



The New Polytechnic Education: Why? What? How? Conference: A Success!

The Polytechnic Education Conference attracted over 400 delegates and received a very positive response over the two day event.

Delegates heard from respected local and national experts who informed and stimulated discussion and exploration of the polytechnic education concept.

Thank you to those that participated and contributed to making this inaugural event such a success.

Over the coming weeks, we will be posting conference proceedings on the Tasmania Tomorrow website at <http://tomorrow.education.tas.gov.au/events/>. This will include speakers' PowerPoint presentations and handouts, audio recordings of speakers and a summary of feedback from the Roving Reporters plus photos.

Staff Transition Planning Process – Fact Sheet

With the introduction of the changes under the Tasmania Tomorrow initiative, we know that staff who will be joining the new organisations have many questions about what this means for them.

A [fact sheet](#) [PDF 170KB] has been prepared to inform staff of where we are at in the transition planning process and the decisions that have been made that will facilitate a smooth transfer to the new organisations.

More details will be finalised throughout the next six months and we will listen to any concerns that staff have.

Key questions that the fact sheet covers include:

- Am I guaranteed a job next year?
- Who is deciding how the new working arrangements will be put in place?
- When do I find out where my role will be?
- What is the process for my transition to the new organisations?
- What if I am not happy with the proposed transfer for me?

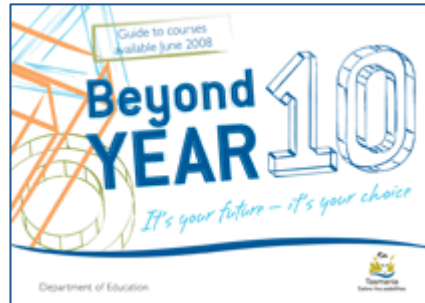
The information in the fact sheet has been developed by the Employee Relations Working Group.

Beyond Year 10 – It's Your Future, It's Your Choice

Current Year 10 students will soon be receiving a student information booklet to provide them and their parents with information about education and training options for next year. This will be followed by information on courses in June.

Called, [Beyond Year 10 – It's Your Future, It's Your Choice](#) [PDF 1MB], the booklet includes information about:

- Enrolment options for 2009, including:
 - the Tasmanian Polytechnic
 - the Tasmanian Academy
 - Training Tasmania; and
 - in some regions, senior secondary colleges
- What students will be able to achieve at each of these organisations
- Where each of the different enrolment options will be available throughout the state



An electronic version of the booklet is available on the website at:

<http://tomorrow.education.tas.gov.au/for-students>

A PowerPoint presentation based on the student information booklet is also being prepared to assist teachers, pathway planning officers, school and college counsellors etc to inform students about their choices for next year.

A website is also being developed specifically for students with a view to making current information about courses and campuses available on an ongoing basis.

Shared Services Working Group – Progress Report

The Shared Services Working Group has presented Part I of its business plan to the Tasmania *Tomorrow* Project Steering Committee. Part I focused on identifying those projects critical to support a Tasmania *Tomorrow* 2009 commencement.

Key working group recommendations included the need for project teams to be formed by staff from senior secondary colleges, Department of Education and TAFE Tasmania. In addition, regular communication concerning the progress of these projects is required and a need for a training programme to ensure that staff are aware of any changes in processes.

The in-principle outcomes from Part I include:

- a range of significant projects were approved including:
 - a review of, and developments to existing student management systems to allow 2009 enrolments
 - development and documentation of enrolment rules, procedures and processes including training programmes to support 2009 enrolments
 - consolidation of Department of Education and TAFE Tasmania Empower (HR) systems to enable salary payments, leave requests, staff reporting, workers' compensation etc
 - modification to finance and associated systems to facilitate multiple entity operations
 - identification of facility, infrastructure and contract management requirements to support delivery of education and training
 - modifications required to both college and TAFE networks, computers and other infrastructure to facilitate learning and support functions, and
 - review potential of implementing a student and staff identification card.
- an endorsed mission statement for the Shared Services: *"The provision of high quality, effective, efficient and relevant corporate and business services that are valued by the Tasmania Tomorrow entities and their clients"*
- endorsed principles for determining what services are to be delivered by the Shared Services and those to be delivered by the Tasmania *Tomorrow* organisations
- endorsement of developing a separate brand to assist in ensuring that Shared Services supports all Tasmania *Tomorrow* organisations
- an endorsed service delivery model supporting the Tasmania *Tomorrow* organisations
- approval to expedite the appointment of the General Manager Shared Services to coordinate projects, and appoint a project coordinator in the interim until the General Manager is in place
- approval to commence the appointment of project managers and their teams - details of which will be advised shortly
- funding required to commence these projects has been made available
- that should college and TAFE Tasmania assets be transferred to the Tasmanian Polytechnic, they be managed by Shared Services
- agreed the importance of regular communication concerning progress with Shared Services, and
- agreed the need to develop a structured training programme to support a service delivery culture.

There are a range of areas that the working group will focus on for Part II including:

- libraries and learning centres
- operation of international students support, and
- flexible delivery support.

The Tasmania *Tomorrow* project team will coordinate college and TAFE Tasmania representatives from these areas to review the services they provide and identify whether they should be provided by the Shared Services or delivered by the Tasmania *Tomorrow* organisations.

The final business plan will be presented to the steering committee by the end of June 2008.

Shared Services Working Group – Progress Report *(continued)*

Communication

Given that there have been a range of outcomes from Part I of the working group's business plan, it is important to communicate these outcomes to staff. This newsletter report is the first stage in a communication strategy.

A key communication action is to meet with the 'change leaders' from colleges and TAFE to discuss outcomes so that this information can be passed on across all campuses. There will also be documentation prepared to assist with this process such as frequently asked questions.

In addition the working group members themselves will be available to attend workshops where staff will have the opportunity for a briefing as well as raise issues for further consideration.

Re-Engaging the Disengaged Workshop 20 April 2008

Over 40 people attended the *Re-Engaging the Disengaged Workshop* held in Launceston in April.

The workshop was specifically for young people who have disengaged from learning, and the people who work with them and support them.

The workshop provided the opportunity for participants to explore issues which lead to disengagement, and how the Tasmania *Tomorrow* initiative can provide appropriate responses.

The issues included:

- what are the things which cause young people to drop out – give up - disengage?
- which of these things can be affected by the Tasmania *Tomorrow* initiative?

Suggested solutions covered:

- what's already out there and working that we can build on?
- what do we need to get rid of or change?
- what needs to be introduced?

A summary of outcomes from the workshop will be posted on the project website in the near future.

Skills Tasmania Conference 2008

Business in the 21st Century - Growth through Skills and Innovation

Wrest Point Conference Centre, Hobart
Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 May 2008

Skills Tasmania invites you to participate in their annual conference at Wrest Point Conference Centre in May. The theme of 'growing your business through skills and innovation' will be used as a springboard to seriously address issues surrounding skill acquisition and productivity across the state.

The conference program is aimed at:

- skills development practitioners
- VET regulators and policy makers
- employers

The conference has a strong national and international flavour with speakers and presenters travelling from France, Singapore and New Zealand. They will join internationally-renowned Australians to make this year's conference the most interesting ever held.

Fifteen workshops will be offered over the two days, a trade exhibition and conference dinner on Monday evening.

For more information or to register visit:

<http://www.skills.tas.gov.au/conference>

If you have any queries or feedback regarding the newsletter and its contents please don't hesitate to contact the project team by phone or email.

CONTACT DETAILS

Tel: 1800 469 997

Email: tomorrow@education.tas.gov.au

Web: <http://tomorrow.education.tas.gov.au>



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