Inquiry into Geographical Difference in the rate in which Victorian students participate in Higher Education

Bayside Glen Eira Kingston Local Learning and Employment Network (BGK LLEN) Response

The Bayside Glen Eira Kingston Local Learning and Employment Network (BGK LLEN) is part of a network of 31 Local Learning and Employment Networks across Victoria; funded by the Victorian Government to support their objective that 90% of all young people will achieve Year 12 or its equivalent by 2010. Established in 2002, the pivotal role of the BGK LLEN is to act as a regional strategic and facilitation body, bringing together the entire BGK region to collaboratively contribute to improving the education, training and employment outcomes for local young people. The BGK LLEN works in partnership with secondary schools, community members, social and welfare organisations, youth agencies, local government and employers to find local solutions to the local issues facing our young people, and in particular the issues which affect their transitions through school and into further education, training and employment. There are 30 Secondary schools in the BGK LLEN with over 21,000 young people in years 7 to 12 and across the region. On average 3000 young people complete year 12 each year.

Despite the apparent homogeneity of the three metropolitan local government areas Bayside Glen Eira and Kingston (BGK) there are geographical differences in the rate in which BGK region students participate in higher education and the type of higher education they participate in, with these regional factors impacted on by economic, social or cultural issues. For example, Bayside is the third least disadvantaged area in Victoria with a SEIFA index of disadvantage of 1107.8, Glen Eira is sixth least with a SEIFA index of 1083.2 and Kingston sixteenth least with an index of 1024.1 (cf. Greater Dandenong’s SEIFA is 876.9 and it is 31st on the 2001 SEIFA index of disadvantage).

In 2007 the BGK LLEN undertook an examination of Bayside Glen Eira and Kingston (BGK) Year 12 completer destination data over the last five years, as drawn from data produced by Melbourne University over this period. Between the Year 12 Completer years of 2002 and 2006, the proportion of school leavers in the BGK LLEN region receiving a degree-level university offer have increased by 5% from 47.8% of the 2002 cohort to 52.8% of the 2006 cohort. In Bayside the proportion of 2002 Year 12 Completers to receive a University offer was 47.5% which climbed to 51.8% of the 2006 completers. In Glen Eira, University offers were made to 57.9% of the 2006 students, an increase of only 0.9% on offers made to those 2002 Year 12 Completer students. The Kingston LGA has experienced the sharpest increase in University offers over this five year period, although the proportion of students receiving a University place is still lower than that of both the broader BGK region and the adjoining LGAs. An increase of 7.7% in the proportion of offers made to students attending Kingston LGA schools has been recorded between 2002 and 2006, which has seen the proportion of offers grow from 42.3% of 2002 Year 12 Completers to 50% of those who completed Year 12 in 2006.

If you take a sample of 100 young people of the 2006 cohort of year 12 completers their post school destinations are as follows

- 52 started university
- 20 started VET / TAFE training
- 13 started a job
- 9 deferred a further education place
- 4 started an apprenticeship / traineeship
- 2 were looking for work

Based on On Track data the BGK region has approximately 3000 year 12 completers per annum, and we estimate there to be 700 young people (ie employed, looking for work, deferred) each year who do not participate in higher education upon completion of Year 12. Research conducted by Melbourne University shows that most of the 9% of students who defer the university place will ultimately take up a place but not necessarily the first place they were offered and there is some migration from University to TAFE.
Are students from different geographic areas in Victoria.................

More likely to apply for University?

Yes

The proportion of school leavers in the BGK LLEN region receiving a degree-level university offer have increased by 5% from 47.8% of the 2002 cohort to 52.8% of the 2006 cohort of year 12 completers. A spike of 55% was recorded for the 2005 Year 12 Completer cohort, with all other years registering steady increases in the number of University destinations attributed to school completers. A number of factors may have influenced the increase in University destinations over this period, including the impact of growing numbers of full-fee paying places at Victorian tertiary institutions. Indeed, in 2005 the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre recorded a 22% surge in the number of Victorian students willing to pay for a University place (Rood, 2005), an attitudinal shift which may account for increases in this destination amongst BGK LLEN region students over this period.

More likely to apply for TAFE?

No

VET Certificate 4+ destinations include those students who identified with being offered or engaged in a Certificate 4, Diploma and Advanced Diploma program place. Between the Year 12 Completer years of years 2002 to 2006 there has been a steady decline in the number of BGK LLEN region Year 12 completers offered a VET Certificate 4+ place. Since 2002, the proportion of students offered a Certificate 4+ place has reduced by 6.3%, peaking at 22.3% of all 2002 Year 12 Completers and dropping to only 16% of all 2006 Year 12 Completers. This reduction can be partially attributed to the increasing rates of university offers made to BGK LLEN region students, whereby the 6.3% reduction in VET Certificate 4+ offers is partially ameliorated by a 5% increase in University offers over this period.

More or less likely to receive or accept university offer?

Yes

Although there has been a marked increase in the number of deferrals made by students between the years 2003 to 2006. It is worth noting that the ‘Deferral’ destination has only been tracked for four years, commencing with the 2003 Year 12 Completer cohort. Over the four years that this destination has been surveyed amongst Year 12 Completers in the BGK LLEN region, there has been a steady increase in the number of students offered a University or TAFE place who have nominated to defer course commencement. Overall a 2.3% increase in this destination is noted over four years, from 6.9% of all Year 12 Completers in 2003 to 9.2% of those who finished secondary studies in 2006.

More or less likely to complete a university course once they enrol?

Unknown

Is this because students from different geographic areas.................

Stay at school longer or leave earlier?

Overall we have seen an increase in the number of BGK LLEN region students staying on at school and completing Year 12 or its equivalent.

Choose different subjects or course at school?

ON Track data points to the impact that VET in School studies and VCAL is having on school retention and post-school VET entry level destinations. VET Entry Level destinations include all those BGK LLEN region students who identified with being engaged in a Certificate 3 or lower program place. Between the Year 12 Completer years of 2002 to 2006 there has been a steady decline in the proportion of total Year 12 Completers choosing this pathway destination, with the number reducing from 5.8% of 2002 Year 12 Completers to 3.5% of those who completed in 2006. It is likely that increasing numbers of students undertaking an entry level VET pathway during their senior years of schooling, and a rising number of VCAL
places offered throughout the region, accounts for the declining numbers of young people pursuing this pathway post-school.

Choose different post school pathways (eg TAFE, apprenticeship or employment?)

Between the Year 12 Completer years of 2002 to 2006 there has been a marginal increase of 0.6% in the proportion of students taking up an Apprenticeship labour market destination post-school. While the overall increase has been small, from 1.6% of 2002 Year 12 Completers to 2.2% of those who completed in 2006, there was a higher rate of participation in this pathway (3.2%) for the 2004 and 2005 Year 12 Completer cohorts. The significant drop in Apprenticeship destinations between 2004 and 2006 may be attributable to the cessation of funding for coordinated Australian School-based Apprenticeship support at the conclusion of 2005, which has resulted in lower levels of participation in this Apprenticeship pathway amongst senior secondary students since. Increasing levels of participation in other destinations may have also contributed to a plateau in Apprenticeship uptake post-school in this region. This has occurred in spite of considerable media attention and publicity surrounding skills shortages and Apprenticeships over the same period.

Traineeship destinations taken up by BGK LLEN region students have increased at a rate that is almost commensurate to Apprenticeship destination uptake. Over the five year period being examined, a 0.5% increase in students pursuing Traineeships post-school has been noted, from 1.4% of 2002 Year 12 Completers to 1.9% of those who finished in 2006. Like the figures attributed to Apprenticeship destinations, Traineeship participation also peaked amongst 2004 and 2005 Year 12 completers, at 4% and 2.9% respectively, dropping by 1% amongst 2006 Year 12 Completers.

Have greater or fewer university campus/courses available in their community?

As a Melbourne metropolitan region, our students have access to a large number of University and TAFE campuses located within the greater Melbourne metropolitan area. Within the BGK LLEN geographic region, there is one University campus Monash University, Caulfield Campus and one TAFE campus (Holmesglen, Moorabbin) are located. Outside of our boundaries are a large number of other higher education campuses, although it is worth noting that access to those campuses on the city fringes (eg. La Trobe Bundoora) is more difficult for students in our region, particularly those who rely on public transport.

Are affected by other factors, such as economic, social or cultural issues?

The BGK LLEN macro environment is comprised of a range of social, political and economic factors that impact on student participation which include:

- forecasted growth in the youth population in the 15 – 24 year old populations in each of the local government will lead to resultant increases in student populations
- continued emphasis on Year 12 completion is likely to result in ongoing government expenditure on youth transition the increasing awareness of the important role that parents play in influencing the career decisions of their children; evidencing the ongoing need for programs such as PACTS which ensure currency of knowledge about transition and labour market issues amongst parents.
- the impact of teacher involvement in career planning, with research suggesting that many school staff have a low level of career knowledge with which to impart to students; making the introduction of industry education and exposure programs vital.
- industry skills shortages in the local region
- the need to formally educate employers on how to attract and retain young employees
- the need for centrally coordinated Australian School-based Apprenticeship (ASBA) support identified as resultant opportunities.
- Youth mentoring and the role it can play in enhancing a young person’s development and choices
- The ‘War for Talent’ in employment concerns the impact that generational change, a buoyant labour market, an ageing workforce and changing attitudes to work amongst younger employees is having on organisations

It is worth noting the region’s local industry and labour market, and in particular the characteristics that may impact on higher education participation in the short to medium term:

The City of Bayside accommodates a workforce of some 38,750 persons, with the majority of these people commuting to jobs outside the municipality. Some 23,000 jobs are located within this region, with the majority of workers localized into the region to work. Eighty seven percent of these jobs are in tertiary sector activities. The Bayside region is predominantly a ‘white collar’ area with salaries and education levels generally above the metropolitan average. Bayside accommodates a higher proportion of managers, administrators and other professionals with a relatively lesser proportion of trades people, plant and machine operators and labourers than the metropolitan average. Principal employment sectors are retailing and
wholesaling (18%), property and business services (16%), health and community services (15%) and accommodation, cafes and restaurants (8%). Manufacturing accounts for 13% of jobs but other traditional ‘blue collar’ occupations such as construction, transport and storage etc account for significantly lower employment numbers. Although Bayside is not generally recognised as a major industrial area, there is approximately 100 hectares of industrially zoned land in the area accommodating over 400 individual industrial operations. Approximately 50% of industry is involved in manufacturing (including engineering, plastics, timber) with the balance a mix of warehouses, automotive and technical services and related industries. The major concentration of industrial activity is located in the southern part of the municipality in the vicinity of Bay Road Cheltenham. (http://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/business_in_bayside.htm)

Glen Eira City Council's principal employment sectors are retailing/wholesaling, property and business services, health and community services, accommodation/cafes/restaurants and a small manufacturing base. While the predominate employment sectors in this region are not experiencing significant skills shortages, they require ongoing recruitment of young people to balance employee attrition.

Kingston City Council is one of Victoria’s largest employment centres, home to nearly 8000 businesses, and has one of the most concentrated industrial sectors in Australia with 4200 related businesses providing over 27,000 jobs. This region provides almost 11% of Melbourne’s manufacturing jobs and has the highest manufacturing output of any Victorian municipality. Retail and property/businesses services are the second and third largest sectors in this region, with over 2,500 businesses providing over 14,500 jobs. Approximately one third of this region’s residents are employed within the municipality boundaries. Industrial areas cover 14.5 square kilometres, with manufacturing and vehicle industry sectors accounting for much of the activity in this area. A significant challenge for this region’s manufacturing sector concerns the attraction of young people into local employment to compensate for standard and age-related employment attrition. (http://www.kingston.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.asp?Page_Id=224&p=1)

What effect does going to university (or not) have on………………

Students from different geographic areas in Victoria?
NA

Their families and communities?

In our regions there are a number of key barriers for students who choose to pursue a non university post school choice:

- Parental pressure to pursue University rather then vocational trade qualifications
- Parental desire for their children to ‘do better than them’, hence steering them away from traditional industries
- Outdated parental perceptions of the traditional trades
- Some schools limit parental access to careers workshops that provide current industry information
- School streaming and limited access to applied learning options in the senior years of secondary school

Skills shortages and the Victorian economy?

BGK LLEN region takes in a wide range of industries, many of whom are currently experiencing skill shortages. It is particularly worth noting that the Kingston City Council region has the largest Australian small to medium enterprise manufacturing belt. This region provides almost 11% of Melbourne’s manufacturing jobs and has the highest manufacturing output of any Victorian municipality. A significant challenge for this region’s manufacturing sector concerns the attraction of young people into local employment to address skill shortages largely borne out of low level labour market take-up and an ageing workforce in manufacturing and engineering trades. Despite this, our region’s schools place a heavy emphasis on university over vocational pathways; as evidenced by the limited access to VCAL and VET in Schools programs in many schools across the region.
Appendix 1

BGK LLEN Region Schools and Student Populations

Bayside Local Government Area Secondary Schools
- Berendale School (Special school)
- Brighton Secondary College
- Brighton Grammar School
- Firbank Grammar School
- Sandringham College
- St Leonards College
- Star of the Sea College

Glen Eira Local Government Area Secondary Schools
- Bentleigh Secondary College
- Beth Rivkah Ladies College
- Caulfield Grammar School (Caulfield Campus)
- Caulfield Park Community School
- Glen Eira College
- Kilvington Grammar School
- Leibler Yavneh
- McKinnon Secondary College
- Our Lady Of the Sacred Heart College
- Shelford Anglican Girls College
- Sholem Aleichem College
- St James Regional College
- Yeshivah College

Kingston Local Government Area Schools
- Cheltenham Secondary College
- Heatherton Christian College
- Holmesglen Vocational College
- Kilbreda College
- Mentone Boys Grammar School
- Mentone Girls Grammar School
- Mentone Girls’ Secondary College
- Mordialloc College
- Parkdale Secondary College
- St Bede’s College
- Westall Secondary College

Secondary Student Enrolment Populations (LGA Regions)
Utilising secondary school enrolment data produced by the DEECD for LLEN consumption, the following table and chart show the changes in student enrolment sizes for each of the local government areas serviced by Youth Connect for the period 2004 – 2006.

Table 1: Secondary Student Enrolments (per LGA)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bayside</td>
<td>5,994.4</td>
<td>6,170.2</td>
<td>6,293.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glen Eira</td>
<td>6,389.0</td>
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<td>6,295.5</td>
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<td>Kingston</td>
<td>8,136.9</td>
<td>8,177.9</td>
<td>8,214.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td><strong>20520.30</strong></td>
<td><strong>20679.60</strong></td>
<td><strong>20802.90</strong></td>
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