

BANYULE / NILLUMBIK LOCAL LEARNING & EMPLOYMENT NETWORK

Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 13th - 7.15 – 9.00

DVLC

a) WELCOME

a) **Attendance:** Gerry Fogarty (Chair), Kate Rhodes (Executive Officer), Ian Harrop, Ian Roberts, Ian Harrop, Darrel Caulley, , Stephen Brackenridge, Suzanne Crellin, Diana Murphy, Greg Williams, Marie McNeil, Steve Plant (guest speaker), Katrina McIntyre (minute taker)

b) **Apologies:** Stephen Fiyalko, Trevor Jenkins, Lindsay Round, Sue Lees, Dan Clarke

b) ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Election of Chair: Ian Roberts nominated Gerry Fogarty, seconded Stephen Brackenridge, Gerry accepted

Election of Deputy Chair: Ian Roberts nominated Ian Harrop, seconded Greg Williams, Ian Harrop accepted

Election of Treasurer: Stephen Brackenridge nominated Ian Roberts, seconded Darrel Caulley, Ian Roberts accepted

Election of Secretary: There were no nominations so the Secretary will be elected at the June meeting

c) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

a) **Declaration of conflict of interest - Nil**

b) **Minutes of previous meeting – Wednesday, March 18, 2009 confirmed**

Moved: Darrel Caulley

Second: Ian Roberts

d) CORRESPONDENCE

Kate highlighted the following items:

- Thank you letter from Parade College for our support for their application for federal government funding to establish a Trade Training Centre (TTC). Parade was funded as a single school for a TTC in the building trades.
- Thank you letter from Hon Jacinta Allen (MP) for our contribution to the Ministerial consultations on ACE
- Letter from DEECD regarding the LLEN 2008 Annual Reports. Edmund Mission, General Manager, Youth Transitions Branch thanked BNLLLEN for their contribution specifically noting the Employers and Pathways Forum in West Heidelberg, and the work being done to assist young people with a disability.
- Letter from DEEWR discussing the changes to the Government's youth, career and transitions program, related to future LCP funding
- Letter from BNLLLEN to Parade College supporting their application for further TTC funding in plumbing

Moved: Stephen Brackenridge

Second: Ian Harrop

e) FAREWELLS

Farewell was said to Stephen Brackenridge who has resigned from the Board. Stephen was thanked for all his effort and contribution as the youth representative, a role he took very seriously. Stephen said that he still wants to be involved with the BNLLN and will pass on any useful information that may be of interest to the Board.

f) BUSINESS ARISING

a) Educate and Connect Disability Project – Steve Plant

Steve explained that 12 months ago he started focusing on the issue of disability in schools as these students were at high risk of disengagement. He began by developing a school network and a network of disability groups to support practitioners in sharing their experiences, strategies and information. This gave the BNLLN an opportunity to find out what the issues were and how we can support the practitioners and the young people. Overall, the school network seems to have been more productive than the agency network, as the agencies tend to take a more regional approach.

A major issue in schools is working with the large number of students with 'hidden' disabilities, such as dyslexia, Aspergers, and hearing impairments, which are difficult to diagnose and most often do not fit under the government's 'definition' of disability which provides financial assistance. Steve noted that this definition of 'disability' under the Education Act is limited; hence many young people are not diagnosed even though they have a learning or other 'hidden' disability. There is also no evidence of their disability as they don't fit into the definition. Hence a different approach is needed at a policy level where the diagnosis is based on the behaviour of the young person.

In NSW, the State Government has pushed for a change in the Education Act to include students who were obviously struggling with their learning to be given assistance, regardless of whether they were actually diagnosed with a disability.

Steve also discussed the issue of transition into further study or employment for young people with a disability. The training and qualifications of the professionals working with young people with a disability is quite varied. In schools for example many of the teachers have no formal training in the disability area. He is investigating developing a guide for people new to the disability area and there is a considerable amount of information that could be consolidated. Support is needed in helping these students with their MIPs planning, in their transition from school to further study and in providing information about the agencies and special entries that may be able to support them.

Steve is working with RMIT and La Trobe University to develop a program where tertiary students with a disability work with disabled secondary students to teach them transition strategies and how to utilise assistive technologies to help them with their work. He plans to train five or six tertiary students with a disability to run a forum at a university and a TAFE setting for a total of 60 students on transition support. These tertiary students could be excellent role models for the secondary students.

He is also working with schools to increase the uptake of the assistive technologies that provide software packages that can support students with disabilities. These technologies include a variety of tools such as screen text magnifying glass, text to sound, dictation tools, etc. The aim is to provide this support in an inclusive manner so the technologies can be used by the mainstream students as well as those with a hidden disability. The strategy is to train some students as experts to train other students.

These activities resulted from of a successful submission put by the Inner Melbourne VET Cluster (IMVC), the LCP that was successful in receiving the Federal Contract for the Disability Coordination Organisation Program. The IMVC has been working closely through Steve and the Banyule Nillumbik schools. Steve would like to get the regional office and the two other

LLENs from the region involved to look at how we can implement a regional strategy for young people with a disability and influence the issue of additional support for young people with hidden disabilities at a policy level.

b) Statewide Chairs Meeting

Kate tabled two papers that are being presented at the Chairs' meeting on Friday, May 15th by Gerry. One discussed at the March meeting relates to the subject of the selection of LLEN Chairs preferably from industry rather than education. The second paper is a case study regarding the failure of the Nillumbik Community VCAL program.

g) REPORTS

a) Finance Report

Kate tabled the LCP and BNLLLEN, 2009 Indicative Budget reports and noted that at this stage we had only spent approximately one third of the budget, which at this time of the year is quite good.

Moved reports: Ian Roberts

Second reports: Ian Harrop

b) Staff Report

Kate highlighted the following items:

- The BNLLLEN's role on the Northern Melbourne VET Cluster's Advisory Committee
- The Regional Careers Expo that this year will include a regional ASbA Expo
- An update on Neighbourhood Renewal and the development of the 155 Oriol Road site
- The 'Hit the Ground Running' program for the working community students. A special thank you to Dan Clarke who organised the visit to Jet Music Studio and the BBQ lunch for all the 3 schools involved
- The Try a Trade event, on May 21st
- The African PACTs Education session on May 9th conducted by Ross to inform African refugees about transition pathways, organised in partnership with Spectrum Employment Services
- The 'Seeds of Change' Adopt a School project with the Greensborough Chamber of Commerce, the official launch is June 13th

h) OTHER BUSINESS

a) Standing Committees

Gerry explained that there are two Standing Committees; Risk Management and Strategic Directions and the roles of each committee. It is expected that each Board member is on one of these committees which meet 3-4 times per year.

ACTION: Kate to email lists of current committee members and also organize dates for their first annual meetings

b) Board Governance Training

As part of the BNLLLEN's contract with the State Government all Board members are required to assess their governance skills and be offered governance training if desired. Kate tabled a governance skills audit and will arrange training with any interested Board members. A half day training session is planned with the other LLENs and LCPs in the Northern Metropolitan Region with Deb Hull.

ACTION: Forms were handed out at the meeting, which are to be filled out by each Board member and submitted to the BNLLLEN.

c) LLEN Engagement with Business and Industry project

Kate tabled the Expression of Interest to the Youth Transitions Branch to be selected as one of the LLENs that receive support for an Engagement with Business and Industry project. The Expression of Interest is with the health industry with Austin Health and the City of Banyule as the key partners. The Board gave their approval for the Expression of Interest which would result in developing a partnership with the health industry in Banyule.

Motion: The BNLLLEN Board supports the Expression of Interest to the Youth Transitions Branch to be selected as one of the LLEN Engagement with Business and Industry Projects.

Moved: Stephen Brackenridge

Seconded: Greg Williams

d) Board Vacancies

The list of Board members and the vacancies was tabled. At this stage we have 9 Board vacancies.

e) Speakers future Board Meetings

As discussed at last meeting a timetable of Board members who will be speaking at each meeting was tabled. The next Board member to speak will be Stephen Fiyalko.

f) Conflict of Interest forms

Forms were handed out during the meeting to be completed.

Meeting closed:	9.00 am
Next meeting:	Wednesday, June 10 th 7.15 – 8.45 – breakfast provided Diamond Valley Learning Centre