



An Australian Government Initiative

# Career & Transition Support



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Career Advice Australia

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING TEACHING, LEARNING AND STANDARDS DIVISION

## CAREER ADVISER'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

FRIDAY, 22 MAY 2009

### YOUTHWORX NT LOCAL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Start time 9.00AM – 11.30AM

In the CONFERENCE ROOM: YOUTHWORX NT

At 75 WOODS STREET

### SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS

9.00AM – 9.30AM CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY; Steve Fuller

9.30AM – 10.00AM WHAT DO CAREER ADVISERS NEED AND WANT; Carina Frew

10.00AM – 10.30AM PARENTS AND MENTORS CAREER TRANSITION SUPPORT; Steve Fuller

10.30AM – 10.50AM REFRESHMENTS: MORNING TEA

10.50AM – 11.30AM CAREER RESOURCES AND REFERENCES; Carina Frew

The day started off informally with a welcome and a cup of tea or coffee to get started then it was down to business. The Northern Territory enjoys beautiful weather at this time of year so the atmosphere was relaxed, jumpers were off and sleeves rolled up. The people attending included Career Advisers from the School sector and Federal Government Departments Centrelink, NT Department of Education & Training, Special Education Transition Programme Coordinator, NT DET, Project Manager VET, representatives from The Australian Technical College, our local Regional Industry Career Adviser and our Local Community Partnership presenters.

### CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Steve's opening presentation took in Continuing Professional Development and explained that it is a requirement of the *Professional Standards for Australian Career Development Practitioners*; that Career Advisers/Practitioners need to undertake 15 hours of Professional Development per year to continually improve their Career Development practice.

As a CICA Member Association, the Careers Educators Association of the Northern Territory (CEANT) requires its professional and associate members, as career development practitioners, to undertake CPD in order to maintain their membership. This CPD benchmark is set down in the Australian Standards and members are responsible for determining the professional learning and development activities that are appropriate to their learning goals within the terms and framework of this policy. We discussed the implementation of this important policy initiative to CEANT objectives and outlined the CPD outcomes and discussed how CPD will be recorded on the Activat8 Database.

### WHAT DO CAREER ADVISERS NEED AND WANT

Carina took control and asked the burning question for the morning, "What do Career Advisers Need and Want"? Perhaps a question that could have gotten out of control but Carina was firm and went on to present that; as a Local Community Partnership, YouthWorX NT serves to support schools and other agencies in the delivery of career and

**YouthWorXNT**

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transition support programmes. The specific services provided vary between schools and agencies, as they are contextualised to the specific and individual needs of the students/young people involved. It is therefore vital that the lines of communication flow effectively between YouthWorX NT and its clientele to ensure that the support provided reflects what is most required.

This session began with an overview of YouthWorX NT's services and programmes, including Structured Workplace Learning, student workshops, Career Adviser professional development and other events and support.

Three questions were then put to the group:

1. What do school based Career Advisers need or want, that they do not currently have access to or the ability to deliver?
2. Where are the gaps?
3. Which of these gaps do we realistically have the ability to address through collaboration or support?

These questions were then brainstormed by the group and possible solutions discussed.

## PARENTS AND MENTORS CAREER TRANSITION SUPPORT

Steve was next to take the presentation stage and he spoke on how PARENTS have more influence on children than their peers when it comes to academic performance, new Australian research has found. Steve quoted from an item in the Sydney Morning Herald on May 14<sup>th</sup> 2009

The study's lead researcher, Andrew Martin, an associate professor at the faculty of education and social work, said the influence of parents had up to three times the effect of peers on academic performance. "If you think you have no impact, stick with it, because you do, and not just in the early years - at all stages of secondary school, teachers and parents have a significant impact," Professor Martin said. However, a child's peers have more influence than parents and teachers on their social and emotional wellbeing. A new research paper by the University of Sydney suggests that parents and teachers have a bigger influence on the academic motivation of their children than they may think.

The study of 3450 Australian high school students in years 7 to 12 looked at the importance of relationships for children. It points to the importance of positive connections and quality relationships with teachers, parents and peers in adolescents' lives.

The key academic outcomes assessed were motivation, engagement, homework completion, enjoyment of school, attendance and educational aspirations. When the study looked at non-academic outcomes, including physical self-concept, honesty and emotional stability, it found that peers had a bigger effect on children than parents and teachers.

We then looked at the components of Career Development and what could be "Best Practice" and ways in which Parents can provide "Career Education at Home" including some career exploration activities for the home and moved on to a school based activity workshop evening for parents known as "Parents as Career Partners". This specially developed brief workshop looked at seven key questions and answers that may provide the Parent with advice on how to provide useful Careers Advice to their teenage children.

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## CAREER RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

Due to the plethora of career development oriented information available on the internet, time constraints of career practitioners, and the need for continuing professional development, this session focused on passing on some useful recommendations.

Various references and resources in the following categories were showcased to the group:

- International web resources and e-bulletins
- Australian web resources and e-bulletins
- Career development focused teacher resources and lesson plans
- Career development frameworks, standards and guidelines

Included in the latter category was an overview of quality assurance for the Australian career development industry, encompassing the: Professional Standards for Career Development Practitioners; Guidelines for Career Development Services and Career Information Products; and Australian Blueprint for Career Development.

The Career Adviser Morning finished off just about on time and a brief round of networking took place. All of those in attendance enjoyed the style of the presentations and the good interaction that took place. We are often overloaded with information, so the morning was handled in an open style, the PowerPoint sessions were mixed with open discussion which broke up the presentation into a more relaxed atmosphere. Presenters allowed attendees to provide suggestions and possible activities that may suit the many different circumstances that we are facing in Career Development across the changing landscape of Education in the Northern Territory.



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