

A reply to the

INQUIRY INTO RETAINING YOUNG PEOPLE IN RURAL TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES

View web site www.parliament.vic.gov.au/rrsdc

By Wendy Mitchell

1. Background

We need to recognize it is okay to leave an area for study or travel, (if that's what a young person wants and needs) what we want to encourage is young people to connect to their area, with a view to returning.

1. Regional areas would benefit by showcase their career opportunities for young people starting from year 10.
2. By opening the doors to organizations through work experience (many opportunities are currently not available in this area, particularly DHS)
3. By encouraging young people to come home to work for school vacations
4. By encouraging organizations of all types to support young people during their uni vacations.

University – increase options to fast track university studies.

1. Reduce university terms 3years > 1.5 year and 4 years > 2.5 years
2. Lengthen University terms Jan 30 > Dec 15 to make the year more productive.
3. Length university days.

Business Engagement.

1. Engage industry to support university students on holidays needing work.
2. Increase opportunities for regional jobs during holidays.

Education

Provide funding and training and facilitate Regional Careers persons who works with organizations and educational facilities in a full time capacity

Year 9

- Increase interest and available of/in maths and sciences subjects
- Greater connection to organizations and industry – to see relevance.

Year 10

1. Increase exposure to regional jobs, services,
2. Increase business and government organisations participation in work experience in meaningful situations eg DHS
3. Ensure that Government organizations provide work experience opportunities.
4. Increases participation in career sessions.
5. Increase level of career (regional) services provided in schools etc.
6. Increase funding /resource /knowledge of career advisors
7. Engage industry – adopt a young person

Apprentice's

1. Increase 1st year apprentice wages
2. Engage business to take on more apprentices.
3. Government sponsored 1st year apprentice wages
4. Review apprenticeship system, with industry representation.
5. Review TAFE training systems with industry representation

Business Engagement.

Develop Strategies to raise the level of awareness of the community and business people to ensure that young people are aware of regional job opportunities.

1. Marketing campaign.
2. Engage community organizations
3. Facilitate discussion
4. Engage local media
5. Engage educational facilities.
6. Engage business/organizations
 - i. Private
 - ii. Government
 1. Federal
 2. State
 3. Local.

Employ a facilitator

Employ a local champion to facilitate the connections.

Key messages

Promote a adopt a young person attitude/program/mentality to increase the level of awareness and ownership of business/organizations to young people.

Encourage vacations type jobs, which may lead to other permanent work.

Reference committee

Address gender imbalance.

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