



THE SHEPPARTON TEC – Best of both worlds

Introduction:

The Shepparton Technical Education Centre (Shepparton TEC) is an initiative of Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE and Secondary Schools within Shepparton and the wider Hume Educational region of Victoria.

The Shepparton TEC commenced operation in February 2008 with over 70 senior secondary student enrolments. The enrolments for first year in 2009 have now doubled to 150 students, while many of the 2008 first year cohorts have returned to complete their second year of training. A number of the first years have been successful in gaining local apprenticeships.

The TEC is a direct response to the national skills shortage in traditional trades and the need of local and regional industries and businesses for skilled employees. The TEC focuses on giving Years 10, 11 and 12 student's job-ready skills in trades as well as developing young people's employability skills, through dedicated face to face teaching programs along with genuine workplace training that allows them to fast-track their way to their trade qualifications and the potential to commence a trade career sooner.

The TEC programs are geared towards identifying and working with the regions trades and industries to overcome their critical skills shortages. Businesses are sourced and approached to consider taking students for Structured Work Placements in one week blocks, undertaken during the student's term holidays. Five weeks of Structured Work Placement training is the goal for each student per year.

The VET courses on offer include national qualifications recognised by the AQF and VCAA at the Certificate II and, where appropriate, Certificate III levels in

- Automotive
- Building & Construction
- Cookery
- Engineering
- Electrical
- Furnishing
- Hair Dressing and
- Plumbing

In 2009 we have expanded our programs to include

- Agriculture
- CISCO (AQF level III)
- Horticulture and
- Surveying

TEC students undertake their training at the GOTAFE trade facilities for one full day per week over 35 weeks and attend their local school for the other days. Over the two years of each program each student completes a full certificate II qualification.

Establishment:

Following extensive consultation the Greater Shepparton schools and Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE have established a partnership to deliver VET courses as part of either the VCE or VCAL. The key principle that underpins the future delivery of VET is that VET and vocational pathways will have parity of esteem with the VCE and academic pathways in the Hume region.

In December 2008, the Regional Director, Hume Region, Stephen Brown and the Chief Executive Officer of Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE, Peter Ryan, reached agreement on a number of fundamental principles and arrangements to support the delivery of Vocational Education and Training (VET), generally, and trade training, specifically, in the later years of schooling.

Shared enrolments with the local schools:

A significant feature of the Shepparton TEC is the shared enrolment model, developed and implemented over 2008 for 2009 and beyond. This joint enrolment model (agreement) has been an integral component to the development of the TEC. It works on the principle that schools will enroll their students for 0.8 EFT for census purposes, while GOTAFE enrolls them for the remaining 0.2EFT.

Much discussion was undertaken from late 2007 and throughout 2008 to embed this agreement with the local Shepparton schools, through the auspices of the Hume Educational region. For 2008 and 2009 the agreement has also been agreed to by two of non-government schools as well.

A formal Heads of Agreement regarding the shared enrolment model was signed on behalf of the Hume Region of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development by the Regional Director Stephen Brown and the CEO of Goulburn Ovens TAFE, Peter Ryan in December 2008.

A summary of the objectives of the agreement

1. To clearly define and expand VET pathways and the depth of VET provision for secondary students.

2. To prepare and fast track young people for skilled vocations, particularly in industries and industry sectors adversely affected by skill shortages.
3. To develop Shepparton as a world class educational precinct characterised by clearly defined pathways and a wide range of course options for secondary students (including VET).
4. To ensure all VET in the Shepparton educational precinct is of the highest quality and fully meets the standards of the AQTF 2007.
5. To support economic and industry development in the community.

A summary of the commitments embedded in the agreement

1. The Shepparton schools, Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (Hume Region) will establish a representative committee to manage the TEC and VET delivery to Shepparton schools.
2. A common handbook or course guide will be developed by the Shepparton schools and Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE and this handbook will give equal status to both VET and academic pathways in 2009 for 2010.
3. Common course counseling procedures will be developed by the Shepparton schools and Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE. Representatives from Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE will be invited to speak at information evenings and open days at all Shepparton schools for students selecting courses for Years 10-12.
4. For enrolment purposes in a shared delivery of courses at years 10-12 (and to meet the audit requirements of Skills Victoria and the school census for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development), Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE and Greater Shepparton schools are jointly responsible for ensuring that each students enrolment matches the responsibility of providers for delivery of discrete components within a students course. Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE will enrol each student for the required number of hours for a specific AQF Certificate II or III course. Schools will ascertain what percentage of time in a 1500 minute or 25 hour week a student will attend school for tuition and convert this to an EFT percentage per student.
5. The Greater Shepparton schools, Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (Hume

- region) will establish a Management Committee in 2009. Representatives will include the Principal (or nominee) of each school, the General Manager of VET at Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE (or nominee) and the Regional Network Leaders (Hume region) responsible for the Greater Shepparton schools.
6. Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE acting in concert with Greater Shepparton secondary schools, will establish an Industry Reference Group in 2009 to provide strategic advice to the management committee in relation to future VET delivery. This reference group will be chaired by an industry leader, will include industry spokespersons from a broad range of industries and the Economic Development Officer (or nominee) of the City of Greater Shepparton, as well as members of the Management Committee (as nominated).
 7. Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE will work with and support the Shepparton schools to develop specialisms in VET (as agreed by the schools collectively) in areas other than the traditional trades, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Science and Equine.
 8. Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE will provide support for Shepparton schools to develop expertise to deliver preparatory courses in the traditional trades in Years 7-9 and to deliver VET courses at Years 10-12 (excluding the traditional trades, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Science and Equine). Support will include general course advice, advice for the development of facilities and purchase of specialised equipment, consistency and/or compliance with AQF and AQTF requirements, professional development and consideration of joint teaching appointments.

This summarises the Shepparton TEC initiative.