Welcome to Issue No. 2 of the Project Newsletter. Schools participating as pilot sites in the Exploring Vocational Education Options in stage 5 of Schooling project have been very busy during Terms 2 and 3, with some schools implementing the various VET curriculum pathway options and others undertaking planning for possible implementation next year.

As the Board of Studies officer responsible for coordinating the project I have had the opportunity to visit some of the schools involved to assist and support their planning for 2007. So far I have visited Georges River College – Penshurst Girls Campus, Colyton High School (involved in a cluster arrangement with Erskine Park High School, St Clair High School and St Marys Senior High School), St Peters College Tuggerah, Parramatta Catholic Education Office (Transition Unit/Lighthouse Project) and Sarah Redfern High School. All of these schools are planning for VET curriculum pathways in Stage 5 that meet the needs of their students and the local community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further support in planning and/or implementation of VET curriculum pathways on telephone 02 9367 8310 or email pemberton@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au

Project Update

1. Vocational Education and Training webpage (including Exploring Vocational Education Options in Stage 5 of schooling project)

The Office of the Board of Studies has recently launched a new section on Vocational Education and Training on the website. This includes information and updates on the Exploring Vocational Education Options in Stage 5 of Schooling project, including VET curriculum pathways planning and possible course structures. Please go to http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/voc_ed/index.html for further information.
2. VET Curriculum Pathways Planning meetings

The Board of Studies hosted a series of *VET Curriculum Pathways Planning meetings* this term to explore further the possible pathways available to students through the study of Industry Curriculum Framework courses and TAFE Content Endorsed courses commencing in Stage 5. The meetings included officers from the Vocational Education curriculum team at the Board, VET secondary school teachers (pilot schools), TAFE NSW teachers, TAFE NSW Program Managers, Industry Training Advisory Body officers, and representatives from school sector authorities (Vocational Education in Schools Directorate, Catholic Education Commission and Association of Independent Schools).

Curriculum pathways planning sessions have been held for:

- **Metal and Engineering** – 19th July 2006 (including potential school based apprenticeship pathways)
- **Information Technology** – 21st July 2006
- **Primary Industries** – 25th July 2006
- **Construction** – 26th July 2006 (including potential school based apprenticeship pathways)

Secondary school VET teachers attended from the following project pilot schools:

- Warialda High School
- Lightning Ridge Central School
- Georges River College (Hurstville and Penshurst Campuses)
- Wyong High School
- Hay War Memorial High School
- Bingara Central School
- Bourke High School
- Colyton High School
- Erskine Park High School
- St Clair High School
- Sarah Redfern High School

Curriculum pathways planning is also being undertaken in other HSC Industry Curriculum Framework (ICF) areas.

Please find attached to this issue of the newsletter a paper titled *'VET Curriculum Pathways Planning – Considerations for Planning’*. This paper provides suggestions for schools planning VET curriculum pathways and design of course structures, particularly focused on commencement in Stage 5.

3. School based apprenticeships and traineeships

The Board of Studies has been collaborating closely with the Department of Education and Training on the development of a NSW model for school based apprenticeships and traineeships, particularly on how part-time apprenticeships and traineeships might be best integrated within the NSW HSC.

One potential dimension of the model for school based apprenticeships and traineeships that has been explored is the capacity to allow students to start training while in Year 10 and to develop curriculum pathways in trade areas that would allow students to complete the off-the-job training requirements at least equivalent to year one/stage one of the relevant Certificate III trade qualification.

For further information on the NSW Department of Education and Training’s consultation on the regulation of school based apprenticeships and traineeships in NSW go to the DET Apprenticeship and Traineeship website at http://apprenticeship.det.nsw.edu.au/docs/consulpaper.pdf

4. Indigenous Community Support Network Forums

The Office of the Board of Studies is currently planning to engage with pilot project schools and communities with significant Aboriginal student populations to support strategic consultation within indigenous communities to explore the potential benefits and challenges in relation to the project objectives for Aboriginal students.

A project team is being organised to support the planning of a series of forums, including representatives from the local communities.

Further information on the dates and locations of the support network forums will be provided to schools before the end of Term 3, with the forums to be held during Term 4.

5. Important Dates/Tasks

VET Board Endorsed Course Applications for 2007

Pilot schools planning to deliver School Certificate VET Board Endorsed Courses in 2007 are reminded that they will be required to complete an application for Board endorsement. Closing dates for applications to be received by the Board of Studies is Friday 22nd September 2006.
VET Board Endorsed Course guidelines and application forms can be located on the Board of Studies website at http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/manuals/index.html#vetboardendorsedcourses

**Survey for pilot schools – Proposed/planned VET curriculum pathways in 2007**

Please find attached to this issue of the newsletter a brief survey for pilot schools to complete and return to the Board of Studies by **Friday 15th September 2006**. The survey is seeking information regarding pilot schools proposals for implementation of VET curriculum pathways in Stage 5 in 2007. This information will assist in ensuring the project officer is able to best support schools in the planning and implementation phases for the remainder of 2006 and into the 2007 school year.

**Project Contact**

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