

Pathways and barriers: Indigenous schooling and VET participation in the Goulburn Valley region – Support document

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This document was produced by the authors based on their research for the report *Pathways and barriers: Indigenous schooling and VET participation in the Goulburn Valley region*, and is an added resource for further information. The report is available on NCVER's website: <<http://www.ncver.edu.au>>

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Goulburn Valley Aboriginal Education Consultative Group – letter of support for and collaboration in NCVET project


G.V.A.E.I.C.G.I.A.

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21.10.2004

**RE: Aspirations, opportunities and obstacles: The Goulburn Valley Koorle
community's VET participation.**

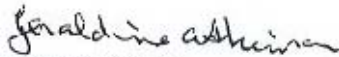
To whom it may concern:

The Goulburn Valley Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (GVAEAI) supports the National VET research being undertaken by Associate Professor Richard James, CSHE, University of Melbourne, Dr Katriina Alford, School of Population Health, University of Melbourne and Mr Andy Cowan, CSHE, University of Melbourne.

Before the research is published as a matter of protocol the research team will meet with GVAEAI to discuss findings and the final draft publication.

We look forward to working together.

Regards,



Geraldine Atkinson
President
GVAEAI

Focus groups

Focus groups information and signed consent



Making VET work for the Koori community

The purpose of this group is to discuss Koori participation in vocational educational and training.

FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS

Purpose of the focus group

We are interested in hearing your views and experiences about vocational training opportunities in the Goulburn Valley. There are no wrong or right answers and you should feel open to make any comments you wish. Your comments are valued, and confidential, and will help us understand attitudes and experiences about vocational training.

Involvement in the project is voluntary and you can withdraw at any time. We do not seek any personal details other than age. The results of this study will be reported in a general way only and no individual will be able to be identified.

I agree to participate in this study.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Focus group guided questions

Questions and prompts for the focus groups

What would you like to be doing in 5 years time?

What kind of help do you think you might need to get there?

Can you tell me anything about your schooling that you enjoyed? (or did not)

Do you know about any vocational education programs in Shepparton/Mooroopna?

Would you like to do further study?

Can you think of things that might help you move back into further education? (or progress in it if you are studying now)

Thinking of the Aboriginal community more broadly, what things typically stop people from studying?

(prompt: cost, location, prior educational background, academic standards, curriculum, teaching styles, work pressures, family pressures, labour market opportunities ... etc.)

Is there anything else on which you'd like to comment in relation to vocational education and training for Indigenous people in the Goulburn Valley?

Thank you for your comments and support. We value your contribution to this project.

Focus group questionnaire



Research Project

Making VET work for the Koori community

The Goulburn Valley Indigenous Community's Participation in Vocational Education and Training

Questionnaire

The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather information on the education and training courses, if any, that you have undertaken during the past few years.

Your age:

Your sex:

Current employment:

Highest level of secondary schooling completed, school attended and year completed:

Education and training courses in which you are currently enrolled:

Title of course	Institution	Year commenced

Previous courses undertaken since secondary school:

Title of course	Institution	Year commenced	Completed? (Yes of no)	If completed, year completed

Thank you for your participation in this research. For more information about the research project, contact the project leader: Katrina Alford ph: (03) 5828 3300 katrinaa@unimelb.edu.au

Interview format and generic questions



Making VET work for the Koori community

The Goulburn Valley Indigenous Community's Participation in Vocational Education and Training

Purpose of the interview

The purpose of the interview is to examine the participation of Indigenous people in vocational educational and training. The findings will be used to generate recommendations for:

alleviating or breaking down the barriers that prevent Indigenous people from successfully enrolling in vocational training; and

developing ways to encourage Indigenous people to see vocational training as relevant and achievable.

The project is funded by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER).

Questions

Please describe your background and experience (including the nature of any programs designed for Indigenous students in which you have been involved).

What do you know about the existing VET system?

From your professional experience and thinking of the Aboriginal community more broadly, what factors might discourage Indigenous people from participating in VET programs? (education, social, attitudinal, labour market factors, other?)

What strategies could be adopted to encourage Indigenous people to see vocational training as relevant and achievable?

Is there anything else on which you'd like to comment in relation to vocational education and training for Indigenous people in the Goulburn Valley?

Thank you for your comments and support. We value your contribution to this project.

If you have any concerns about the conduct of this research project, contact the project leader, Katrina Alford 5828 3002/0407 293300