

BANYULE / NILLUMBIK LOCAL LEARNING & EMPLOYMENT NETWORK

Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 12th

5.00 to 6.00 PM

The Ivanhoe Centre

1. WELCOME

- a) **Attendance:** Cheryle Michael (Deputy / Acting Chair), Kate Rhodes (EO), Stephen Smith, Stephen Brackenridge, Julie Johnston, Darrell Caulley, Cheryle Michael, Marie McNeil, John Nicholls, Lindsay Round, Stephen Fiyalko, Ian Roberts, Jackie Massa(visitor)
- b) **Apologies:** Gerry Fogarty, Eleanor King, Trevor Jenkins, Jacinta Feeley,
- c) **Welcome to Ian Roberts and Jackie Massa**
Cheryle welcomed everyone on behalf of Gerry who was unable to attend the meeting. Board members introduced themselves to Ian Roberts, the Associate Director of the Faculty of Building and Construction at the West Heidelberg campus of NMIT, who was attending for the first time as the new TAFE representative replacing Vic Harris.

The Board also welcomed Jackie Massa, a year 12 student at Montmorency Secondary College connected to the DART program with the City of Banyule. Jackie was attending as a guest to learn about the BNLLN and how the LLEN might link with young people.

The Board formally said farewell to John Nicholls who was retiring as a Board member under the school sector. John has been involved with the BNLLN since its inception and has been not only an active Board member but actively involved with a range of BNLLN activities. In particular John has been passionate about School based Apprenticeship Program and was the Chair of the Steering Committee for the SBNA Support Program when Sharon Wright was working as the coordinator, a program that unfortunately is no longer funded. John said that this program was a highlight of his work at Parade College. John is keen to stay involved with the BNLLN and to continue working on local projects.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) **Minutes of previous meeting – Monday, February 13th confirmed**

Moved: John Nichols
Second: Stephen Smith

It was suggested that in future it would be more appropriate to move the “Declaration of conflict of interest” item on the agenda to the start. The Board agreed to this suggestion.

- b) **Matters arising not dealt with separately on the Agenda**
Nil
- c) **Declaration of conflict of interest**
Nil

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Kate noted the correspondence sent out to the DEECD with the revised 2007 Annual Report. The Annual Report was revised slightly to include more explanations for the decrease and

increase of VET and VCAL enrolments at the request of the DEECD Senior Project Officer. A copy of the revised version will be sent out to the Board.

A request for the enrolment data for 2007 recorded as correspondence in was made by Stephen Fiyalko. It was agreed that if possible the data would be provided. Cheryle spoke about additional local government data that might be useful to Board members. Cheryle will provide the Board with the link to this data.

Moved: Darrel Caulley
Second: Julie Johnston

4. BUSINESS ARISING

a) Youth Guarantee Option

It was noted that the Youth Guarantee Option that has been discussed by the Board is an agenda item for the LLEN Chair Statewide meeting on April 11th. Julie said that after a conversation with the ACFE Regional Director she felt it would be better to wait for this meeting before sending out a letter to the Minister about the issue from our LLEN.

The Board agreed that it was difficult for ACE providers to implement the youth guarantee option when the funds were received retrospectively and when it was unclear how the exact amount of funding was calculated. It was also noted that now that ACFE was a part of the Department of Partnerships and Community Development it has become more difficult for the regional ACFE Boards to work with the local ACE providers.

Ian provided a TAFE perspective commenting that funding was less difficult for TAFE providers as they were far larger and could wear the costs, but that the policy was still flawed as the TAFEs they did not necessarily have the facilities and staff to guarantee the places the young people desired. He said that OTTE argued that the TAFEs should provide multi purpose facilities that could cater to a number of different courses, but he felt that this would degrade the quality of the programs. He said for example there were over three extra classes for students interested in carpentry and plumbing but there still were 100 apprenticeships on the waiting list. This is complicated by the fact that the construction industry had peaks and troughs hence there was no guarantee that the demand would continue and that enlarging the facilities would solve the problem.

The Board agreed that the issues regarding their concerns with the Youth Guarantee Option need to be presented to Gerry for him to present on their behalf at the Chair's meeting.

b) Youth Project

Stephen Brackenridge suggested that he and Jackie both speak at the April meeting which will be a longer meeting with the new Board. They want to look at how the BNLEN might support a youth project and how existing BNLEN activities could link to the DART program.

5. REPORTS

a) Finance Report

Stephen spoke to the report, tabled.

Moved: Stephen Smith
Second: Stephen Brackenridge

b) Staff report

Kate tabled the staff report and highlighted the VET Awards which were extremely successful with awards for 60 students across the Region. John Nicholls said that the process seemed a lot smoother this year with the photography taking place outside the auditorium. It was suggested that the winners only needed to be invited as some parents whose children were

nominated came expecting an award. (This suggestion has been considered and agreed to by the VET Awards working party for the next Awards night.)

6. OTHER BUSINESS

a) LLEN EO Statewide Briefing

Kate spoke to the summary of the Briefing, tabled where the EOs were informed about initiatives and policy issues by the managers from the various departments in the DEECD, DIRD, and the DPCD.

It was noted by Stephen Fiyalko that there was nothing specific about employment in any of the presentations provided to the EOs. The information focused on education and training yet LLENs are meant to also work with industry and to increase local youth employment. The Board agreed that this is an issue as youth unemployment is not improving and it is important that LLENs take a leadership role. Kate agreed to talk to Stephen about this issue in more detail and for the discussion to continue at the April meeting.

Meeting closed: 6.00 PM – followed by the 2008 AGM

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 9th
Breakfast meeting – 7.30 – 8.45
Diamond Valley Learning Centre