Raymond Terrace Partners for Change – Case Study

Raymond Terrace Partners for Change is being developed to meet specific needs of young people in the Raymond Terrace area addressing youth retention, engagement, attainment and unemployment issues. The partnership is also being developed to address school concerns about attendance and retaining students with the raised leaving age and providing for students with alternative learning needs.

The project commenced early 2010 with initial meetings investigated concerns, requirements, opportunities and direction of the partnership. Programs developed will commence January 2011 with scope to continue 2012 and beyond.

Strategies were developed to engage industry stakeholders to offer work experience options with a view to part time / casual work which may lead to apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities. The program will offer a generic work readiness course, giving participants real work readiness skills to assist them in securing employment. Part of this project is offering a certificate II outcome for students who are still enrolled but disengaged from school. These students are also being case managed by the Independent Employment Advisers (IEA) to assist in raising their employment outcomes. Also being offered for students with a disability is a cert I course in work education. This partnership has also identified and supported a pilot program focusing on work readiness and job outcomes for young people who have left school. Stakeholders have also worked to engage support to address mental health, Financial and LLN issues in schools and is investigating an Alesco school site for the Raymond Terrace area.

PCYC and Castle Personnel have bought the opportunity of an alternative learning model to the young people of Raymond Terrace allowing them the opportunity to gain considerable work skills and a certificate level qualification. Currently being identified are industry in the Tomago area and their skills requirements, so the Novaskill pilot program can be tailored to meet industry requirements. Council have identified community projects for these young people to obtain and hone their skills on before being placed in work experience. The Raymond Terrace Business Association are currently assisting the group to identify possible sites for an Alesco style school. HNE Health have assisting schools to implement a mental health initiative in their schools with TAFE facilitating PPOW courses.

Opportunities will continue to be identified to support the young people of the Port Stephens area.