

AVETRA 2009

“ENGAGING” VET & HIGHER EDUCATION Lessons for ‘Bradley’ & ‘Gillard’

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*The views expressed in this presentation are personal responses to the Bradley report and Gillard March 09 announcements based on 25 years working in and with secondary, further and higher education, mostly in partnerships.

OUTLINE OF WORKSHOP

- WHY? Policy space
- WHAT? X-Sectoral
- WHERE? CCCs +
- WHEN? Now!
- HOW? Your input



Imagine we are starting a
greenfield site based on
‘Bradley’!

DEFINITIONS?!

- What do we mean by ‘tertiary education’?
- Why ‘VET’ and ‘Higher Education’ - Bradley’s terminology - not ‘further education’ or TAFE?
- What does Bradley mean by “engage”?
- What does DEEWR mean by “harmonising”?
- What does Gillard mean by “connecting”?
- Where does senior secondary sit / fit (esp. VETis / TVET etc, HSC / matriculation)?
- What are the current definitions of ‘university’ / ‘VET’ ‘VTE’ ‘TAFE’, given developments in, e.g., Victoria and the rapid growth of private providers?

Multi-Sector Partnerships

Various reports on pros and cons of co-located / dual sector / multi-sectoral arrangements!

Works well for
students & regions?

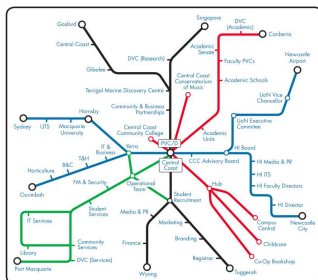
IR complexities &
higher costs.....



CASE STUDY

In 2009, Ourimbah is celebrating 20 years as a cross-sectoral campus (HE, FE, ACE).

- ✓ 8,000+ students
- ✓ 918 graduates from 2008
- ✓ Over 200 staff
- ✓ \$16+ million new capex 2009-2012.



Key Issues (a)

- Course articulation and pathway development are crucial to the evolution of a cross-sectoral / multi-sector partnership.
- Programs at the two institutions tend to aim at differing occupations, or occupational levels within an industry - but there is common ground; the point is to link through qualifications.
- At present - partner institutions plan and develop programs in relative isolation from one another. Generally, course articulation/credit transfer arrangements are developed later.
- Although there are clear differences in focus and scope of delivery, both partners have programs aimed at specific industries - in many cases the same specific industries; eg. Engineering, Health.
- Partnership works through co-ordination, but needs philosophically committed ‘worker bees’ or credit / pathways / articulation / dual badging arrangements etc. fall into disrepair.

Key Issues (b)

- Structural issues inhibit multi-sector and multi-campus arrangements as complexities drive up costs despite curriculum synergies.
- Perceptions / realities of directing (scarce) resources from other campuses.
- Outcomes in Australia are world-class (and leading edge)...
- ... but actual student practices tend to be structured differently than planned by partners (less linear) and less "lifelong" than hoped.
- ... yet 20%+ offers from
- UoN are to TAFE qualified applicant!
- Current skills shortages and the Global financial crisis are disrupting institutional planning and resourcing.



Scenario Planning

- Identify community, professional and industry needs.
- Map course development and appropriate staffing / spaces.
- Negotiate articulation /pathways / credit / dual processes.
- Sign off on funding arrangements / agreements.

A proposed process for actioning opportunities could be:

1. University/TAFE/Industry joint business needs analysis;
2. Value Proposition Development; and
3. Integrated planning and Coordinated execution.

LESSONS FOR 'BRADLEY' AND 'GILLARD'

- Engaging / harmonising / connecting HI and VET relies on significant policy, structural, curricular, credential, pedagogic and resourcing reforms and capital works:- affordable? 'doable' even by 2025?
- Apple & PC computers already have 'bridging software'; it is the users who do not share language / systems / cultures!
- TAFE<->Uni model not only (not even) best model for rural and regional areas.
- National system will be reliant on states / territories cooperation (not guaranteed!).
- Increased participation is not just about access / SES but about attitudes to further education and training and capacity of communities / regions.
- The AQF is not the key to changes needed.

AVETRA Multi-Sector research group?!

NATIONAL PROJECT?

- Rationale?
- Resourcing?
- Project focus?
- Participants?
- Funding?!



REFLECTIONS

2009 will be a
Watershed year!!

Thank you....

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