

Our Vision

“A region where diverse and responsive partnerships ensure that all young people can contribute positively to the social and economic wellbeing of our community”

As the year draws to a close we are taking this opportunity to reflect, consolidate and plan for 2011. In doing this we have developed a flow chart outlining responsibilities and key focus areas for each of the programs (*attached at the end of this newsletter*) related to the COAG Youth Attainment and Transition agenda in South Australia. These programs are Partnership Broker, ICAN and Youth Connections.

We also had a conversation on partnerships, the different styles, what the word “partnership” means and what makes a partnership successful. At the end of the conversation our conclusions were that partnerships are lived and experienced very differently depending on their purpose and nature, and that **RELATIONSHIPS** are important in all aspects of youth attainment and transition.

In our last newsletter we included examples of different partnership models. One of these was the partnership continuum model used by VicHealth who suggest that *“most partnerships move up and down a continuum which shows progression based on degree of commitment, change required, risk involved, levels of interdependence, power, trust and a willingness to share turf.”* The four levels of partnerships are: Networking, Coordinating, Cooperating and Collaborating.



Pictures from the recent ICAN planning day which Partnership Broker helped to facilitate.

What partnerships do you have and what level of partnership are they?

A **Networking** Partnership occurs when organisations agree to **share information** with each other about programs, activities or specific people that is of mutual benefit to their organisation or the people with who they work.

Coordinating Partnerships occur when, in addition to sharing information, organisations start to **alter how, where, when or with whom** they undertake their activities to support each other’s work for a **common purpose**. It involves time and trust but does not usually involve sharing control. Organisations draw on each other’s knowledge and expertise to **review and reshape their regular activities** so that they better meet their shared client base, target audience or purpose

Cooperating Partnerships occur when organisations agree to **share both information and resources**, as well as **alter their activities** based on a **common purpose**. In these partnerships organisations are sharing control, putting in significant amounts of time to support each other and have developed higher levels of trust.

Collaborating partnerships occur when, in addition to the activities described above, organisations are willing to **focus time, energy and resources to strengthen the capacity** of the other partners for **mutual benefit** and a **common purpose**. There is **shared control** over programs and activities, which involve high levels of trust and considerable time to achieve and sustain the partnerships.

Future thinking

What partnerships do you need or are you looking for to improve education, engagement and transition outcomes for young people?

Do you need help to achieve these partnerships?

Contact us for more information or if you would like our support.

Mapping of Services for Young People

As a result of the forums we held earlier in the year we have been gathering data to produce an electronic map outlining and identifying services for young people in the region. A big Thankyou to everyone who has responded.

We are aiming to have this information available online by Christmas on our new website www.gearingup.org.au

Website

We have been busy putting together our website (with lots of help and patience from our website designer!) The site www.gearingup.org.au will be launched early 2011 and will feature three sections.

The Warehouse will house resources, links, research and publications for schools, community organisations, parents/families, industry and young people.

Building Partnerships will include information on the Partnership Broker, toolkits & resources for partnerships, examples of best practice, research & information about what we are doing locally.

Your Space is an electronic map outlining and identifying services for young people in the region.

Public Education Forum

We have been involved in the planning for the 2011 Public Education Forum to be held on the 1st of March. This day will showcase partnerships in schools and look at ways to connect schools, industry and community groups.

Partnerships in Progress

The following are some of the partnerships that are in the creating and developing stages;

Work Ready Card

A partnership providing opportunities for young people to explore career pathways, gain more meaningful work experience, access mentoring, learn about industry expectations and participate in personal management workshops to learn about their interests and how these related to career choices.

Connect to Industry

Connect to Industry partnerships encourage the development of a pathway or "gateway" between schools, training (VET), Universities, Industry and Employment. As a result of these partnerships young people will gain access to expert advice, industry based learning resources, opportunities for hands on learning and information on career opportunities. They also benefit from real life experiences and gain the knowledge, skills and attributes to make a successful transition from school.

Skills To Dream

A partnership addressing transition, engagement and retention designed to target primary school students in years 6 and 7. The partnership will;

- Challenge young people to dream and follow their aspirations
- Engage young people to see school as important
- Encourage young people to create their own future, achieve their own solutions and step outside their comfort zones
- Encourage young people to be enthusiastic about learning and their future
- Assist young people to feel valued and understand their differences

Career Exploration Centre

A partnership providing opportunities for young people to learn about the eight key industries in the Limestone Coast.

Think Tank 2011

After attending a recent one day workshop with Paul Born from Community Conversations we would like to share the following;

"Conservation is a meeting of minds with different memories and habits. When minds meet, they don't just exchange facts; they transform them, reshape them, draw different implications from them, and engage in new trains of thought. Conversation doesn't just reshuffle the cards; it creates new cards" – THEODORE ZELDIN

Tips for great conversation

- Focus on what matters
- Acknowledge one another as equals
- Speak with your heart and mind
- Beware of judgement
- Listen in order to understand
- Slow down to allow time for thinking and reflection
- Listen for patterns, insights and deeper questions

Powerful questions

- Generates curiosity in the listener
- Stimulates reflective conversation
- Are thought provoking
- Invites creativity and new possibilities
- Generates energy and forward movement
- Channels attention and focuses inquiry
- Touches a deep meaning
- Evokes more questions

Stemming from this workshop and leading into 2011 we will be holding several think tanks on the priority areas that have been identified throughout the year.

Think Tank Topics for 2011

- Literacy & Numeracy / Early Intervention
- Career Development / Mentoring
- Family / Parent Facilitation & Engagement
- Youth Ownership, Engagement & Leadership
- Transition Processes

"When you dream alone it remains just a dream, when you dream together it is the beginning of a new reality." Brazilian Proverb

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Existing partnership showcase

What Happens Next

The importance of this partnership for students and their learning is immense. Students now have the opportunity to have a clear process to help them transition to post school options. The partners have developed a brochure for parents and families to help them with information during this transition.



WHERE DO WE ALL FIT?

Program	Focus	Brokering Partnerships	Communication and collaboration	Research	Program delivery	Case management	Advocacy and policy influence	Outcomes
ICAN	Young people in DECS schools from year 6 to 19 years of age who are enrolled in school but at risk of early leaving or disengaged and/or not re-engaging to a pathway to employment, further education or community participation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Through strong school and community partnerships ICAN encourages innovation, social inclusion and well being to enhance the educational and social advantage of young people most at risk. ICAN students are equipped to participate effectively in their communities as global citizens
Partnership Broker	Education and training providers Business and industry Parents and families Community groups	✓	✓	✓			✓	Education and training providers partnering with stakeholders in their community to ensure all young people participate in challenging, relevant and engaging learning that broadens personal aspirations and improves education and transition outcomes. Business and industry actively engaged in sustainable partnerships that support the development of young people, contribute to the skills and knowledge of the future workforce and improve young people's education and transition outcomes. Parents and families participating in partnerships that provide an informed and supportive environment for all young people to enable lifelong learning and career and pathway planning, and improve their education and transition outcomes. Community groups engaging with key stakeholders in partnerships that harness resources and build social capital to support young people to identify and achieve their goals and improve their education and transition outcomes.
Youth Connections	Young people aged 13-19 who are most at risk of disengaging from education or training		✓			✓	✓	Young people at risk will develop personal skills and attributes that promote wellbeing and support positive life choices. Young people at risk will connect to education, family and community and have successful education and transition outcomes. Youth Connections Providers will build strong relationships and work collaboratively to strengthen service delivery outcomes for young people at risk.