

VET POST COMPULSORY SUBMISSION RESPONSE**DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICES****CAIRNS**

Submission Collaboratively put together from Catholic Secondary Schools in Cairns.
These schools are:

- 1 St Mary's College
- 2 St Augustine's College
- 3 St Monica's College
- 4 Good Counsel, Innisfail
- 5 Mount St Bernard's, Ravenshoe

Written by: Kim Gubiani, Deputy Principal, St Mary's College.

ISSUE:

The place of vocational education in schools, its growth and development, and its effectiveness in preparing students for post-school options, with particular reference to.

Collaboratively across the Catholic Secondary College's in the Cairns District we believe there is a place for Vocational Education in schools. It is an effective pathway for students and will continue to grow as more students dually complete their academic schooling and a vocational schooling in the future. It is effective in preparing students for post-school options as it provides not only life long learning skills but also solid work place skills and work ethics. It is also effective for students as they grow in confidence not only within themselves but also because they are achieving success in the workforce. It offers students a whole range of principles and values such as organisation, respect, honesty, loyalty, interpersonal skills, persistence, confidence, relationships etc. We believe that vocational education is more effective than some other program that are being offered. We would like to see it continue in schools but would encourage that there needs to be further awareness raising with the community and industry to give vocational education the credit it deserves and the recognition of the qualifications that students receive.

ISSUE:

The range, structure, resourcing and delivery of vocational education programs in schools, including teacher training and the impact of vocational education on other programs.

Collaboratively we believe that there is a diverse range of options offered to students regarding vocational education. The delivery varies and depends on the specific areas taught throughout schools. Vocational education is a very resource intense in both physical and human aspects. Vocational education should certainly be considered a part of teacher training. If anything graduate teachers should be entering schools with the Certificate IV completed. Schools will in the future look at other means of delivery which means that timetabling issues, workplace reforms etc will need to be addressed. Vocational education will definitely need to be looked at

in how it can be resourced for in the future. The offering of vocational education does impact on some traditional subjects and therefore in some schools, not all, this can have an impact on numbers. However this option is now a pathway of the future for many, many more students especially if their results and competencies are included as part of university entrance.

ISSUE:

The differences between school based and other vocational education programs and the resulting qualifications, and the pattern of industry acceptance of school based programs.

The community and industry we believe have a different perception about competencies based education depending on what training organisation has delivered the service. We think it is realistic to point out that there are some very poorly organised registered training organisations that exist today. However with the implementation of AQTF this will at least ensure some level of consistency across the board. External audits will clearly need to be a part of this process. Industry have been poor to respond to the acceptance of national training. Though it is becoming more acceptable as the increased numbers of school based traineeships have increased dramatically. This could be also a little inflated due to government assistance in this area.

ISSUE:

Vocational education in new and emerging industries.

This would be difficult because how do we really know what the new and emerging industries are? Will this new and emerging industries know about national training packages? How will these new and emerging areas be resourced within schools in both human and physical aspects? Will schools themselves have the resources to take on any new and emerging industries? What type of language is going to be used in these new and emerging industries - training package, competency, RTO? What would you suggest?

ISSUE:

The accessibility and effectiveness of vocational education for indigenous students.

The accessibility and effectiveness is fairly good for indigenous students. However this is only in certain industries. We believe vocational education for indigenous students is difficult for schools because of cultural issues. It is a difficult issue as components of vocational education administer a fair amount of responsibility onto individual students. This responsibility includes communication within the employer, attendance, punctuality, work ethics, presentation, literacy and numeracy skills etc.

Culturally until there is some value of importance shown by indigenous students then schools will continue to struggle with this issue.