

gippsland youth commitment

Everyone's Responsibility



Real value education



Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development



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



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Introduction

It is well documented that completing Year 12 or its equivalent (eg apprenticeship or traineeship) significantly increases the life, social and economic opportunities for all young people.

Completing Year 12 or its equivalent is reflected in the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development discussion papers on the new Blueprint for early childhood development and school reform. The Gippsland Youth Commitment recognises that we have a 'collective responsibility' for our young people to ensure they have access to relevant education, training or employment options, '*Gippsland's youth – everyone's responsibility*'. The commitment also demonstrates to the region's young people their value and connection to our community and the region's development.

IT'S CRUNCH TIME, the Australian Industry Group and the Dusseldorp Skills Forum discussion paper on raising youth engagement and attainment reinforced the importance of completing Year 12 or its equivalent. "*For example, 24 year olds who have not completed Year 12 or its equivalent are twice as likely to be unemployed as 24 year olds who have completed that level of education*".

The economic prosperity of Gippsland is dependent on having a skilled and adaptable workforce. Integral to this, and a challenge for us all, is how we 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 Gippsland Youth Commitment provides us with an opportunity to strengthen the way we work together in the planning for, and the provision of, education and training that supports both individual and regional growth.

The Commitment is underpinned by the key principles of:

- Leadership, innovation and strategic planning
- Mutual respect, privacy and confidentiality
- Collaboration
- Personalised learning
- Building organisational capacity to support young people
- Continual improvement

If we all work together and truly commit to the above principles, young people, community, industry and business will all benefit.

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Gippsland Youth Commitment 2008 Focus Areas

Improve participation in skills training

VET / VCAL planning and provision

Meaningful experiences

Improve participation in higher education

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

Supporting Achievement

Improve participation in Maths / Science

Strategies to encourage participation in Maths/Science

Improve Koorie participation in education

Strategies which focus on Koorie support

Connecting to opportunities

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

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 are we now?

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 by working more closely with industry they 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? 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

How will we get there? 2008/09

The 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
- 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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Meaningful experiences

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

Where are we now?

In comparison to other areas of the state Gippsland has low rates of school retention and university entry. High numbers 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 Depart. Education & 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 Depart. Education & 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 Depart. Education & Early Childhood Development Data).

Early school leavers

One in 10 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 well 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? 2010

- All secondary colleges in partnership with industry and community organisations provide 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 complete 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

How will we get there? 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 and CopyCAP - which will provide experiences for young people in regional skill 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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Supporting achievement

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

Where are we now?

Most students aged 15 to 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? 2010

- All young people aged 15 to 19 have personalised transition plans
- The plans inform the planning and provision of education, training and support programs
- All Gippsland education and training providers work collaboratively with youth support agencies to formally track young people through their education, training and employment

How will we get there? 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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Connecting to opportunity

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

Where are we now?

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

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

Where do we want to be? 2010

More young people enter 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

How will we get there? 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 the 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

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.