

# BANYULE / NILLUMBIK LOCAL LEARNING & EMPLOYMENT NETWORK

## Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>

7:15 am – 8:45am

Diamond Valley Learning Centre

### 1. WELCOME

- a) **Attendance:** Gerry Fogarty (Chair), Kate Rhodes (EO), Cheryle Michael, Eleanor King, Marie McNeil, Stephen Brackenridge, Stephen Smith, Julie Johnston, Lindsay Round, Jackie Doyle and Sue Gordon
- b) **Apologies:** Susan Lees, Jacinta Feeley, Stephen Fiyalko, Chris Spindler, Trevor Jenkins, Ian Harrop, Ian Roberts, Darrel Caulley, Pam Wheatley
- c) **Welcome:** Gerry welcomed Sue Gordon the School Improvement Officer – Later Years from the Northern Metropolitan Region who was attending the meeting as an invited guest to answer any questions related to her role. While the Region is not represented on the Board as it would be difficult for Sue to attend all three LLEN Board meetings, she is keen to keep in regular contact with the Board and for the Region to work closely with all the LLENs and LCPs in their planning.

Gerry also welcomed back Julie Johnston who recently returned from her honeymoon in the Blue Mountains and congratulated Stephen Brackenridge for receiving the Youth Volunteer Award from the City of Banyule. Stephen's work with DART as well as being the youth representative on the Board contributed to his being nominated for the Award.

### 2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) **Declaration of conflict of interest - Nil**
- b) **Minutes of previous meeting – Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> confirmed**
- Moved:** Cheryle Michael  
**Second:** Gerry Fogarty

### 3. CORRESPONDENCE

Tabled

**Moved:** Cheryle Michael  
**Second:** Stephen Brackenridge

### 4. BUSINESS ARISING

#### a) Meeting times

The Board discussed and approved moving the meeting times on the Monday afternoons to a breakfast meeting (excluding the December Christmas Party meeting) as these have a far higher attendance. Julie said the Diamond Valley Learning Centre would be happy to continue to host the meetings. The three new dates will be:

- Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>

- Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

**ACTION:** Kate to send the Board the new agreed dates

**b) Board speakers**

Gerry explained at the May meeting it was suggested that we organise someone to speak to the Board about the Greensborough Project. They suggested Scott Walter the Director of City Development. There was a suggestion that he focus on the range of employment opportunities that could result from the development. It was noted that the contractor for the project was being encouraged to not only employ local apprenticeships but to use local industries. It was agreed that inviting someone would also inform them about the work of the LLEN.

Kate suggested that it would be a good idea to invite our two contract managers, Jeldai King from DEEWR and Teresa Durka who has replaced Jenni King as the State manager from the Youth Transitions Branch. As the State and the Federal representatives are working closely together to look at the two programs and how they interrelate, it was agreed that they could be invited to both speak at the same meeting.

Kate also noted that at the staff planning day it was suggested that various staff members speak to the Board and she suggested that Ross might want to speak about the Career Advice Australia evaluation being undertaken by DEEWR.

**ACTION:** The Board agreed with all three suggestions. Kate to follow up and organise speakers for the next three meetings.

**c) NMR update – Sue Gordon**

Gerry introduced Sue who reiterated the importance of strong links between the LLENs and the Region. This is part of our LLEN contract with the State Government.

Sue reported that there has been considerable policy implementation federally which has influenced discussions at the regional level. This has at times been difficult for schools because some of the Federal initiatives have been rushed. She spoke about the expressions of interest for the Trade Training Centres. In Victoria most of the regional directors are not ready to make decisions regarding the Centres before they had done their regional planning. Hence many of the expressions of interest for Centres were not endorsed. Schools and clusters of schools can still submit directly to Canberra, but it appears the decisions will be made through the Regions. Sue reported that two expressions of interest for Trade Training Centres in the Region were approved.

- The Victorian School of Business and Industry – a new entity that will be linked to Coburg Senior SC with campuses in the other 8 regions
- Ntec linked to Northlands SC

There was considerable discussion regarding the Trade Centres. They need to be delivering Certificate II or higher, be innovative and strong links to industry are crucial. It was noted that with the explosion of VET in schools that there is a concern that schools will not have the resources to cope with related issues such as cost and insurance. It was agreed that the need for an overall provisional plan was crucial.

## 5. REPORTS

**a) Finance Report**

Stephen tabled and reported on both the April and May reports. For both months the finances are on target with the indicative budget with the percentages of overall spending appropriate for the time of year: 43% of spending for the LLEN and 36% of spending for the LCP.

It was noted that as yet there has been no additional money received resulting from the letter sent out to schools concerning students who had been in the Nillumbik Community VCAL program last year

**Moved:** Stephen Smith  
**Second:** Stephen Brackenridge

**b) Employment Steering Group**

The Employment Steering Group met and discussed focusing the proposed project on the employers' perspective. The aim of the project is to involve 5 employers to work with five young people and manage them into sustainable apprenticeship employment. Ian Roberts has offered NMIT as a meeting venue for an initial meeting of employers. The project is about working closely with the young people to ensure they don't drop out of the apprenticeship. The focus will be on skill shortages in manufacturing and engineering. Kate will send around the notes from the meeting to the Board.

**c) Strategic Directions Standing Committee**

Minutes of the meeting were tabled.

**d) Staff report**

Kate highlighted the following aspects of the report:

- Disability Network
- VICTEC Planning Day
- Working Community Project

Kate noted that she was singling out aspects of the Staff Report that exemplified activities that were moving towards the LLEN playing a more strategic role in bringing about sustainable change. The Disability Network, initiated by the BNLLLEN, aims to hand over the transitional component to the National Disability Coordination Officer (NDCO) a federally funded program being managed by the Inner Melbourne VET Cluster. The three LLENs have met with the NDCO Project Officer and the intention is for the NDCO to drive the project. They are also developing an advisory group that includes senior representation from the NMR and DHS to have input on policy related to disability and the BNLLLEN is continuing to work closely at the local level with the schools and the NMIT Work Education Unit.

Ross Patterson has been invited to be part of a VICTEC Planning Day as the LCP Manager. This is an opportunity to have input into the organisation's planning and future policy direction. VICTEC is a RTO in electrical, sport and recreation, IT and other areas and is accessed by many of the schools in the BNLLLEN.

Kate also thanked Cheryle and Frances Gianinotti from the City of Banyule who responded to the Working Community request for support for one of their projects. The Council is offering a group of students from Eltham High who are planning a rock concert funds up to \$750 to pay for the required security. This is an excellent example of how the Board can have direct into various activities facilitated by the LLEN.

There was some discussion about concerns regarding the VET Cluster and the increased fees for 2009 membership. Diamond Valley Learning Centre is presently part of the Cluster but with the increase in membership fees, doubled for next year, they can no longer afford to be part of the cluster. There was some discussion regarding whether providers had to be part of the Cluster to access VET programs in other schools and vice versa. The Centre offers floristry to other schools in the cluster. The cluster is being financially managed by Career Connections (the other LCP). The strategic and governance issues will be managed by the principals in the Cluster.

**Moved:** Stephen Brackenridge  
**Second:** Cheryle Michael

## 6. OTHER BUSINESS

### a) Vision / Purpose statements – LLEN / LCP

The comparison of the LCP and the LLEN vision and mission statements was tabled and the Board agreed that this should be on the agenda for the next Board meeting. Sue Gordon noted that the Northern Region Network that includes the Region and all the Chairs and EOs of the three LLENs has also developed a “Strategic Intent” that again fits with the Purpose tabled of the BNLEN. Kate will send this “Statement of Purpose” to the Board members. Sue thanked the Board and the BNLEN staff for all the support she had received for her work in the Region.

**ACTION:** Kate to send the Board the “Statement of Intent’ developed by the Northern Region Network

Kate to agenda a discussion of the Vision / Purpose statements for the July meeting

Kate to send the overheads from the CAA evaluation to the Board once they are available.

### e) Skill Reform

Julie suggested that the Board discuss the Skill Reform paper sent out to providers regarding the delivery of VET. There was concern from the Centre from an ACE perspective that the paper did not acknowledge ACE, only looking at TAFE provision. The schools represented were not aware of the paper and the LLEN had not been informed. Though the deadline for responding had passed it was suggested that the Board be made aware of the document and that it be discussed at the next meeting. Julie will provide Board members with a link to the document and will lead a discussion at the next meeting.

**Meeting closed:** 8:45 AM

**Next meeting:** Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup>  
7:15 – 8:45

Diamond Valley Learning Centre