



Submission.

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Inquiry into combining school and work supporting successful youth transition.

In today's world, providing secondary school students opportunities to link their education pathway to a Career or a future Work pathway is the key to having a strong well educated and trained workforce.

In my position as Programme Coordinator with Career Links a Local Community Partner (LCP) in the New South Wales Regions of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie (LCP Service Regions 27 & 28) I have facilitated and coordinated numerous very successful Transition to Work programmes and projects specifically designed to help give secondary school students the knowledge, awareness of options and choices that will align school subject choices to future work opportunities.

Projects such as,

Try a trade events

Over 1000 students, parents and teachers engage with industry and employers in hands on trade based activities specifically designed to showcase pathway into the workforce.

Career Advisor – Industry awareness Days.

Student – Industry awareness Events.

Information Vocational Educational Training sessions for Parents, Employers ,Career Advisors

Partnership Initiative Programme for Schools, TAFE, RTO, Schools, etc.

Transition school to Work Programmes – SBAT's

This programme encompasses a transition to work program that enables students in many framework skills shortage areas such as Engineering, Construction, Hospitality, Retail, Automotive, Accounting, Health, Local Government, Graphic Design, Aeroskills, etc to combine an educational and trade pathway through Vocational Education Training.

Through a School Based Traineeship or apprenticeship, students (SBAT'S) can gain their Higher School Certificate and at the same time through engaging with industry, link into a trade and university pathway whilst attending school.

The outcomes for school retention, through such initiatives' has been very successful. The outcomes for student going into skill shortage trade areas after completing secondary schooling through the SBAT programme has also been outstanding .

In the Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Hunter regions of N.S.W. the Department of Education has reported that over 40% of all trainee's engaged in the SBAT programme attend secondary schools in these regions.

Over the past three years Career Links (LCP) has coordinated and mentored over 300 students in this area. Data suggests that over 86% of students involved in this programme are staying on at school to the end of year 12 and then continue into full time apprenticeships

Under the Careers and Transition (CAA) Banner the outcomes in this EDUCATIONAL area have been nothing short of fantastic.

However the Department of Education in N.S.W. after indicating a funding rise of between 30 and 40% for the programme has now decided to cut funding and has handed all enquires back to the schools.

Industry, school, Parent bodies, RTO's and all relevant stakeholders are happy with how the LCP (in this case Career Links) has been delivering this service. In my roll of Programme Coordinator I engage with students, parents, employers, Career Advisors, RTO reps, State training Services in all aspects of the SBAT process and I am also the support mentor for the student when outside of the school environment.

Information provided below is a direct quote from email sent to me by Mr. Stuart Gordon Regional Manager, Hunter - **Australian Industry Group**.

"My observations are that LCP's have:

- been critical in building networks with industry, promoting SBAT's and linking young people with employers (the uptake in SBAT numbers in the Hunter speak for themselves);
- managed the administration to make SBAT's happen (employers highly value this as they don't have the time or expertise to do it); and
- cutting LCP funding (which is minimal as it is) just doesn't make sense and I doubt the Schools have the capacity pick up the gap that will be created by funding cuts.
- SBAT's are a great way to get young people to consider pursuing a vocational education / technical career option pathway in a time of significant skills shortage problems."

The SBAT Programme outlined above combines a flexible approach to completing high school through providing

a healthy balance of work and school engagement.

Work supported initiatives that deliver successful youth transitional outcomes for students .

Such programmes address the educational and trade skill shortage problems confronting our nation.

The SBAT Programme delivers outcomes for a smarter and well trained workforce for the future.

Funding for such programmes should be increased and made a Federal Government Priority.

May I final state that through the hard work of my colleagues' at Career Links (LCP) and with the support of the local community the SBAT programme has been a great success. PLEASE GIVE US MORE FUNDING TO CONTINUE OUR WORK.

Case Study



Luke, successfully completed both his School Based Traineeship and Higher School Certificate in 2005 went on to complete his apprenticeship in 2008 and is now looking to continue his study pathway into university.

Luke is just one example of over 400 students in the New South Wales, Hunter Region engaged in a combined school to work transition programme.

However as stated earlier the New South Wales Department of Education is whinging down this great program.

DOES NOT MAKE SENSE.

***Numerous industry partners are currently employing SBAT'S.
Eg. Onesteel, Bucyrus, Toyota Australia, McDonalds,
Woolworths, Ford Australia, Eraring Power, UGM
Engineering, Master Builders Association. JUST TO NAME A
FEW***

Budget threat to training

By ALISON BRANLEY

A PROGRAM that helps young Hunter students start apprenticeships while they are still at school is facing funding cuts despite its growing popularity in recent years.

The operators of School-Based Apprenticeship and Traineeships have been told they could lose as much as half their government funding.

As well, schools will be given a larger role in developing training, sourcing employers and mentoring students.

But the NSW Education Department says services are not being cut and it is simply considering changes to how the program operates in the Hunter and Central Coast regions.

More than 400 year 11 and 12 Hunter students are involved in the program, which is run by Career Links in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie and Hunter Valley Youth Express in Maitland.

The NSW Teachers Federation said the changes to the \$140,000 program were an excuse for a funding cut by the cash-strapped Government and would put a greater burden on schools.

"Teachers are very time-poor. Careers advisers spend nearly all their time doing those things already," Teachers Federation Hunter organiser Fred Dumbrell said.

Hunter Valley Youth



WORRIED: Fred Dumbrell says teachers are short of time.

Express program manager Julie Eldridge said the number of students doing school-based apprenticeships and traineeships was likely to fall after 2009 because of the changes.

The program allows students to work one day a week in their chosen field while completing the HSC.

Career Links program coordinator Kerrie Parkinson said students could start work in traditional trades such as plumbing and hairdressing or more modern careers such as property services and retail.

"There's more and more interest year after year from parents, students and employers," she said.

An Education Department spokesman said some schools could take over aspects of the program but a majority of the work would stay with Career Links and Youth Express and changes were still under discussion.



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Try a Trade pics



