



**Glenelg & Southern Grampians
Local Learning & Employment Network Inc.**
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House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Education and Training
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



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**INQUIRY INTO COMBINING SCHOOL & WORK: SUPPORTING SUCCESSFUL
YOUTH TRANSITIONS**

The Glenelg and Southern Grampians Local Learning Employment Network Inc (GSG LLEN) is a not-for-profit, community managed organisation funded through the Victorian Government Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Our role is to develop and facilitate partnerships and relationships through the community to better assist young people 15 to 19 years of age to achieve a Year 12 or equivalent education standard, the issue of combining school and work plays a major part in our activities.

In December 2008 the GSG LLEN conducted a small focus group to provide input to develop this response. Stakeholders in the focus group represented entities such as LLEN, Careers Advise Australia, schools, job network agents, group training companies, industry and employers, TAFE providers. The following dot-points are a summary of the themes and issues the focus group wished to highlight to the Standing Committee.

- Students/schools to provide better document to industry placement highlighting current skill and experience level of student. Employer can then add to document post placement
- Schools/Students need to allow time for better research on work placement requirements, rights and responsibilities of all partners
- Schools claim that it is difficult to justify more than one day per week for students to attend work related activities under current learning requirements
- Regional and rural communities have additional challenges in terms of access to work places often limited by transport access, timing and pre driver license age.
- Schools need to be more flexible when it comes to student/work placements
- Work placements need to be better integrated into curriculum and student learning
- Young people seem to have challenges with attitude in the work place and heightened perceptions of their worth to employers in real terms
- Some industry sectors not suitable for Work Experience, rather better suited to School Based Apprenticeships and Australian Technical College type set-up. Some sectors see Work Experience as 'soft option, tick and flick'
- Industry highlighted that that work ethic is most important aspect to them, how is this being addressed in schools?

- Greater emphasis by schools on work place learning, therefore support from Government to implement this cultural change
- Generic/common check-sheet for industry to acknowledge students competencies also assist to attain credits for RPL through their workplace involvement
- Too many options/titles/initiatives is confusing for industry, parents and community
- Need more consistency in approach in community for the differing school to work initiatives. A more centralised system
- Greater need for industry mentors
- Tax incentives to businesses who engage in broad range of student/school initiatives such as mentoring, work placements, tours etc
- Greater need for flexibility in education provision through providers other than schools eg TAFE, ACE, RTO's
- Need for greater understanding of current initiatives by parents and primary care givers
- Need for additional support to rural and regional young people to allow them to transition successfully from education to work
- Need for amendment to the Youth Allowance scheme to enable students to continue with their education and not block places in the workforce for the next cohort coming through
- Greater need for additional funding (to schools, TAFE, employers, students, families) to offset barriers experienced by rural and regional youth, families, employers and education providers.

Through our Chairperson and Committee of Management I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Education and Training for the opportunity to make this submission for this very important and challenging issue of youth transitions.

For any clarification or additional information please contact me directly.

Yours faithfully



Michael Date
Executive
Officer