Opportunity is not enough......
You may be familiar with the saying “you can take a horse to water but you cannot make him drink”. This can be true of our youth. They may have more opportunities than their parents or grandparents ever had, however, one thing is as true today as it was in prior years; young people need to be prepared and supported to firstly, recognise opportunities and then to take them. This preparation needs to be provided by schools, by parents, by community and by industry. Furthermore, it has been established that when this is done in a joined-up and planned manner, each of these stakeholders can leverage off each other’s expertise and momentum to maximise outcomes for our youth. There is a plethora of opportunities out there, however, are our youth sufficiently informed to take advantage of the appropriate pathway for them?

Sasha Dragovelic, Alliance Manager

Partnering In Action
AITEC’s Partnerships Status
Digital Media Industry Pathways Program
In March 2010, AITEC joined the DECS Industry Pathways Program for Digital Media in their role as partnership broker initially to assist with industry consultation. Industry was approached, briefed and prepared to assist with the shaping and developing of the DM IPP. We are delighted to advise that at a celebration event held at the ABC Studios on 19th May 2011, the DM IPP was endorsed. Over the balance of 2011, Stefan Demianyk, Curriculum Manager of the Industry Skills Program, and the other members of the IPP Group will focus on pilot projects and PD for the teachers in preparation for a 2012 implementation. This is a clear demonstration that industry and educators can develop solutions in collaboration. Well done to all!

Adelaide Hills Youth Mental Health Partnership
The Working Group was established in July 2010 with the purpose of scoping challenges and exploring the potential collaboration between regional organisations to respond to youth mental health needs. On 31 May 2011, following an encouraging meeting with representatives from Headspace national office, the previous evening, the AHYMH Working Group committed itself to secure a Headspace Centre for the Adelaide Hills youth. This would be undertaken by a consortium of the community’s key organisations with an interest in this outcome. The working group now needs the whole community to get behind them unequivocally to ensure a Headspace for the youth of the Adelaide Hills region.

To be removed from this mailing list, please send an email to sbcpb@aitec.edu.au insert your address - with the subject line ‘Unsubscribe’.

Gateway Schools Projects
An innovative industry-school partnership model
Established in Queensland, these projects aim to link partnering schools with global businesses, currently focused on six key industry sectors in the state economy (aerospace, minerals and energy, wine tourism, building and construction, manufacturing and engineering, and agribusiness).

Because of their capacity to connect schools to global employment markets and their potential to transform the traditional curriculum in schools, the Gateway Schools Projects represent one of the more significant transformations in Australian schooling.

Read more at: www.gatewayschools.qld.gov.au/index.html
The Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI) is offering ten awards aimed at encouraging Year 10 Aboriginal secondary students to remain at school, and complete years 11 and 12.

Who should apply for it? Aboriginal students who:
1. Will successfully complete Year 10 and are enrolled to complete their SACE
2. Have a goal and believe in themselves
3. Have a consistent and satisfactory performance at school all year

Award recipients will receive a laptop computer.

More information is available at:

Applications must be submitted by Friday 4 November 2011

(from Left to Right) Sasha Dragovelic (AITEC); Lisa Pigliafiori, Cultural Consultant at DTEI and Laura Domhoff, Project Officer at Maringga Turtpandi Health Service.

PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) Results
Highlights from PISA 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2009

The report “Challenges for Australian Education: Results for Australian Students in PISA 2009” has revealed three major issues:

The average scores of Australian students in reading literacy and mathematical literacy have declined significantly over the past few years, while the OECD average has remained constant.

The score for reading literacy is the same as that in PISA 2006, but is significantly lower than scores obtained in PISA 2000. The score for mathematical literacy has also declined since PISA 2003 (indeed, the largest decline was in South Australia).

In addition, there is a large gender gap in reading literacy, with females achieving at a much higher level than males, and a gender gap in mathematics, with males outperforming females that was present in PISA 2006, but before then had not been seen for many years.

Finally, despite the better than average scores, significant levels of educational disadvantage related to socio-economic background exist in Australia, and the performance gap between students of the same age from different backgrounds can be equivalent to up to three years of schooling. This gap places an unacceptable proportion of 15-year-old students at serious risk of not achieving levels sufficient for them to effectively participate in the 21st century work force and to contribute to Australia as productive citizens.

Educational inequality is not a given. Some schools, some school systems, and some countries do more to mitigate inequality than others. Australia has chosen to participate in PISA in order to monitor national outcomes on a regular basis – the challenge is to act on these findings as other countries have, to lift educational outcomes for all students. Can we learn from others' progress?
Out And About

**Adelaide Hills & Strathalbyn Mental Health Forum**

Dianne Cottrell (Adelaide Hills Division of General Practice), Sasha and Laura (AITEC) at the inaugural Adelaide Hills and Strathalbyn Mental Health Forum. Over 40 members of different MH organisations across both regions attended. Among them were youth-related organisations as well as several members of the Adelaide Hills Youth Mental Health Group partnered and convened by AITEC.

**Meeting with Oakbank AS's Principal and Governing Council Chairperson (GCC)**

Steve Adams, Oakbank Area School’s recently-appointed Principal and Andrew Sinnott, Governing Council Chairperson, exploring potential ways of collaborating in the establishment of partnerships to increase students’ and family engagement.

**Adelaide Hills Secondary Principals and Governing Council Chairs’ Dinner**

Convened by AITEC on the 25th of May, this was an opportunity:
- for the principals and Governing Council Chairs in the Hills to all meet;
- learn about the School Business Community Partnership Broker program and
- explore how to achieve better youth attainment in the Hills through partnerships with parents, business and the community.

At the dinner, GC Chairs and Principals had the opportunity to network and share across both the public and private schools of the Hills.

(from Left to Right) Alastair Sarre (Chair, Heathfield HS), David Jackson (Chair, Mt Barker HS) and Geoff (MD, AITEC)

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Partnership Broker InterActs with Youth Connections Provider in the Hills

Presentation event of the Kick Start Program

The Kick Start Program was developed by Youth Connections - Employment Options to engage disengaged students in the Adelaide Hills. The event was held at the National Motor Museum which is a partner in the program, providing the motor bike for restoration and staff advice and support.

AITEC supported Youth Connections’ staff in the early stages of this program including negotiations with the National Motor Museum to create and develop a regional broader partnership.

Kick Start demonstrated the benefits of a project-based program to engage students positively and develop skills such as teamwork, research, initiative, and commitment.

(Above) Program’s Flyer and Program’s Launching. (Right) Jed Andary and Kieran Smith, youth workers at Employment Options.

Official opening of the Employment Options’ Youth Centre “Youth Space”

At this opening event, Geoff Ewens (AITEC’s Managing Director) acknowledged the importance of having a ‘Youth Space’ in Mt Barker as there was no other such space. He took the opportunity to promote the YC and PB Programs and partnership model to help young people in the Hills aspire, attain and achieve.

(LtoR) Mark de Lange (Adelaide Hills Council, Youth Development Officer), Sue Hunter (DEEWR, Youth Connections Contract Manager) and Geoff Ewens (AITEC) at the Launching of “Youth Space”.

GumaROCKa Event

This event was attended by 150-200 people. With AITEC support, the Adelaide Hills Council, Employment Options and other stakeholders planned and delivered the event. Parents attended with their children to watch skate and dance demos and help with band setup.

Youth Connections workers were able to catch up with youth and talk to them in a relaxed environment. Bob Brooksby, Lions Club President participated in the event and affirmed the benefits of schools working more closely with community and industry and encouraged further liaison.

GumaROCKa was a 2011 Youth Week Event organised collaboratively by a committee comprising Adelaide Hills Council, Employment Options, AITEC and Torrens Valley Community Centre.
Low educational attainment is linked to suicide (Najem & Salem 2006), while also contributing to unemployment and financial problems. Furthermore, low educational attainment can lead to social isolation and a poor sense of identity and purpose (Response Ability).

Suicide Prevention Australia recently launched the Youth Suicide Prevention position statement which describes some of the risk and protective factors in regards to youth suicide. A summary of such factors is included below.

### Youth Suicide Risk Factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Social</th>
<th>Contextual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mental illness</td>
<td>Indigenous status</td>
<td>Rural and remote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous suicide attempt</td>
<td>GLBT-identified</td>
<td>Socio-economic disadvantage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of self-harm</td>
<td>Childhood adversities</td>
<td>Detention, contact with juvenile justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance or alcohol abuse</td>
<td>Family dysfunction</td>
<td>Access to means of suicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical ill-health</td>
<td>Restricted help-seeking</td>
<td>Homelessness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male gender</td>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>Friends or family displaying suicidality</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Protective Factors

Protective factors counteract suicide risk factors. The absence of many of the risk factors detailed above tends to be indicative of a level of protection against suicide risk. For example, mental wellbeing, a supportive family environment and accessible services can improve an individual’s ability to avoid or manage individual and social risk factors. Contextual factors that contribute to risk, such as socio-economic disadvantage and social exclusion, often require structural and environmental changes at a community or national level to provide youth with adequate protection against suicidality. Protective factors include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual Factors</th>
<th>Social</th>
<th>Contextual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good coping skills</td>
<td>Family connectedness and support</td>
<td>Access to appropriate services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal resilience</td>
<td>Positive school environment</td>
<td>Economic security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem-solving skills</td>
<td>Social and community inclusion</td>
<td>Non-discriminatory environments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optimism</td>
<td>Protection from adverse life events</td>
<td>Housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social and emotional wellbeing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability and desire to seek help if necessary</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some Useful Resources:

- www.sane.org
- www.headspace.org.au
- www.inspire.org.au (ReachOutPro and ReachOut Teachers Network: For health care providers and education professionals)
- www.beyondblue.org.au
- www.kidsmatter.edu.au (targeting primary schools)
- www.mindmatters.edu.au (targeting secondary schools)
- www.kidshelp.com.au
- www.headroom.net.au
- www.menslineaus.org.au
- www.mmha.org.au (Multicultural Mental Health Australia)
- www.livingisforeveryone.com.au
- www.ecouch.anu.edu.au/welcome (self-help interactive program)

Upcoming event

**Tertiary Studies & Careers Expo Adelaide** is an exciting event for anyone seeking to explore their tertiary studies, training and career options. This event is ideal for all senior school students, parents, mature age and prospective post-graduate students as well as career seekers.

**Sunday 19th and Monday 20th June, 2011**

10.00 – 4.00 Sunday
9.30 – 1.30 Monday

Free Admission

Please view the website [www.careersevent.com](http://www.careersevent.com) for further information.