

BEACON'S END GAME:

An Australia that understands, cares and is motivated to support young people to successfully transition from education to employment

INVESTING IN
AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE



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BEACON
DOES

THE BEACON APPROACH

Beacon's proven community-based approach of mobilising secondary schools, parents, businesses and communities to work together to support their local young people, provides long-term sustainable solutions that improve outcomes for young Australians, builds stronger communities, and helps to meet Australia's skills shortages.

Through Beacon's whole-of-school approach, young people gain qualifications, employability skills, relevant career knowledge and meaningful work experience; these are the keys to addressing youth unemployment. In addition, through Beacon's program which runs throughout the school year, young people increase their aspiration and motivation, and develop the social, leadership and the 21st century employability skills that employers are looking for. As a result, the students gain the knowledge and confidence that enables them to become active participants in the workforce, and create for themselves, a positive future.

Beacon assists over 15,000 young Australians from approximately 120 schools and communities each year. Over 101,000 young people have participated in Beacon's program since 2001.

COMMUNITIES AT WORK

A strong evidence base, combined with Beacon's experience over 26 years, proves that the key to young people achieving a meaningful and productive future lies in solid, effective and sustained locally-based school-business- community relationships. The role of Beacon is to support and coach key players through the process, usually over a three year period, encouraging schools, businesses and communities as they work together on shared objectives, delivering a range of activities that enable young people to be work-ready. Beyond the three year period, Beacon's role is in providing a range of resources and support through an online portal; e-Beacon is an online community where schools, businesses and communities can share knowledge, access resources, and keep up to date with new opportunities.

By connecting the wide range of educational resources with the vast array of skills, leadership and resources of business, the young people have access to improved careers education, and the social and employability skills that employers are looking for. Through the variety of activities within the Beacon program, young people are linked with opportunities for real workplace experiences, increased knowledge about industries, the careers within them and individual workplaces, and wider local networks and relationships. These lead to the young people becoming work-ready, skilled, motivated and confident to successfully transition from school to employment, further education or training. Through Beacon's Real Futures Generation program, over 200 young people have commenced their careers in meaningful entry-level jobs over the past two years.

Beacon's approach successfully builds capacity in schools, and by connecting educators with local businesses and communities, an honourable, genuine and sustainable relationship is built at a local level. At the same time, people from local businesses and communities benefit through increased capacity and connectedness, and a heightened sense of belonging and 'ownership' that comes from sharing in the development of active, informed young Australians through a range of activities. In turn, this benefits both education and industry of the future.



COMPONENTS OF BEACON'S APPROACH

Effective school-business-community relationships are key to the success of the program. The core components of Beacon's approach that help deliver on the goals for an effective and sustainable community-owned program are:

- 01** **Local Business Partnership Groups**
 Key stakeholders from schools, businesses and community groups come together and create a community-owned shared vision for change, and implement their plans throughout the year through a series of activities.
- 02** **Work Exploration through Authentic Workplace Experiences**
 Employers have a massive impact on the lives of young people by offering inspiring work exposure programs. Employer-driven workplace experiences are undertaken by students and teachers, leading to increased industry knowledge and 21st Century job skills of participants for potential jobs.
- 03** **Collaborative Classrooms**
 Professional development workshops, bringing classroom teachers and business people together to share knowledge, build capacity and learn how to work together to generate positive pathways for students.
- 04** **Business Blackboards**
 'Co-designed experiential learning for students, created by business people and classroom teachers working together. Business people bring the curriculum to life when presenting the lesson, applying authentic industry practices, sharing their own experiences and promoting specific job opportunities and career paths within their industry.
- 05** **eBeacon**
 Beacon schools that are experienced in running the program and have well developed local partnerships in place, continue to be supported through an online network, where they are connected and interact with other schools/communities, share success stories, gain professional development through a knowledge bank, learn about industries, and other news and opportunities.

ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS

- High Impact Programs**
 Beacon offers a series of one-day Work Readiness Programs, targeted to specific age groups spanning Years 7 -12. Each program is designed to prepare students for a successful transition from school, through the development of 21st century skills that employers are looking for.
- Student Ambassador Program**
 Beacon Student Ambassadors, elected from within the student body, take a leadership role in implementing the Beacon approach in the school and community.
- Speed Careers**
 This fast-paced, interactive session provides students with relevant and up-to-date, first-hand information about future career options.
- Work Exploration and Careers Education**
 Activities and events which prepare the students for the world of work, includes Mock Interviews, Work Experience and Shadowing in the workplace.
- Charter Signing Events**
 Students participate in a signature community event, publicly signing a board to signify their pledge that by the following year, they will continue in education, employment or training.
- Business Events**
 An event for members of the local business community to initiate, build or celebrate business support for the Beacon approach in the school and local community.