Calling all Adelaide Eastern and Hills Schools . . .

The Partnership Broker program is in its third year now, with one year to go (2013). There have been many demonstrations that a partnering approach can be very effective in mobilising the community, schools, parents and families and industry to support improved learning and transition outcomes for our youth. Having said that, we still have a some way to go to achieve targets like 90% + Yr 12E.

So this is an open invitation to our schools to contact us - primary & secondary in the East and Hills - to consider where a partnership approach may be beneficial in improving parent/school engagement, supporting students on an attainment pathway and/or utilising industry support in learning.

Geoff Ewens, Managing Director, AITEC

Predictors of Yr12 Completion — NCVER

The factors influencing school completion have been widely studied in different contexts; however a recent National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) study has identified a higher importance of other predictors for Year 12 completion — besides the traditional ones of parental education and occupational status.

The following factors were revealed as having a significant impact on Year 12 completion:

- poor school experiences such as suspension or repeating a grade,
- participation in risky activities such as smoking and alcohol consumption and
- educational aspirations.

Although the family income had a positive impact on Year 12 completion, it was quite a small effect.

Notably parental education and occupational status (common disadvantage factors associated with school completion) were found to be less significant than previously indicated by earlier Australian research.

For more information about this research go to: [www.lsay.edu.au/publications/2503.html](http://www.lsay.edu.au/publications/2503.html)

InterAct

Hills and Eastern Partnering Newsletter

Issue 11 July-December 2012

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Partnering in Action
Rescue the Past, Grow the Future Partnership

This partnership developed between the SA Museum, Adelaide High School, Turkindi, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) - with the support of AITEC - is aimed to create an ongoing initiative that involves young Indigenous students working with Museum staff on learning projects of cultural relevance.

The key purpose of “Rescue the Past - Grow the Future” is to contribute to halving the gap in educational attainment for Aboriginal young people by:

- linking Aboriginal young peoples’ learning to their identity within and connection to their community (correlating to attainment for ATSI young people);
- encouraging Aboriginal young people to consider pathways into cultural material reservation, archiving, digital media, history, archaeology, anthropology, curating, community liaison;
- demonstrating to Aboriginal young people that Aboriginal culture is based on a history of intelligent systems, advanced learning and thinking which can link in with mainstream education;
- engaging with and providing resources for the broader community and

Linking ATSI young peoples’ learning to their identity with their community in a cultural context has been demonstrated to correlate with improved engagement and attainment for Aboriginal young people.

Currently, one of the students is researching the ‘Stolen Generations’ and another is researching his family history and kinship.

Signing of the partnership’s MoU. 24 July 2012

Partners and supporters. (From left to right) Rod Nancarrow (Regional Director DECD), Ivan Copley (Turkindi), Sasha Dragovelic (AITEC), Greg McCulloch (ABS), Andrew Babirat (Adelaide High School), Geoff Ewens (AITEC), Anita Zocchi and Coby Edgar (Adelaide HS).

(Continued on page 3)
Partnering in Action

Rescue the Past, Grow the Future Partnership. MoU Signing

24 July 2012 (Cont.)

In this partnership DECD and Adelaide High School are focused on aligning the research project to SACE requirements and supporting the learning of its students, while embracing their parents in the program.

Did you know?
Parental involvement in learning at home throughout the age range is much more significant than any factor open to educational influence.

Literature suggests that among the non-school factors of school achievement like socioeconomic background, parent’s educational attainment, family structure, ethnicity and parental involvement, it is the latter which is the most strongly connected to attainment (Feinstein et al. 1999).

Community Services Industry Cluster Forum

On the 20th September AITEC presented at a workshop for personnel from the community services industry on the topic of “Authentic Engagement of Aboriginal Students”. The information was well received and subsequently great discussion took place.

Building of authentic and long term relationships with Aboriginal families and communities is critical to engaging Aboriginal young people. In addition working with and employing Aboriginal young people in groups reduces personal isolation and improves interaction. Creating learning opportunities in a cultural context strengthens identity and connection to community, which in turn improves confidence.
The Adelaide Hills Youth Strategy (AHYS) working group has been tasked with developing the strategy by the Adelaide Hills Regional Managers Forum (AHRMF). The group started with a sector-based approach, looking at issues based on headings such as: education and training, employment, housing, health, transport, and sport, recreation, culture and leisure.


The AHYS working group undertook a partnership approach with each organisation contributing staff resources and financial support to develop the framework as well as engage a consultant to facilitate and prepare the strategy. The strategy will be presented to the AHRMF for endorsement and an implementation.

“Our vision is to create opportunity for every young person to be meaningfully engaged in their community”

“This strategy is underpinned by a philosophy of life long learning as an essential part of successful communities”

Education InterActs with Community
City Youth Online— A partnership in its initial stages

The City Youth Online Partnership will address the Partnership Broker Program aim of improving attainment through the partnering of education, industry and community to create enriched learning and real world experiences for students.

Need: CWYAN is constantly exchanging information on topics including; homelessness, juvenile justice, health, education/training, employment, etc. and requires an improvement to their current website.

Proposed Solution: AITEC as the partnership broker for the region presented the alternative to CWYAN to partner with a city school that could use the website redesign project as an authentic learning activity and CWYAN would obtain a contemporary and effective online resource.

Benefit: Digital Media and Creative Industries has proven to be a great way to engage and retain disadvantaged and disengaging students in education either at school or other alternative learning pathways.
If your school has a need for partnering with businesses, parents and / or the community to improve education and transition outcomes for young people give us a call so we can explore a partnership approach together.

What can be done through a sustainable partnership?

- **With education and training providers**... support them to ensure all young people engage in quality learning and development that improves education and transition outcomes.

- **With business and industry**... to enable them to support the learning and development of young people and meet their responsibilities as part of the broader community.

- **With parents and families**... to assist them to provide a supportive environment that enables lifelong learning, career and pathway planning and improves young people's education outcomes and career decisions.

- **With community groups**… to support community groups to harness resources and build social capital, enabling young people to identify and achieve their goals and improve education and transition outcomes.

Sincerely,

Sasha Dragovelic, René Peters, Sarah Whittam, Laura Garcia, Di Ewens and Geoff Ewens.
The AITEC team

For further information, please contact us on 8232 9688 or sbcpb@aitec.edu.au

*The Partnership Broker Program is an initiative of the Australian Government represented by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.*