

BANYULE / NILLUMBIK LOCAL LEARNING & EMPLOYMENT NETWORK

Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 13th

7:15 am – 8:45am

Diamond Valley Learning Centre

1. WELCOME

- a) **Attendance:** Gerry Fogarty (Chair), Kate Rhodes (EO), Susan Lees, Marie McNeil, , Stephen Smith, Julie Johnston, Lindsay Round, Jackie Doyle, Jacinta Feeley, Chris Spindler, Darrel Caulley, and Teresa Durka invited guest, DEECD, Youth Transitions Branch
- b) **Apologies:** Cheryle Michael, Eleanor King, Stephen Fiyalko, Trevor Jenkins, Stephen Brackenridge, Ian Harrop, Ian Roberts, Pam Wheatley
- c) **Welcome:** Gerry welcomed Teresa Durka from the Youth Transitions Branch of the DEECD.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) **Declaration of conflict of interest - Nil**
- b) **Minutes of previous meeting – Wednesday, July 17th confirmed**

Moved: Chris Spindler
Second: Darrel Caulley

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Moved: Julie Johnston
Second: Stephen Smith

4. BUSINESS ARISING

a) **Letter to Scott Walker re Greensborough Project**

Julie reported back on the letter sent to Scott Walker regarding the DVLC's concerns at how the Greensborough Project would service young people. As a result of the letter she has met with Scott Walker, Simon McMillan the CEO of the City of Banyule and Merrie Barker. They have had constructive conversations resulting in a submission from DVLC to the Council that addresses not only youth but broader groups such as disabled about the Plaza. The Council has been very positive regarding their consideration of youth needs, the importance of a meeting place for young people and the need for young people to have a voice in the planning. The Council has also spoken to the DVLC VCAL students who have reiterated the importance to young people of a meeting place. It was noted that it was an excellent letter supported by the BNLEN.

b) **LLEN and LCP Vision/Purpose statements**

This item will be considered as part of the Strategic Directions Standing Committee report.

c) **Consultation regarding the revised LLEN Management Framework and the KPMG Report**

Gerry provided a summary of the DEECD Forum he attended for Chair and Board members with Stephen Brackenridge and Darrel Caulley. A draft response to the KPMG Report was tabled at the meeting.

At the Forum a draft Revised LLEN Management Framework was distributed which included documents for the three year Strategic Plan, the one year Operational Plan and the Contract. She said the core of the Framework was a local plan where DEECD would no longer be setting the priorities. There were however some basic requirements by DEECD set out in the Contract. Teresa said it was up to the Board to determine the goals and how they would be implemented and that the Agreement was far more open than in previous years. The aim was to reduce the reporting requirements and allow LLENs to customise their planning through the 3 year Strategic Plan.

She also informed the Board that the Victorian Skills Commission was no longer the funding body; it was now the Youth Transitions Branch in DEECD hence the Contract is now accountable to Minister Pike. It was noted that there was no consultation regarding this change and that there had been no formal announcement. Teresa said this was decided by the Ministers but had not yet been finalised.

There was considerable discussion about the KPMG Report. The Board noted that the Report went against the original intentions of the Kirby Report that decisions came from the community rather from centrally. It was felt that the Report provided far too great an emphasis on education and there was a concern that this was accentuated now that the Contract would be with DEECD. LLENs were community organisations with a range of community stakeholders however the Report suggests we are now answerable to the Region an extension of the DEECD. It was questioned that the Region should have a higher priority than other stakeholders.

The issue of governance was also raised, noting that the Report seemed to assume that Board members did not have governance training and that they lacked knowledge of governance. It was noted that KPMG usually dealt with large corporate organisations and that they seemed to lack an understanding of NGO's.

There was also some discussion about the 15 to 19 year old target group. It was noted that there are increasingly younger people aged 12 to 14 not in school and the need to support them. It was also noted that LLENs would need increased funding to do this and that the existing funding for LLENs across the state was extremely low considering the issues and what was expected of them.

Teresa noted that the Youth Transitions Branch is listening to the feedback and they changed the original deadlines based on the feedback. She said that while the Branch endorsed the recommendations that did not mean the LLENs had to act on them; they were only suggestions for the Board to consider. But then Teresa said that some of the recommendations were requirements and that we needed to look closely at the wording related to the endorsed recommendations to find out what these requirements were and to look at the Contract. She said that the Contract was similar to the previous Contract with only a few changes. The draft Contract has not been finalised. The Board did not have access to the Contract and noted that they needed to look at it in order to provide feedback before the consultation deadline of August 29th. There was a concern that given the limited amount of time to respond to the Contract that an electronic copy had not been sent out to Boards.

ACTION: For Kate to scan the hard copy of the Contract supplied in the draft Revised LLEN Management Framework and to send it out to the Board.

d) EO Position Description Working Party

Gerry reported that the Working Party met and they have looked at the PD in line with the Management Tool provided by DEECD. They found the tool worthwhile and are re-visiting the PD and the Performance Appraisal. They will report back to the Board in September after their next meeting.

5. REPORTS

a) Finance Report

Stephen tabled the July report. We are proceeding well against the mid year indicative budget approved by the Board at the July meeting. At present we are spending about 56%.

Moved: Stephen Smith
Second: Lindsay Round

b) Strategic Directions Standing Committee

Kate spoke to the minutes from the meeting tabled. The Committee suggested three goals. The next step will be to put these into the proforma provided in the Revised LLEN Management Framework and look at strategies. Teresa offered to provide support to the Board in developing the 3 year Plan. It was agreed that the Standing Committee needed to call another meeting and then to develop a draft proforma to put to the Board for the October Board meeting. It was noted that the LLEN and LCP Vision /Purpose statements would be part of this discussion.

ACTION: For the Strategic Directions Standing Committee to call a meeting in September to develop a draft 3 year Strategic Plan.

c) Staff report

Kate highlighted selected items that the staff requested.

Disability – A number of projects are being organised linked to disability. The target group is those young people who may not have been acknowledged as having a disability hence they are overlooked and the focus is on transition. The Action Plan is working closely with the NMR to link with their provisional plan and they are developing strong links with La Trobe University.

Employment and Training Expo September 10th – Kate tabled the flyers for both Employers and young people. A number of employers have expressed interest in the program as well as training providers including NMIT the Heidelberg campus, Ntec, VICTEC and RMIT TAFE.

Pavilion – The outcomes to date are exceptional. There are 56 students enrolled and they all are actively engaged 5 days a week working with a range of community agencies with 20 more on the waiting list. A number of students have already found full time jobs and others are working part time. The teachers are working closely with Cassie Were at Employment Focus who has been doing excellent work finding the students work. The Banyule City Council has also secured their accommodation for 2009 and there are plans to look at documenting the program.

Northern Careers Expo July 24th – The Expo was a great success and an evaluation is in process. A thank you to both Councils for their sponsorship for the Expo.

Seeds of Change – Kate tabled the flyer for ‘Seeds of Change’ an artistic project being organised as an Adopt a School Project in partnership with the Greensborough Chamber of Commerce. Julie spoke about the project which is part of a submission the DVLC has put into ACFE to support learning activities during the revitalization of the Town Center. The project will involve students painting about 80 wooden flowers that will be displayed on the Main Street of Greensborough next year to brighten the area.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

a) Conflict of Interest forms

Board members completed the Conflict of Interest forms for this year as part of our LCP Contractual requirements.

Meeting closed:	9:00 AM
Next meeting:	Wednesday, September 10th 7:15 – 8:45. DVLC Jeldai King, invited guest – DEEWR LCP Representative