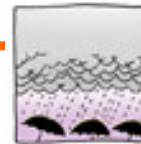


four seasons in one day –

literacies in changing climates

Adult Literacy Conference ■ Melbourne ■ September 10-11, 2004



Youth Access Re engagement Project (YARP)

Jenny Madden

Lesley Wilson Jones

Ken Radley

South West Institute of TAFE

The Education and Youth sector in South West Victoria has long recognised the gap evident for those 15-18 year olds wishing to explore options for reconnecting to further education and training, when the traditional pathways have proven ineffective. As a result of this, the South West TAFE General and Further Education Department began to explore funding and program development opportunities in consultation with Youth and community agencies

The General and Further Education Department have been continually developing their Youth Programs and expertise in youth education over recent years, with a focus on education and training options for young people who have disengaged from traditional learning.

In 2003, the Youth Access Re-engagement Program (YARP) was funded for 12 months through Innovation Funds provided by the Office of Training and Tertiary Education (OTTE).

Focus groups were developed combining local Youth service providers, education and training providers and young people who had previously been involved in Youth Programs.

An engagement, referral and Individual and Program outline was developed, focussing on an Assertive outreach model. Two staff made home/ community visits to students to assist in the initial engagement. Accredited curriculum (Certificate I in General Education for Adults) was adapted to meet the student's needs, interests and ability levels.

After approximately 8-10 visits, the students were encouraged and supported to join a small class for a 6 week "TAFE Taster" program. Students were supported through this program to begin to look at further education or training pathways for the following term. The direct involvement of a Youth worker in the program was also fundamental to the Program success, assisting to provide more holistic support of the young person's needs.

Over 20 young people who had been disengaged from mainstream employment and training were supported to reconnect through this program and have maintained ongoing education, training or employment into 2004.

A comprehensive report, and a resource manual have been developed so that other regions can adapt the program to suit their particular needs. (Copies available on request)

In 2004, YARP continues to provide a supported, outreach based connection back to education and training options for young people of South West Victoria.

Program Coordinators:

Jenny Madden (Department Manager)

Lesley Wilson Jones

Ken Radley

South West Institute of TAFE

Warrnambool