"Thank you all for your work to gather industry and present outstanding samples of the work of a multimedia teacher. I am very grateful for such an inspiring experience and all within a couple of hours! I couldn’t wait to blog about it and hopefully promote the work of the professionals at my table to demonstrate my gratitude for their time and passion for advancement of the industry.”

Niccy Pallant, Hamilton Secondary College

"Just wanted to say well done for today, the feeling I got from our industry folk was massively positive and really encouraging."

Ryan Westell, Salisbury High School

"The information provided and gathered was excellent. There was a lot of collaborative interest and energy in the room at the ABC building."

Graeme Harris, DECS Industry Skills Manager

"Thanks very much for including me in the Reference Group. I’m absolutely happy for you to pass on my details to the various teachers that participated for tours and presentations - the more we share information the better!"

Ian Cope, Communications Manager Rising Sun

The outcomes achieved by this program would not have been possible if it was not for the professional support provided by AITEC."

Stefan Demianyk, Curriculum Manager Industry Skills Program
Partnering In Action. ATSI Career Pathways Dinner

“The two best aspects of the event were the information providers & experiences' speeches, as they were extremely engaging”. Joshua T., Rostrevor student

“I would recommend this event because it motivates young people to get an education & complete their schooling”.

Emily A., Immanuel College student

“Very good, all information on all aspects of careers in one place” / “Very informative, inspirational”.

Parents from Rostrevor & Open Access College

“Excellent, enabled parents, staff & students to attend”.

Paul J., Norwood Morialta teacher

“This was a most informative & enjoyable evening. Our students gained a lot from it”.

Magda T., Woodville HS teacher

Interesting facts about the ATSI Career Pathways Dinner

Schools from Adelaide Eastern and Hills regions attending:
Charles Campbell, Heathfield High, Mt Barker HS, Oakbank High, Rostrevor, St. Peters, Youth Education Centre. As well as from the Open Access College.

Attendees:
4 Principals
5 DEEWWR and DECS representatives
6 RTOs
7 Partnership Brokers
7 Aboriginal Education Officers/Teachers
14 Business representatives
14 Speakers
33 Teachers/ Career Counsellors / VET Coordinators/ Youth Workers
67 Parents/ Guardians
108 Students

Total attendees:
Over 260 people
Partnering In Action. ATSI Career Pathways Dinner

Uncle Lewis (right) did the welcome to land. Here with Geoff Ewens, AITEC’s Director.

Andrew Worrall (Western Futures’ CEO) acknowledging the supporters of the evening.

Hayley Willis, Aboriginal Inclusion Officer (right) and René Peters (AITEC).

Just the beginning...

Sandra Mitchell, Vocational Pathways Coordinator, advising Rostrevor students about career resources.

Jeane Schocroft, Open Access College principal (left) with an OAC family.

Mark Elliot, Aboriginal Community Development & Liaison Officer, and Royce Rigney.

Diane Hart from Australia Post and two collaborative students’ siblings.

Ros Cameron (DECS Aboriginal Education Officer), Sandra Winter-Dwhirst (ABC state director) and Mt Barker students.

Charles Campbell Secondary School Students.