



Brimbank/Melton Local Learning & Employment Network Inc.



How The We\$T Ha\$ Won

The Western metropolitan region of Melbourne has been the big winner in gaining millions of dollars of investment in infrastructure to attract young people into trade-related skill shortage employment pathways. The three Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLENs) across the region – Brimbank/Melton, Wyndham/Hobson's Bay and Maribyrnong/Moonee Valley – have led the region in bringing together schools from Government and non-Government sectors, TAFEs, local community agencies, local councils and business, to submit for stand-alone facilities as well as new buildings on existing school sites. With the new funding announced on November 4 2010 for Wyndham, Hobson's Bay, Maribyrnong and Brimbank of \$32m, added to the \$22m already secured for Brimbank and Melton in 2009, the Western metropolitan region has now attracted \$54m of Commonwealth Government investment in the last two years. This represents 23% of the total funding allocated to Victoria since the funding program began! (See top right map for locations of new Trade Training Centres). As Chair of Brimbank/Melton LLEN and local businesswoman, Christina MacGregor of MacGregor Logistics said yesterday, "The LLENs in the West occupy a critical space in our community – their role of brokering partnerships and advocating for change to better support our young people keeps us all on our toes and thinking about how we can contribute, support and initiate. The success in attracting this fantastic new infrastructure funding to the West is a perfect example of the benefit of having a LLEN working with our community for the benefit of our young people".



EO's from the three Western Region LLEN's

New Western Access Schools Alliance Attracts Multi-Million Dollar Funding

The Western Access VET Cluster, initiated by the Brimbank/Melton Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN) and the Maribyrnong/Moonee Valley LLEN, was formed in 2009 between schools in the Brimbank and Maribyrnong area joined loosely by the Western Highway.

The first action they took as a group was to develop a submission to the Commonwealth Government for funding under the Trade Training Centres in Schools grants. Despite being told their submission was unlikely to be successful and to wait for the next funding round, the Principals and LLENs took the view that you never know what could happen, so it is better to get the submission in now and re-submit if not successful.

The persistence of the LLENs and local schools drawn from government and non-government sectors proves the old motto correct – "You have to be in it, to win it."

To the delight of everyone and especially our schools which are overdue for new infrastructure investment, their submission to the Commonwealth for new Trade Training Centres in Brimbank and Maribyrnong was accepted and around \$13m has been approved to build centres at:

Caroline Chisholm Catholic College – Electrotechnology; Footscray City Secondary College – Avionics & Horticulture; St Albans Secondary College – Hospitality; Sunshine College (North Campus) – Carpentry, Bricklaying, Engineering, Hairdressing; Victoria University SC – Telecommunications; (Cairnlea Campus) – Plastering, Painting & Decorating, Refrigeration & Airconditioning

Students in Western Access Cluster schools from Maribyrnong and Brimbank will also have access to VET courses funded by the Trade Training Centre funding gained in 2008-09 as well as the VET courses that the Brimbank Cluster has been offering over many years, including:

Copperfield College (Delahey) – Automotive, Electrotechnology; Keilor Downs College – Building & Construction; Marian College – Hospitality, Hairdressing; Sydenham CRC – Hospitality, Pastry Baking, Picture Framing, Printing/Signage

In addition to the trade courses listed above, the cluster also offers VET studies in a range of areas including business, community, information technology, media, music and fashion.

In all, the Brimbank VET Cluster offers 25 different VET subjects with a total of 71 classes, catering for nearly 1200 students.

In addition to these options, Victoria University will soon begin building a \$35m Building and Construction facility on the Sunshine Campus along Ballarat Road. As a long-standing and supportive partner in the VET Clusters in the West, they will make available more VET options through this facility.

As Michael Quin, the Principal of Caroline Chisholm Catholic College in Braybrook said, "This is a fantastic result for our region and another indication of how the West is on the move. Probably the most exciting thing for us is that this new partnership between schools across Brimbank and Maribyrnong opens up a new world of possibilities for our young people to choose from and they will be part of a learning community – not just their own school"

Vocational Education Training (VET) – The Means to Independence for Young People!

Young people in the west have just been granted an astounding coup. The funding provided by the Commonwealth Government to support the delivery of vocational education through the building of Trade Training Centres in the West will go a long way to helping young people achieve independence.

These Trade Training Centres will provide an enormous boost to young people to gain the skills they need to enter the workforce. Employers often say that employing young people can

sometimes be touch and go because young people don't have the required skills. Young people who study a vocational education and training (VET) course are so much better prepared for work, not just in the specific trade skill area, but by also gaining 'employability' skills. These skills are those that many of us take for granted, but for a young person who has never been to work and, who sometimes doesn't have a role model at home, they don't necessarily come naturally.

Young people who have a chance to experience the world of work in a supportive environment will soon understand the importance of getting to work on time, wearing the 'right gear', taking initiative while bouncing ideas off work mates and communicating individually and in a team. There is no doubt that VET provides this experience and much more.

Vocational education is geared to a different learning style – it is applied learning that provides students with increased motivation, improved organisational skills, opportunities to explore a wider range of career pathways and links literacy and numeracy to practical applications, validating why they need to learn these skills.

It also opens networks for many young people; they understand the relevance of contacts in various workplaces and often gain a part time job from their exchanges with people they meet through their VET course. It helps them earn a wage while studying and will eventually provide a steady income when fully qualified in trade areas.

VET offers a practical way to learn (and earn!) and our young people will now have access to dozens more VET options, giving them more reasons to stay at school and more options when they leave.



For more information you can contact:

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