The 2012 National Partnership Broker survey re-affirmed the strong value of the partnership model for education, business, community and parent stakeholders. One of many respondents noted, “Partnerships are truly the only way to be productive to achieve shared goals and outcomes. Having a collaborative and cooperative approach to achieve results in training and learning for young people is the best approach, and partnerships do just that - they work together for the common good of the community.”

Maybe you have ideas where your young people’s engagement, attainment and transition can be supported by a partnership approach? If so, let us know!

**Partnering In Action**  
**Youth Bus Partnership update**

Transport (or lack thereof) continues to be a major barrier to access for education, training and community services.

Mobile service delivery outreach enables these services to be brought to the Hills townships and centres to engage with youth. This includes, but is not limited to, case management, counseling, career coaching, advice, referral, training and education.

As all work and no play won’t attract young people, soft-entry activities such as entertainment, gaming, internet, music and food should be incorporated into the bus and service design in a manner sought by Hills youth.

AITEC was able to negotiate the donation of an ex-STA bus in great working order (bus picture shown adjacent) from Heta Inc to the Partnership valued at $7k to $10k, however, the Adelaide Hills Youth Bus Partnership is still looking for a capable and enthusiastic Lead Agency for the project.

The partnership is also looking for Businesses and/or Community agencies that can contribute to or fund the Bus Fit-out.

During the Youth Expo in Mt Barker local youth from the Urban Art Project and their Mentor Adam - “Cold Krush” illustrated the bus with the ‘Hills Scene’, ‘Urban Art’ and ‘VOC College’ pieces. They generated keen interest and a real buzz. (pictured adjacent)

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Training or uni?

Published by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), *Young people in education and training 2010* provides a picture of how many and where young people (aged 15 to 19 years) study. Nationally, the data show that of the young people at university, 57% were female and 43% were male, and of those in training, 56% were male and 44% were female. In comparison, the gender divide at school is just about equal, in line with population figures.

“Beyond school, factors such as advice from parents and career aspirations, influence young people’s study choices”, said Ms Sandra Pattison, General Manager, Statistics.

Of all young people in Australia, 80% of all teenage girls and 78% of all teenage boys were enrolled in school, vocational training or university in August 2010. Compared with 2009, the number of young people studying increased, with a 2.4% rise in school students, a 4.8% growth in university students, and a 3.3% increase in VET students.

“The states raising the school leaving age combined with the soft labour market for young people have contributed to the numbers going up”, said Ms Pattison.


Partnering in Action

**Campbelltown Family Development Partnership**

This partnership has been developed from conversations with community, education, youth services and young people about what can make a difference supporting the attainment and participation in education and the community of our Youth.

Campbelltown Family Development partnership aims to provide information and tools to maximise parental and young people’s engagement with education, inform them about future pathways and their link to successful attainment with a whole of community approach.

Within the Eastern Adelaide Region, Campbelltown was identified by AITEC as the area with the greatest needs and opportunity to significantly improve educational achievement and attainment. It was also evident from qualitative and quantitative research done by AITEC that capacity building of parents and family members to support their young people is an effective action.

Following a series of meetings with key local partners (see right figure), an interactive pilot forum targeting parents of teenagers (12-18 yo) was planned and organised by them with the support of AITEC as their partnership broker.

The forum named “Coping with the Modern Teenager” was held on 20 June 2012 and featured:
- Kirrilie Smout - Clinical Psychologist specialising in kids and teenagers - as key speaker and
- a panel comprised of youth specialists and DECD officers.

The top key issues selected by the partners - according to local needs - to be addressed by the forum were:
- communication between parents and their teens
- how to manage frustration and anger – from the parents and the kids perspectives
- educational challenges faced by teenagers

The evaluation survey revealed the following outcomes were achieved by the forum:
- 43 people attended (30 parents of teenagers plus service providers, partners and PB staff)
- One youth referral was made by a parent the following day
- All respondents agreed that the forum improved their knowledge about how to manage issues faced by teenagers.
Partnering in Action
Campbelltown Family Development Partnership (cont.)

- 100% of parents responding the survey indicated they are better informed about where they can find resources to support their teen(s).
- Several local schools promoted the forum to their parents' communities.
- Significant feedback was received after the forum from parents at the Campbelltown City Council requesting information about future forums.

Based on the success of this pilot initiative, the partnership will explore how to continue the forums on alternate school terms.

To download a complete report of the Parents’ forum, go to:

Panel Members (LtoR): Sam Ricci (Apprenticeship Broker), Peter Champion (Intra Agency Support Worker), Kirrilie Smout and Nancy Niemann (Youth Specialist).

Keynote speaker Kirrilie Smout talking about patterns that make Year 12’s successful.

Scouts SA one of the exhibitors and supporters during the night. Other exhibitors at this forum were: Centacare, Campbelltown – YAC, Workskil and Sammy D Foundation.

The Q&A session was extended by half an hour due to the keen interest of parents and exchange and sharing of effective parental practices.

A great resource to engage students into engineering activities.

A fun and interactive program of Engineers Australia, designed to help students achieve key learning outcomes in science, technology and mathematics.

Lower primary, primary and middle years students work in teams, at their own pace, applying their problem solving skills to unravel exciting engineering projects.

Student perspectives on disclosure of mental illness and success in VET (Vocational Education and Training)

Mental illness can be particularly disruptive to education and training outcomes. A new NCVER report explores the factors that contribute to successful course completion for students with a mental illness, with a particular focus on the role of disclosure. The research finds that the reliance on students disclosing their mental illness in order to access support is problematic, as many students struggle with the decision of whether to disclose or not. Reasons for not disclosing include fear of stigma and rejection but also a desire to be self-reliant and manage their mental illness in the VET environment.

To download the entire report go to:  

Partnersing in Action
Adelaide Hills Youth Mental Health Partnership

The Partnership continues to advance in looking for solutions that bring together multiple agencies and education for the benefit of young people.

We would like to welcome Natalie Szabo as the Chairperson of the partnership and Sophie Cheesman who will support Natalie with partnership secretariat. These appointments are a demonstration of the commitment of our lead Agency - AH Division of General Practice to work with local agencies, the community and youth to find solutions to improve mental health and educational attainment in the region.

Young people are engaging with the partnership and have been assisted in doing so, by Kerry May from YAC RAP and Mark de Lange from Adelaide Hills Council. In this youth engagement process we have identified a need to make meetings and the information youth friendly and understandable. (Perhaps even interesting).

A recent project by two of young OT’s revealed Adelaide Hills youth want “their space & place” that is safe, welcoming, comfortable and free of stigma.

Rates of disclosure of mental illness by students in the VET sector appear to be low, meaning that many students may not be accessing the support potentially available to them.
Out and About
Q1/Q2 2012 images

February, March, May, June. ATSI events and Turkindi meetings.
AITEC’s staff members are constantly involved in relevant meetings and events attended by potential or current partners that support Aboriginal young people with their educational attainment. (e.g. Reconciliation event at Mt Barker, monthly meetings of Turkindi network, National Apology and National Closing the Gap day).

February and April.
GumaRocka and Get a Drift youth events were organised by partners working with AITEC in different partnerships.

Congratulations to Ivan Tiwi Copley for receiving his OAM in June. Ivan was also recognised by the Turkindi Board for his services to the SA Aboriginal community.