

gippsland youth commitment 2009



Everyone's Responsibility



Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development



Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN
Gippsland East LLEN
South Gippsland Bass Coast LLEN



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Introduction

Working together provides greater outcomes for the region, local communities and individuals.

We, the partners of the Gippsland Youth Commitment have made significant progress in the past twelve months in improving:

- learning opportunities and education and training outcomes for all young people
- transition through school and to the next stage of a young person's life and
- the skills base that supports regional and local economic development

We have achieved most of what we set out to do in 2008. We have done this within an increasingly changing and complex environment by working collaboratively.

The continual challenge for us all is how we continue to build new partnerships and strengthen those that have already been established through the Gippsland Youth Commitment.

The projects the Gippsland Youth Commitment's partners have implemented are now starting to have a real impact on the learning opportunities for all young people in Gippsland. During 2008 over 300 young people were involved in programs that were initiated as part of the commitment. However, we still have a long way to go if we are to support each young person to successfully complete Year 12 or its equivalent and make a successful transition to the next stage of their life.

The current global financial crisis is impacting on Gippsland's economy, industry and employment which means that the Gippsland Youth Commitment now has a heightened role in supporting young people, industry, employers and communities through this period. Strong

partnerships between industry and schools will be critical if we are to equip all young people with knowledge and skills that will assist them to make a successful transition to work or further education. If we continue to work together to provide all young people with meaningful learning experiences, support individual achievement and connect all young people to future opportunity I am sure the Gippsland Youth Commitment will continue to support individual, local and regional prosperity and growth.

I thank you for your collective commitment to young people and encourage you to continue to engage with the Gippsland Youth Commitment, 'Gippsland's youth – everyone's responsibility'.

Michonne van Rees

**Regional Director - Gippsland
Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development**



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Gippsland Youth Commitment Focus Areas

Improve participation in skills training

VET / VCAL planning and provision

Improve participation in higher education

Strategies to improve VCE outcomes and reduce barriers to university and TAFE

Improve participation in Maths / Science

Strategies to encourage participation in Maths/Science

Improve Koorie participation in education

Strategies which focus on Koorie support

Improve transition support

Local communities develop agreed ways to improve transition support

Improve participation in re-engagement programs

Local communities improve provision and access arrangements

Meaningful experiences

Supporting Achievement

Connecting to opportunities

WORKING TOGETHER

YOUTH → Everyone's responsibility
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT → Everyone's gain
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Working together

Local, State and Australian Governments, industry, business, education providers and community organisations working collaboratively to improve the planning and delivery of education and training that advances both individual and regional development.

Where did we start? 2007

There is a growing sense that the needs of both young people and regional development can best be met by working together.

Industry and employers understand that by supporting community initiatives for young people they are also laying the foundations for a more skilled and adaptable Gippsland workforce.

Education providers and support agencies understand that working more closely with industry will ensure young people better understand local employment and career opportunities.

Governments at the local, state and Australian level understand they have a significant leadership role in bringing stakeholders together.

There is broad understanding that no single provider, support agency or employer can meet all the needs of an individual learner if a young person is to achieve their best.

Where do we want to be by 2010?

Schools, local government, industry, employers and community agencies working collaboratively in planning for the provision of education and training that supports regional development.

Every young person provided with education and training that supports their individual needs and prepares them for the next stage of their life.

All young people provided with experiences that increase their knowledge of local industry, employment and career opportunities.

More young people participating in education and training programs that are aligned to regional skill shortage areas.

What did we say we would do in 2008/09?

The Gippsland Youth Commitment will encourage and establish collaborative processes at several levels.



Regional leadership

At a regional management level the Youth Commitment will ensure continued high level leadership.



Regional focus areas

Regional groups will be identified for each focus area:

- improved participation in skills training
- improved participation in higher education
- improved participation in Maths/Science
- improved Koorie participation in education
- improved transition support and
- improved provision of re-engagement programs

(see diagram)



Local communities

At a local community level the Youth Commitment will ensure that local communities work together to develop agreed ways of working

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What did we achieve in 2008?

A governance structure for the Gippsland Youth Commitment has been developed and put into place.

Regional Leadership

The governance structure, headed by the Regional Management Forum, provides a formal connection between all levels of government, industry, employers and community agencies when planning for the provision of education and training that supports regional development.

Regional focus areas

The Skills Training, Maths / Science, Koorie and Transition and Re-engagement reference groups have been established.

The reference groups cover five of the six Gippsland Youth Commitment focus areas:

- improved participation in skills training
- improved participation in Maths / Science
- improved Koorie participation in education
- improved transition support and improved provision of re-engagement programs

Local communities

Communities right across Gippsland have embraced the Gippsland Youth Commitment.

Many local partnerships have collaboratively planned and developed a specific and localised response to young people's education and training needs and local economic development.

What is planned for 2009/10?

Where relevant we will establish new partnerships and further strengthen the partnerships developed in 2008. This will occur at several levels.

Regional Leadership

To ensure an integrated approach for the planning for education and training for all school students is achieved, a regional post compulsory planning group will be established.

Regional focus areas

We will establish a Higher Education Reference Group.

All reference groups will be supported and further developed to ensure their outcomes and accountabilities are developed within a local and regional context.

Local communities

We will continue to improve local planning processes by establishing:

- post compulsory planning groups in each of the six Local Government Areas in Gippsland
- Lake Tyers Education focus group
- Wellington Community Business partnership facilitated with Transfield Services

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Meaningful experiences

Inclusive provision arrangements to engage young people in learning to Year 12 or its equivalent.

Where did we start? 2007

In comparison to other areas of the state Gippsland has low rates of school retention and university entry. A high number of young people are not in any form of education, employment or training.

Percentage of young people staying on at school from Year 10 to 12

Gippsland: 72.3%, Non Metro: 73.4%
Metro 85.3% State: 81.3%

(2007 Department of Education and Early Childhood Development data)

Percentage of young people completing Year 12 who enter University

Gippsland: 31.2%, Non-metro: 33.7%,
Metro: 51.4%, State: 47%

(2007 Department of Education and Early Childhood Development data)

Percentage of young Koorie people who stay on at school from Years 7 to 12

Koorie: 44.1%, All Gippsland: 68.5%

(2007 Department of Education and Early Childhood Development data)

Early school leavers

One in ten Year 10-12 students leave school without a meaningful education, training or employment destination.

A number of schools, TAFE, ACE and community organisations offer programs that support young people to re-engage with education and training. However, these programs are not always connected to local planning.

Local communities do not always have agreed ways to work together to deal with young people at risk of dropping out.

Where do we want to be by 2010?

All secondary colleges in partnership with industry and community organisations providing a broad curriculum that supports the individual learning needs of all young people aged 15-19.

Achieve Victorian Government goals of 90% of young people successfully completing Year 12 or its equivalent.

At least 95% of young people aged 15 to 19 engaged in education, training or meaningful employment.

Increased number of young people participating in education or training programs that are linked to regional skill shortage areas.

What did we say we would do in 2008/09?

In addition to regional school strategies we will develop local partnerships. These will enhance learning experiences and programs to meet the individual learning needs of all young people.

This will be achieved by:

-  **Building Careers**
 - Colour Your Future**
 - Keys to Your Future**
 - CopyCAP** - will provide experiences for young people in regional shortage areas.
-
-  **Explore program** - a community based program in Morwell that will assist 15 young people to re-engage with education and training or enter into employment.
-
-  **YEP - Yarram Educational Partnership** will assist 40 young people to remain in, or re-engage with education and training.
-
-  **HoL - a Hands on Learning** program in Latrobe and Lakes Entrance targeted at retaining young people in school.
-
-  **VCAL for young parents** - a program to help young parents remain in education.

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What did we achieve in 2008?

Local partnerships between schools, industry and community organisation were developed or strengthened. The partnerships provided new learning opportunities, particularly in skill shortage areas, for many young people. As a result approximately 320 young people have experienced learning opportunities not previously available.

This was achieved through the following programs:

- **Building Careers** (62)
- **Colour Your Future** (17)
- **Keys to Your Future** (60)
- **CopyCAP** (100)

Explore Program (10)

YEP - Yarram Educational Partnership (43)

HoL - Hands on Learning

Planning was extended to include several clusters of schools including Lowanna College, Sale College, Yarram Secondary College, Kurnai College and Traralgon College.

VCAL for young parents

(10 parents including young fathers)

What is planned for 2009/10?

We will continue to foster new partnerships to develop new and innovative ways of engaging all young people in meaningful learning experiences.

We will work with industry to design and implement programs in locally identified skill shortage areas.

The programs will include:

- themed Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCALs)
- Trade Taster programs in local skill shortage areas
- establishing a Bairnsdale Tip Shop – Community Enterprise
- establishing a Cert II in Building and Construction in Wonthaggi

HoL - Hands on Learning will be offered to 40 young people at Lowanna College, Sale College, Yarram Secondary College, Kurnai College and Traralgon College.

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Supporting achievement

All young people provided with appropriate support that enables them to complete Year 12 or its equivalent.

Where did we start? 2007

Most students aged 15-19 have Managed Individual Pathway plans (MIPs). However, there is variation in how the plans are developed and monitored.

Where do we want to be by 2010?

All young people aged 15 to 19 to have personalised transition plans.

These plans should inform the planning and provision of education, training and support programs.

All Gippsland education and training providers work collaboratively with youth support agencies in formally tracking young people through their education, training or employment.

What did we say we would do in 2008/09?

Through local partnerships a region wide framework will be developed to ensure that all young people aged 15 to 19 are formally tracked through their education, training or employment.

This will begin by:

- establishing Community Transition Teams in Lakes Entrance, Yarram and the Latrobe Valley. The teams will develop protocols and transition arrangements for young people moving from one education/training provider to another, or to the next stage of their life



- expanding the mentoring program in South Gippsland and Bass Coast

- developing individualised transition plans for young Koorie people aged 15 to 19 years old

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What did we achieve in 2008?

The Transition and Re-engagement reference group was established. The Reference Group has representatives from secondary schools, TAFE, community agencies, education offices (State and Catholic) and other government departments (State and Commonwealth).

The reference group has commenced work on developing a regional framework to support all young people to complete Year 12 or its equivalent.

Community groups in Lakes Entrance, Yarram, Latrobe Valley and Orbost have endorsed the need to work together in developing a set of agreed principles. The principles will ensure that all young people are provided with appropriate support to successfully transition through school and to the next stage of their life.

The mentoring program was successfully implemented to include Leongatha. A total of 22 young people were mentored.

The Koorie Reference Group was established. The Reference Group has representatives from local Koorie elders, Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc, TAFEs, Juvenile Justice, community organisations, University and DEECD.

The reference group is assisting the regional Wannik Reference Group in developing an Individual Education Plan that will assist to support all young Koorie people to complete year 12 or its equivalent.

What is planned for 2009/10?

The development and trialling of appropriate transition support for all young people will be the major focus of the Transition and Re-engagement Reference Group in 2009.

We will continue to improve the transition for young people by:

- developing the regional framework for transition support for all young people
- developing best practice transition planning for young people with a disability
- trialling the regional framework for transition support in at least one Local Government Area
- further expanding the mentoring programs for young people to Korumburra, Foster and Sale
- mentoring for our Students (MFOS) - A pilot project for 60 students and 30 mentors to encourage participation in maths and science
- the Koorie Reference Group continuing to work with the Regional Wannik reference group to develop Individual Education Plans for every Koorie student in Gippsland

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Connecting to opportunity

Young people have access to successful pathways to further training or employment.

Where did we start? 2007

The "Regional Skill Shortage Survey, Gippsland", reports employers are still having difficulty in finding suitably qualified and skilled employees.

Student destination data indicates that Gippsland has:

- low numbers of young people enrolling in university
- high numbers of students using a deferral year as a financial strategy
- relatively high rates of entry into apprenticeships
- relatively large numbers of young people aged 15 to 19 not in any form of education and training

(On-Track data, 2007)

The region has declining participation in Maths/Science programs in Years 10, 11 and 12.

Where do we want to be by 2010?

More young people entering meaningful post school destinations including:

- more young people entering apprenticeships, especially in areas which address regional skill needs
- improved entry rates into higher education at university and TAFE
- improved participation in courses involving Maths/Science

Closer links between schools and industry to ensure young people are engaged with industry in exploring a wide range of career opportunities.

What did we say we would do in 2008/09?

Through local partnerships the linkages between education and training and regional skill shortage areas will be improved.

This will be achieved by:

- developing a regional VET/VCAL provision plan which will enhance the region's capacity to provide skills training for 15-19 year olds, especially in skill need areas
- developing a regional partnership with Industry and Higher Education providers to increase participation in Maths and Science courses
- further developing regional VCE performance strategies to raise ENTER scores
- develop a strategy to increase enrolments in the Diploma of Tertiary Studies (DOTs) at Monash University
- establishing a School Industry Gateway (SIG) that will provide an avenue for industry, business and employers to more easily engage with schools
- a Gippsland Youth Employment Scheme aimed at increasing the number of young people entering traineeships and apprenticeships in government departments

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What did we achieve in 2008?

The Maths/Science and Skill Participation Reference Groups were established. The focus for each group is to improve the linkages between education and training and regional and local skill shortage areas.

We achieved this by:

- the VET/VCAL plan for Gippsland "Getting it Right Together" was completed in December 2008.

- the Maths/Science Reference Group identified and prioritised a range of strategies to increase the uptake of young people in maths and science programs.
- Monash University supported the development of VCE science networks and established the federally funded Gippsland Access and Participation (GAP) Project to extend this support.
- an extensive range of strategies were undertaken and has resulted in a 10% increase in DOTs enrolments.

- the establishment of a School Industry Gateway was delayed until 2009.

What is planned for 2009/10?

We will continue to develop partnerships that have a particular focus on providing learning opportunities that are directly linked to local and regional economic development.

This will be achieved by a range of strategies that include:

- implementing the recommendations of "Getting it Right Together".
- implementing strategies identified by the Maths/Science Reference Group.
- implementing the Gippsland Access and Participation (GAP) Project to improve Maths/Science participation and improve Koorie access.

School Industry Gateway

Trialling a regional School Industry Gateway in the industry areas of: Community and Health Services, Energy and Agriculture/Horticulture and Food Processing.

Establishing industry tours in East Gippsland in the areas of Civil Engineering and Construction, and Agriculture.

Koorie Apprenticeships

Apprenticeship Group Australia employing six young Koorie apprentices.

Inspiring Young People

Expand the Inspiring Young Women program to include young men and young people from other localities including Sale, Yarram, Maffra, Lakes Entrance, Mallacoota, Cann River, Orbost and Swifts Creek.

Key principles

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Signatories to the **Gippsland Youth Commitment** agree to be guided by the following principles.

1

Leadership, innovation and strategic planning

We will demonstrate a commitment to the GYC to ensure that young people remain connected to education, training and employment.

2

Mutual respect, privacy and confidentiality

We acknowledge that the success of the GYC is based on mutual respect, trust and understanding. This provides the basis for positive interpersonal relationships which create a healthy environment where individuals can live and work responsibly and cooperatively.

3

Collaboration

We will seek to work collaboratively to achieve better outcomes for young people.

4

Personalised learning

We will support and direct service delivery to meet the holistic needs of young people including their learning and training, health, well-being, social and transition needs.

5

Building organisational capacity to support young people

We will endeavour to develop suitable strategies which provide appropriate access to and support for education and training programs for young people.

6

Continual improvement

We will continually monitor our programs, services and strategies to meet the needs of individual young people.

Further Information:

For further information or to discuss how you can support this project please contact a GYC consultant at one of the following locations:

Gippsland East Local Learning Employment Network: (03) 5153 1745

South Gippsland Bass Coast Local Learning and Employment Network: (03) 5662 5500

Baw Baw Latrobe Local Learning and Employment Network: (03) 5633 2868

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Gippsland: (03) 5127 0400