

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

- ✦ Culture change needed regarding VET
 - There is a need to promote VET as career desirable directions, including:
 - A career pathway- including pathway to University
 - A more than acceptable career in itself
 - Acceptance that non-academic doesn't mean "non – worthwhile"
 - Perhaps not using the term "higher education" because of the connotations that it is superior.

- ✦ There is a perception that a Certificate II completed through VET in schools disadvantages employers when taking on employees because they are unable to receive Apprenticeship/Traineeship incentives
 - Needs some clear lines regarding incentives etc
 - This is not always the case it seems

- ✦ VET is now able to be done both on and off job or as a combination. As a result the same Certificate can mean different things eg: Cert II all done off job is the same as one issued for a Certificate II Traineeship.

- ✦ Training Packages
 - Generic competencies aren't as generic and vary in time and content between packages- reduces "transferability" of Units of Competencies
 - Variations in "nominal hours" for qualifications at the same level in different Training Packages.
 - Certificate level not a true indication of actual level, for example AQTF, when compared to school year and to higher education

- ✦ VET in schools needs to be given resources equal to the outcomes produced. VET in schools is responsible for 9.1 % of all VET delivered through out Australia but only 0.06 % of the funding for VET is allocated to VET in schools

- ✦ Allowing Federal programs such as "Work for the Dole" and "Mutual Obligation" to continue for participants when they re-enroll in school, particularly VET in Schools. This could include School Based Traineeships.

- ✦ Some changes in "duty of care" to allow a shift of responsibility (as long as "risk management" is undertaken) to RTO's, Group Training Companies and employers. This applies particularly to delivery by Registered Training Organisations and to School Based Traineeships

- ✦ Encouraging, and making it easier for communities to develop local solutions. There is a need for a large change in the ways communities are accountable for the funding/resources provided, perhaps more input from the communities on how they see they should be accountable.

- ✦ Develop ways of getting State and Federal organizations working better together, complementing not competing, and encouraging the Vet sectors to better use these resources. This could include:
 - Incentives to encourage better collaboration between education, training and higher education sectors
 - Better use of resources
 - Better career path articulation

- ✦ Enterprise needs to be encouraged and valued.
 - Separate it from entrepreneurs as they tend to have a “bad name”
 - VET should include job creation skills and self employment skills
 - Need massive culture change in the education and training sectors towards enterprise and particularly the pedagogy to facilitate the development of “enterprise attributes”
 - Professional Development and Teacher in Industry Placements for staff

- ✦ Lessen the influence of Universities on content and pedagogy. Each system (TAFE and Higher Education) to have their own selection process based on what the school system “produces” (may be more applicable in some other states than others) and what schools deliver is driven by better preparing students for life.

- ✦ More flexibility in schools, TAFE’s and Universities through the provision of a variety of “centres” including community, work based, recreation based and e-community throughout the regions, a network of community learning “centres”.

- ✦ Career education is vital.
 - Ensure the correct and up to date information is available **and delivered** to school students throughout their school life (and community members when they require it).
 - Information provided is more about “careers” and “career paths” than industry areas
 - Encourage (strongly?) schools, TAFE’s and Universities to link with community agencies (especially Federal and State Government funded ones).

- ✦ VET in schools need an “effective” staffing level of 1.5 FTE for bonafide VET students. Currently in WA it is 1.1 so any move towards this would welcome. It may be done in a variety of ways such extra staff, sharing staff, different delivery modes.