

Workforce Development Project

NE Tracks and NELLEN (Local Learning and Employment Networks) have secured Regional Development Victoria funding for the Schools to Industry Skills and Pathways Project - an education model that introduces Year 9 and 10 students to industry and employment opportunities before they make important VCE/VCAL subject decisions. It is 'hands on' learning that informs young people's vocational choices while focussing on the pathways available to them. This model successfully supports the transition of students into vocational pathways.

The Project develops secondary students' practical work skills by connecting them and their schools to local businesses. With the focus on agriculture/horticulture and health care/social assistance - sectors that offer strong work placement and employment opportunities for young people in NE Victoria - the project addresses the need for a qualified, experienced, local workforce.

What Does It Offer?

Schools:

- improves student engagement and school retention through practical learning opportunities embedded in curriculum
- improves learning outcomes
- establishes pathways for career options through SBATs, subsequent certificates and university courses
- addresses STEM learning, community engagement and Department of Education and Training goals and initiatives for school improvement.

Students:

- learning outside of the classroom at Year 9 and above
- completion of Certificate II (contributing to completion of VCE and VCAL) prior to senior subject choices
- development of work skills and independence
- access to career pathway options in these sectors
- relationships with local industries through mentoring.

Participating industries:

- stronger partnerships with schools, enabling better transition from school to business
- addresses the significant need to attract new employees
- improved up-take of career pathways by young people
- engagement of students with learning in a local context
- stronger community relationships through mentoring young people.

Workforce Development Project

The project team works with schools to ensure that certificate-level industry learning is offered at Year 9 and above, liaising with local employers and community members to broker relationships for work placements and SBATs. The team also convenes advisory groups at government, industry and education levels to ensure the relevant skills, knowledge and competencies are articulated to all project participants.

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