

BANYULE / NILLUMBIK LOCAL LEARNING & EMPLOYMENT NETWORK

Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 15th - 7.15 – 9.00

DVLC

a) WELCOME

- a) **Attendance:** Gerry Fogarty (Chair), Kate Rhodes (Executive Officer), Ian Harrop, Suzanne Crellin, Stephen Fiyalko, Sue Lees, Greg Williams, Diana Murphy, Bronwen Heathfield (DEECD), Katrina McIntyre (minute taker)
- b) **Apologies:** Ian Roberts, Marie McNeil, Darrel Caulley, Jess Sayers, Lindsay Round, Dan Clarke
- c) **Welcome:**
Gerry welcomed Bronwen Heathfield Manager of the Youth Transition Partnerships Division who will speak to the Board about the latest developments with the State Government and the Federal National Partnerships program.

b) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- a) **Declaration of conflict of interest - Nil**
- b) **Minutes of previous meeting – Wednesday, June 10th, 2009 confirmed**
- Moved:** Greg Williams
Second: Ian Harrop

c) CORRESPONDENCE

Kate highlighted the following item:

- The BNLLN letter of support to the DVLC for their application for a facilities upgrade.

Moved:
Second:

d) BUSINESS ARISING

a) **Statewide LLEN Chairs' meeting**

Gerry spoke to the minutes of the meeting, tabled highlighting the following items:

- Discussion regarding the increase of referrals for the On Track Connect program and the recommendation from the Chairs that the program be suitably resourced and that the LLENs be allowed to continue with the program all year round to engage with and develop referral options for recently retrenched apprentices, trainees and young workers
- Discussion on strategies to increase the number of young people undertaking SBAs.
- The recommendation that all LLENs collect information on retrenchment of apprentices and trainees to assist in targeting of information
- The BNLLN paper regarding the selection of LLEN Chairs already noted at the June meeting

The issue of supporting and expanding the ASbA program was discussed. It was noted that Group Training Australia has been funded by Skills Victoria to develop a list of out of trade people and Ralph Gwynne is managing this and will be contacting the LLENs. Ralph will work as a case worker to support the out of work apprentices in finding employment. At this stage there are already approximately 3000 people on the 'Out of Trade' list.

Bronwen said a memo from the YTD had been sent out regarding the various supports for apprentices. Kate will send this memo out to the Board.

ACTION: To resend to the Board the DEECD Memo regarding support for apprentices and trainees.

b) LLEN Engagement with Industry Project

Kate provided an update on the Project. She attended a meeting with the YTD and the other LLENs involved in industry engagement projects. The project will be evaluated and documented and Kate is looking at using the funds provided by DEECD to engage one of the stakeholders to write this report. She is in the process of developing a Steering Group that will be meeting on Wednesday, July 22nd and has put together a draft Project Overview for the Group to discuss. The Board suggested that the Principal for a Day program be presented to the Steering Group members to see if any of them would be interested in being involved.

ACTION: Kate will include information about the Principal for a Day program on the agenda at the Health Engagement with Industry Steering Group meeting.

e) REPORTS

a) Finance Report

As Ian was an apology for the meeting Gerry tabled the July Finance Report. Ian has offered to provide a written report to the Board.

Moved reports: Stephen Fiyalko

Second reports: Ian Harrop

b) Strategic Directions Standing Committee

The Standing Committee minutes were tabled. There was some discussion at the meeting regarding the tendering for the future Partnership Brokers program and the desire to include Nillumbik as part of any tender. It was agreed that this was an agenda item for further discussion.

Motion Moved:

Motion Second:

c) Staff Report

Kate highlighted the following the Homelessness Project being implemented by the Banyule Nillumbik Youth Services Network (BNYSN) and Diana spoke to the Board about the Project. The BNYSN initially formed a working group to address homelessness and through the group received funding from the School Focused Youth Service to appoint a Project Officer to investigate the issue. It was an ambitious project and they worked with David McKenzie from Swinburne University who had done a survey on homelessness in the 1990s. It was a successful survey that identified the needs and demonstrated how to support young people early with their issues resulting in the Reconnect Program. David McKenzie was able to use aspects of this original survey and update it for the BNYSN project.

The Report, which is about to be published, aims to highlight what is happening regarding homelessness in Banyule and Nillumbik. This area is seen as generally a comfortable middle class area and there is a general feeling amongst government that all is ok. But the survey shows this is not the case. For example Eltham High School has the highest number of young people living independently in the State.

The survey had a very high response rate with 6500 students replying from approximately 8900 surveys distributed from 11 schools out of 17 schools surveyed. The data was similar to that collected in the original survey however presently there is a more equal distribution of male and

female homeless young people, previously it was more males. Also there is an increase of those young people at risk of homelessness in the lower years of seven and eight.

There are three definitions of homelessness explained in the Report, primary, secondary and tertiary. Diana explained that most of the homeless young people responding to the survey were secondary which involved 'couch surfing'. It was noted by Suzanne that there were also young people in the ACE sector not surveyed that had homelessness issues.

A positive resulting from the survey was the number of young people at risk or homeless who are still remaining at school even though in many cases they have to travel considerable distances. A related issue is the lack of accommodation for the homeless in the local area forcing young people to leave the area to find a place to live. Many young people are commuting from the city to Eltham High or Diamond Creek SC to stay at school.

The aim is for the Report to support lobbying for more local support. The intention is to launch the report by David McKenzie and focus on the significant issues in Banyule and Nillumbik.

g) BOARD PD – Bronwen Heathfield – Youth Transitions Partnership Division

Bronwen tabled her overheads and spoke to them. She began with a Youth Transitions Division update.

A memo has been sent out recently to the LLENs with recommendations regarding the auditing of LLENs to ensure that financial controls for LLENs are in place. This memo is a result of one of the LLENs which has had serious financial difficulties. It was noted that this issue had been discussed by the Risk Management Standing Committee and a risk management assessment is being planned.

The funding to support more structured work placements from the Federal government has gone out to the schools with a school circular. This funding is for 2009 only and will be followed by a commitment from the States to continue supporting work placements. In addition there has been funding for the 'Career On Track' pilots to support a counseling service for young people who have left school. Banyule and Nillumbik do not have one of these pilots. Bronwen also said the Community VCAL Review and the Alternative Education Review are not yet available.

Bronwen then spoke about the National Partnerships and the future on the LCP program. There are three commitments from COAG related to the previous LCP program as follows:

1. Job Compact
2. National Youth Participation requirement to earn or learn until age 17. In Victoria this means that the State Government will need to relook at the legislation which has just increased the school leaving age to 16. The requirement for a national youth participation is different from a school leaving age.
3. The National target for 90% completion of year 12 or its equivalent to 2015. In Victoria the target was for 2010 and the State is already at 88.5% however Bronwen pointed out that the National target will actually mean that Victoria will be expected to have a retention rate of over 90% by 2015.

In terms of the National Partnerships COAG has broadly agreed to four programs:

1. Maximising Engagement – this can mean a range of programs such as SWL or quality on the job training and relates to the funding that has recently gone to the schools for SWL placements
2. National Career Development – this will be funds kept by the Commonwealth for resources such as the Job Guide
3. Partnership Brokers
4. Youth Connections.

Bronwen then spoke in more detail about the Partnership Brokers (PBs) and Youth Connections. The PBs will replace the Career Advice Australia program but will be different. The new program will be a whole of community approach that focuses on brokering partnerships and building community capacity. There will be state by state negotiations regarding how the PBs actually work at the ground level. In many ways they will be similar to LLENs in Victoria but will include primary schools and will

include in partnerships with parents and families. There will also be an increased focus on career development.

The Youth Connections program unlike the PBs will have a strong emphasis on direct service delivery and will be a case management model to provide a safety net for those young people who are disengaged. This program replaces the Jobs Pathways program and the Connections program.

The Regions for the PB and the Youth Connections program will be closely aligned and it is expected that they will work together. The PBs will be totally different from LCPs and the LCP contract will no longer exist from December 31st.

There was some discussion by the Board about the boundaries for the new PBs and the Board restated their position that the new PB boundaries should align with the LLEN boundaries meaning that we would want Nillumbik in any future tender as a PB. The Board also authorized Kate to commit the BNLLLEN to obtaining professional help for the tendering process if required. It was noted that it is difficult to begin any planning before the boundaries for the new PB program were known. Bronwen said that it was expected that the details would be known by the next YTD briefing on August 6th and that the Chair and a Board member would be invited to attend this briefing. Kate will send the memo with this information out to the Board. The Youth Connections program was also discussed and the Board recommended that the BNLLLEN not tender for this program.

ACTIONS:

That a Strategic Directions Standing Committee meeting will be called once the boundaries and details regarding the new PB program are known.

That the Memo advising Board members about the briefing be sent out once received.

h) OTHER BUSINESS

a) Mid year report

Kate informed the Board that the Mid Year Report to DEEWR for the LCP program was due and would be sent out to the Board by the end of the week before submitting it to DEEWR. The mid year report for the BNLLLEN is due the 31st of July. As this is before the August Board meeting again a draft will be sent out to the Board for comments before it is submitted to the YTD.

Meeting closed: 9.00 am

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 10th
7.15 – 8.45 – breakfast provided
Diamond Valley Learning Centre