

Reports for 2004

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: GATE THOMPSON



In 2004 The IELLEN, working with key stakeholders from community and education agencies, local government and industry, has continued to grow existing and new projects. These projects are specifically designed to improve and widen the opportunities for young people to access a diverse range of education and employment options.

The projects include full time Community VCAL programs, collaborative industry and education training programs, mentoring, youth media production, career assistance and access to relevant information. More than 300 at risk or disengaged young people participated in one or more of the projects. It is great to see that the majority of our 2004 clients are continuing with education and employment in 2005.

In 2005 IELLEN will continue to work with key agencies on a range of projects. While the work will still concentrate on identifying the needs of our local area and strategies to fill these gaps, attention will also be given to ensuring the long term sustainability of all existing and new projects.

The IELLEN could not achieve what it has without the dedication and generosity of the voluntary workers and commitment from key stakeholders. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the chair person, Jack Melbourne, the hardworking and dedicated members of the CoM, the active and enthusiastic stakeholders and the IELLEN staff. Without this collaborative effort IELLEN could not continue to improve education and employment opportunities for our most valuable asset – our young people.

Cate Thompson
Executive Officer

CHAIRPERSON: JACK MELBOURNE



This year has seen a very positive extension of our programs from the solid base established last year. In accordance with our strategic plan, disengaged and at risk young people are our target group. For me there have been a number of memorable occasions including:

- Our careers forum where the inspiring accounts of young peoples' pathways to success demonstrated just what persistence can achieve.
- The luncheon prepared by and shared with the young VCAL participants.
- The presentation of certificates and awards to successful VCAL students at Swinburne TAFE.

These and many others are gratifying illustrations of what young people can achieve given opportunity, encouragement and support.

We can make a difference and will continue to build on these successes during the coming year.

Finally, my thanks to members of the committee of management, to Cate Thompson and her dedicated staff and all others who have helped make this yet another successful year.

Jack Melbourne
Chairperson

Out of School VCAL Programs

Provided young people with a flexible, alternative learning environment. 2004 saw Foundation and Intermediate VCAL programs running through partnerships at Prahran Neighbourhood House, PCYC, SKYS and Swinburne TAFE Hawthorn. 2005 will see the IELLEN build on the solid successes of this style of engaging young learners, including a course especially for Young Mums, a full Hospitality program, and a Senior VCAL with Swinburne TAFE. Such is the popularity and growth, we expect to assist more than 80 otherwise disengaged young people in these programs in 2005.

On Track In Schools (OTIS)

IELLEN project workers in contact with a student in (or out of) school/TAFE, to offer support, provide information about pathways, sort out problems, or assist the young person back into or continue education and training. We are keen to help young people stay in school, or if they decide to leave, ensure they are connected to another training organisation or support agency. In 2004 the IELLEN assisted more than 70 young people at risk or disengaged young people. We will continue to support schools and students in 2005 to keep young people on track, and provide them with broader education options beyond the mainstream.



Mentoring

The Mentor in Schools Program aims to match young people in post compulsory education within the inner East with a volunteer mentor. With the help of a mentor a young person develops self-esteem, trust and communication skills, enabling them to gain direction for the future. The young people involved often report they don't have many adults

in their lives they can talk to openly, and the mentor program has helped them to communicate on a level they haven't experienced before. It is not limited to students enrolled in school – any young person in need of extra support may participate. There were 20 mentor-mentee pairs in 2004 and the 2005 program will continue to grow.

Have Your Say

In an association with the Victorian Electoral Commission and St Kilda Youth Services, our VCAL students have written, presented and produced a compelling series of short videos expressing their opinions on a range of issues relevant to their lives. This unique media project fulfils the Personal Development strand of VCAL and encourages young people to become outspoken on topics of social



change whilst engaging in the electoral process.

Advance

In 2004 IELLEN in conjunction with Swinburne Senior Secondary College, St Kilda Youth Service and local Media production company Blue Lava Pty Ltd successfully gained funding for 3 years to run a Media Production Unit which will deliver small group Media training to VCAL students. The Media Unit, known as "Blue Skys Media" will train young people in a range of media related skills such as Graphic Design, Video and Radio Production as well as DVD and CD design and packaging. Blue Skys Media will allow VCAL students to learn media skills "on the job" and this experience will contribute to their work Placement strand of VCAL.

New programs include...



'Hands-on Hospitality'

Student Training in Hospitality Services (STHS) were funded by the State Government to deliver hands on training to early school leavers to optimise their employment opportunities. IELLEN worked in collaboration with STHS to recruit suitable students and provide connections to local agencies offering support. These students were particularly at risk – most had been disengaged for at least 6 months (some up to 2 years), and all had left school early. Most were dealing with issues such as homelessness, abuse, mental health issues and were quite vulnerable as a result. They responded very well to the structure of the course and enjoyed the challenge of real work – food was served to Steve Bracks, the French Ambassador and at various IELLEN functions.

Tertiary Transition Project

This project aimed to explore the factors contributing to the cessation or deferral of study amongst first year university students, and to increase the likelihood of completing the first year of undergraduate courses. In collaboration with the Monash University Transition Project, the project trialed the use of a transition case worker to support existing university transition strategies.



On Track Connect

'On Track' is a State Government commitment to support young people who need support in making effective career plans. The program is designed to assist young school leavers not in education or employment to develop further options after leaving school and/or access local support services. Students exiting at year 10, 11 and 12 are sent a letter seeking their permission to participate in the program. In 2004, 229 participants were contacted by the IELLEN to see if they required assistance.



Coles Myer

In 2004 Coles Myer worked collaboratively with Inner Eastern Local Learning & Employment Network (IELLEN) and Inner Melbourne Vet Cluster (IMVC) to introduce a program via the School Based New Apprenticeship Scheme (SBNA). Fourteen VCAL students enrolled in School Based New Apprenticeship which involved one day a week working at a Coles Myer Stores and attending the Coles Myer. The remaining days they attended their school/TAFE program. Seven of these students were previously disengaged from education. At the end of 2004, 11 of the 14 students completed their VCAL with 9 continuing with Coles Myer in 2005. The "Coles Myer - IELLEN VCAL" program received one of the State 2004 VCAL Achievement Awards. This award recognises the outstanding achievements in the delivery of structured workplace learning within the "Coles Myer - IELLEN VCAL" program.



Now Education Training (NET)

IELLEN worked with St Kilda Youth Service Inc. on a pilot program NET for 20 young people who experience significant and serious social and/or learning problems. The NET project ensures that these young people are given the necessary support and training to assist them to pathway onto further training and employment.

Heat Up! HEAT UP!

HEAT UP! is a new pre-employment training program for young people from the City of Port Phillip and surrounding areas. The program is the result of a collaborative partnership between the IELLEN and Port Phillip Council. In 2003 both organisations separately identified the need to improve employment and training opportunities for local students and the skills gap in the local hospitality and tourism industry. In 2004 the HEAT-UP! working party was established with representatives from Port Phillip Council, St Kilda Youth Services, Victoria Police and William Angliss. The program will offer students the opportunity to gain accredited training in the hospitality industry, with both generic (work-readiness) skills and business training. In both work placement and the creation of their own catering enterprise, young people will plan, manage and participate in the hospitality vista of the local community.



VCAL Support

To assist teachers and students with the implementation of VCAL, the IELLEN conducted a number of forums, developed teacher and student resources, and offered professional development for VCAL providers. Teachers meet regularly to share curriculum, resources, ideas and planning.

St Luke's Outreach

IELLEN worked with St Luke's Outreach Project to assist with an after school program providing disadvantaged young people with a chance to upgrade their computer skills in a safe, inclusive and encouraging environment.



Other developments

In collaboration with St Kilda Youth Services and Climb for Life, the IELLEN offered an opportunity for personal growth and achievement through the challenge of rock-climbing. The young people involved were challenged by indoor climbing sessions and an outdoor weekend in the Grampians where they climbed, abseiled and camped to gain a sense of responsibility, courage, confidence and experience first hand the benefits of mutual trust and teamwork.

The IELLEN continued to develop local community networks in 2004, particularly through our involvement with Port Phillip's Youth Network, the Joint Albert Park/Elwood Secondary student wellbeing forum, and Stonnington's Youth Services Network. 2004's activities also saw even closer ties with St Kilda Youth Services, with whom we work on a daily basis to provide alternative educational options to our community's young people.

Our Committee of Management members



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STONNINGTON CITY COUNCIL



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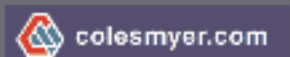


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IELLEN 2004 ANNUAL REPORT



IELLEN → MAKING EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT WORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE