

Chairman's Report

The Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN in 2007 continued to facilitate and co-ordinate a range of activities to support our rural young people to complete year 12 or its equivalent to achieve better life outcomes. The Committee of Management continues to represent a broad range of sectors across the region from schools, business, industry and the community.

Attending LLEN Chairs' meetings in Melbourne is important as a forum for networking with other Chairs and to gain a better understanding of state wide issues. Discussion occurs regarding funding and policy updates, best practice and governance issues.

The rates of apprenticeships in the region remain higher than the State average and the Vocational Education & Training in Schools (VETiS) program offers options for applied learning to local students. The VET Access bus model provides a unique approach to transport the VET students to classes in Horsham.

The Local Community Partnerships (LCP) consortium with Central Grampians LLEN continues to manage two LCP contracts to deliver a wide range of career and transition programs.

I wish to thank our staff; Jo, Vicki, Christine, Andrew and Felesha and to acknowledge the fine work done by all, especially our Executive Officer, Jo Devereaux for her outstanding leadership.

I pass on my personal thanks to fellow Board members for their dedication and commitment to continuing support of the LLEN initiative and to acknowledge the retirement of Board members, Ms Raelene Mitchell, Ms Kaye Lehmann and Cr Rob Gersch. I also report the sad news of the passing of our Board member, Mr Ian Rogerson during the year and to recognise his long and dedicated service to the LLEN.

The announcement of future funding from 2008 to 2011 for the LLEN initiative allows for better strategic planning and to continue to identify, develop and evaluate further ideas and programs to keep students engaged in lifelong learning.

I look forward to Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN continuing its work of strengthening and creating new community, business and education partnerships in 2008.

Dale Stanford
Chairman

Executive Officer's Report

The past year has been one of consolidation and building on previous planning strategies such as the Youth Options Guarantee, the VET Access Bus and alternative education programs.

The Youth Options Guarantee continues to *create a collaborative social network, whose members together provide an integrated and seamless support system that ensures young people are not lost to, or within, the education and training system in the Grampians Region.*

Education, in the broadest definition, is a key to creating a successful community and improving life opportunities for young people.

The Victorian Government target for 15-19 year olds

- By 2010, 90 per cent of young people in Victoria will successfully complete year 12 or its educational equivalent
- The number of early school leavers who are unemployed after 6 months will decline

The Youth Options Guarantee provides a structured framework that underpins a range of supports after early identification of young people at risk of not engaging in education or training opportunities.

Several alternative education programs have been developed including Community Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (CVCAL), Connect Ed and Risk It.

The rate at which our rural young people access University is much lower than metropolitan areas with potential to limit choice for further education options. Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN, along with 10 other rural LLENs are part of a partnership with the Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVIC) to undertake a study over two years that seeks to understand why rural young people are deferring their University study.

Coordinating the VETiS Access Bus working group to provide transport and program options for our rural students remains a priority. Working towards a sustainable program continues to be the aim.

Working as a team is a great asset and I acknowledge the individual skills and qualities each staff member brings to WSM LLEN. I acknowledge and thank the staff and Committee of Management for their ongoing work and commitment to young people in the region.

Jo Devereaux
Executive Officer

Local Community Partnerships (LCP) Manager's Report

Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN, in consortium with Central Grampians LLEN, manages the Local Community Partnerships (LCP) program which is in the second year of a three year contract. LCP is an Australian Government funded initiative to facilitate career development and transition programs to enable young people to make informed choices regarding career, further education and employment pathways.

LCP facilitates three career and transition programs, Structured Workplace Learning (SWL), Career & Transition Support (CTS) and Adopt-a-School Program (ASP).

Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) provides opportunities for students to experience real work place environments. Andrew Cormack, SWL Coordinator, organises 385 students from 13 secondary schools in the region to attend Vocational Education & Training (VET) classes. Seventeen courses were offered in 2007 with training delivered by University of Ballarat, Wimmera HUB Inc and Longerenong College. 179 students travel on the VET Access Bus from rural locations to participate in VET courses in Horsham. An employers' kit has been developed to assist employers to understand structured workplace learning.

Career and Transition Support (CTS) facilitates access for young people in a range of career and transition pathways by linking with and maintaining collaborative partnerships between community, business and education providers.

These partnerships enabled facilitation of a range of activities in 2007 including, 'Youth in Action' forums, 'Inspiring Women' forum, industry visits for students and the 2007 Careers Expo.

A continuing partnership with the Wimmera Manufacturing and Industry Group and the WSM Careers Network enabled a larger presence of local businesses at the Careers Expo, which was held for the first time at the Field Days site at Longerenong.

The Adopt-a-School Program (ASP) encourages businesses to liaise with schools to engage young people in hands on learning experiences and to develop their understanding of work and employability skills.

At the launch of the 2007 Careers Expo, VET hospitality students prepared and catered for 200 guests at the 'Big Brekkie' and the 'MooVers' dance group saw strong and collaborative partnerships formed including the production of a professional DVD.

2007 was a productive year with current partnerships strengthened and new partnerships developed with business, industry and local government.

Christine Picone
LCP Manager

On Track Data

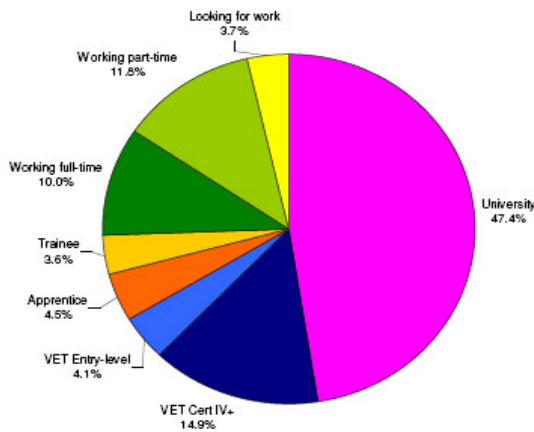
Figure 1. Destinations of 2006 Year 12 Completers in Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN (%)



* Students who deferred a place at university have been allocated to their labour market destination.

- University destination for WSMLLEN 31% compared to Victoria average of 47%
- Traineeships 10% compared to Victoria 3.6%
- Apprentices 8% compared to Victoria 4.5%

Figure 2. Destinations of 2005 Year 12 Completers in Victoria (%)



* Students who deferred a place at university have been allocated to their labour market destination.

- Working full time 18% compared to Victoria 10%

Figure 3. Destinations of Year 12 Completers in Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN, showing deferrals (%)

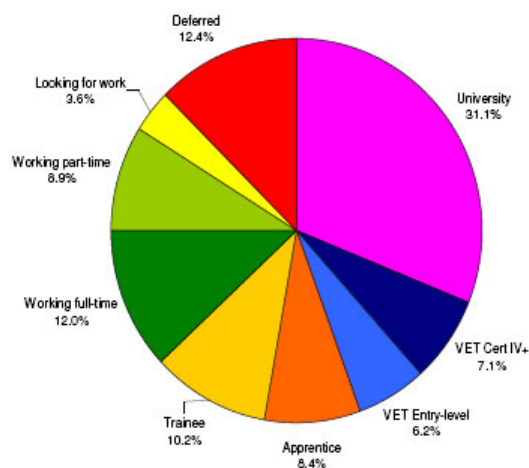
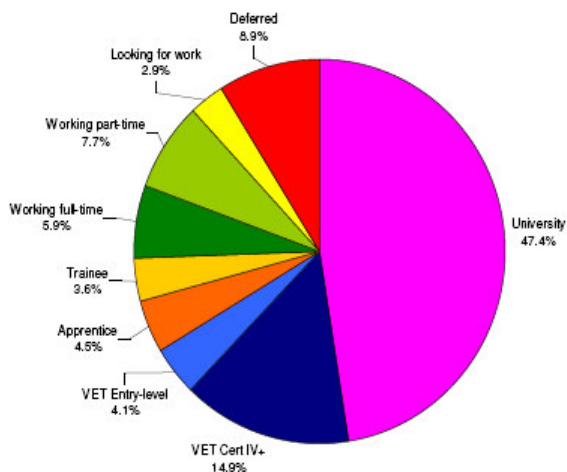


Figure 4. Destinations of Year 12 Completers in Victoria, showing deferrals (%)



- WSMLLEN deferrals 12.4% compared to Victoria 8.9%
- Working full time 8.9% compared to Victoria 5.9%
- VET entry level 6% compared to Victoria 4%
- VET cert IV + 7% compared to 14.9%

Figure 5. Destinations of 2006 Early School Leavers in Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN (%)

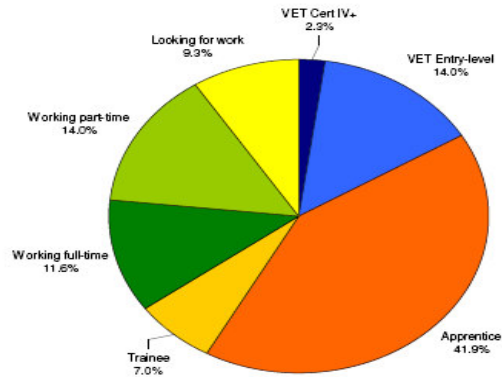
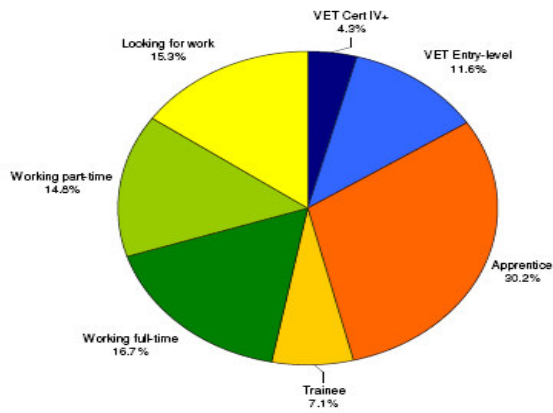


Figure 6. Destinations of 2005 Early School Leavers in Victoria (%)



- Apprenticeship rates 41% compared to Victoria 30%
- Looking for work 9% compared to Victoria 15%
- VET entry level 14% compared to Victoria 11.6%
- VET Cert IV+ 2% compared to Victoria 4%