

From: Helen Paphitis [mailto:hpaphiti@salisburyhigh.sa.edu.au]

Sent: Thursday, 25 September 2003

Subject: Re: Recommendations for Vocational Education in Schools

Below are some of our thoughts on Vocational Education In Schools.

The place of vocational education in schools, its growth and development and its effectiveness in preparing students for post-school options, with particular reference to:

- the range, structure, resourcing and delivery of vocational education programs in schools, including teacher training and the impact of vocational education on other programs;

The role of schools have changed. Schools have a responsibility to prepare global citizens equipped with skills, attitudes and values to face life beyond school.

We believe that vocational education is integral to student retention and needs to be embedded rather than added onto the school curriculum. Therefore schools must be flexible in their structures, resourcing and delivery of vocational education. eg staff - student ratios, timetabling.

Teacher training courses must incorporate industry credible skills, VET assessor training and have real understanding of employer and industry needs.

- the differences between school-based and other vocational education programs and the resulting qualifications, and the pattern of industry acceptance of school-based programs;

School based programs need to gently lead and encourage students to gain confidence and to make a successful transition into work or further learning. Our experience has been that students still need the structure, mentoring and support of the school to take the next step confidently. Consequently school based apprenticeships and traineeships are a perfect blend.

Resources must be allocated by governments for teacher professional development and working closely with industry.

Industry acceptance of the qualifications gained is enhanced by the direct influence that they can have on and off the job training of students.

- vocational education in new and emerging industries; and

There needs to be closer relationships between schools and emerging industries eg electro technology indutry for mutual strategic planning at regional levels involving all levels of government, training organisations, schools and universities.

- the accessibility and effectiveness of vocational education for indigenous

students.

There are so many accessible programs for our indigenous students, however the key is having dedication, committed staff who access those programs for our students. Every school needs to have dedicated personnel focussed on vocational education for indigenous students.

Please feel free to contact me for more info.

Helen Paphitis