

Re school based traineeships

In our town in the nine years we have lived and worked here we have not seen one Martu youth graduate from the local high school, achieve anything of merit or attend with any significant standing.

Recently our social enterprise nursery identified two “rights of passages” that these Martu youth do not have:

1. Their first job
2. Pathway to Driving

In response we opened up school based traineeships in Horticulture to them. (We provide on site Keys 4 Life and professional driver training.)

We signed up three youth. All parties except the School signed; Parents ourselves as employers, Tafe RTO and apprenticeship solutions.

The students were enrolled but not attending school much.

The school refused to sign off on the School based traineeships citing a “policy that all School based traineeships must have students attending School with 90% attendance in order to be eligible.”

We took this to Minister of Education. She eventually denied this stating it was an independent government school policy.

The school has now said ok but first must have the students do work placement with us for a Month. That’s ok but that requires them to sign off on work placement check. This check is not necessary for school based traineeships. All youth have been here a lot doing eg Youth Justice community hours already.

We now have to purchase a toilet sign etc to meet their requirements. We are doing this but expect the red tape will take the School some months to sign off on. So we will lose this year. The students will shortly be too old. We feel it may be a delay tactic.

Two papers on us have been produced by Melanie Flinestone Department of Education and training and David Peddler Prime Minister and Cabinets. They are available from them on request.

Regards  
Angela

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