

MEETINGS WITH INSTITUTES OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2005

During October and November 2005, the Manager of TAFE NSW ICVET Maret Staron, met with each Institute. The purpose of these visits was to:

- provide feedback on the themes and priorities emerging from the previous visits during April and May 2005
- discuss work undertaken by ICVET during the last 6 months
- seek agreement to new initiatives for 2006.

General feedback

The response to these visits was very positive. We were complemented on having listened and connected to Institute priorities and needs. Of immense value was the openness and sharing by Institutes of their issues, priorities and concerns.

Institutes stated that there was a lot more clarity around the work and role of ICVET. There was a request that we make our connections to AQTF more overt and that we need to understand and link to COAG priorities.

Follow up:

We are identifying the links and how we support AQTF and COAG priorities.

Key theme areas in teaching and learning

All Institutes agreed with the key theme areas that we had identified from our previous visits, being:

- Workplace learning
- Assessment
- Partnerships and entrepreneurship
- Apprenticeships and traineeships
- Blended learning
- Indigenous learning
- Maintaining technical currency
- Educational leadership
- Learning approaches
- Changing VET practices

Some Institutes suggested that we consider grouping the themes. Most Institutes identified assessment and workplace learning as the ongoing priority, particularly in RPL. Some identified partnerships, entrepreneurial skills, educational leadership and indigenous learning as the areas requiring priority focus by ICVET.

Follow up:

A number of Institutes suggested that we meet with Director Aboriginal Education and Training, John Lester. We have done this and clarified that the preference is for our theme area to be known as 'indigenous learning' and not 'Aboriginal learning'. We will have another meeting with John and his team early in 2006 to scope the theme area.

ICVET work priorities

Institutes support the work priorities of ICVET. In particular they are most interested in the links and connections between:

- VET pedagogy project
- practical application (models and exemplars of practice)
- 'Designing PD for the knowledge era' research project.

There is great interest in the TAFE NSW ICVET *website* and many Institutes are keen to hear more about the *PD research for the knowledge era*. All requested another "Learning Powerhouse" conference for

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teachers next year. It was requested that Curriculum Centres and Institutes be more involved in the design and organisation of the conference and consideration be given to local events and/or video conferencing.

All Institutes strongly supported the proposal for a *Teaching and Learning Colloquium* for over 100 practitioners next year. It was suggested that we set a theme for each Colloquium.

Institutes were interested in examining our fit with their priorities and needs. One Institute examined their strategic plan and identified that there were strong synergies between their plan and ICVET work.

Follow up

The theme for the first Colloquium on Thursday 30th March 2006 is "Building our strengths in teaching and learning". Invitations will be sent to Institutes early in the new year.

Future visits

Many Institutes requested that we prepare a presentation to share our learning with a wider audience in the Institute. Institutes are interested to hear more about our learning from:

- Teaching and Learning Colloquium
- PD research
- website and what's available
- VET pedagogy
- capability needs of teachers
- national elarning projects.

These visits will take place early in Semester 2, apart from a couple of Institutes that requested a visit during Semester 1.

We need to keep paying attention to


- staying closely linked to institute strategic priorities
- maintaining and extending the relationship
- staying visible with senior management eg. regular reports
- not being diverted from our core work by others
- not slipping into doing what we like doing best.

Other key meetings

ICVET has met with the *Centre for Learning Innovation* and presented to the *TAFE Commission Board*. In particular, the Board is keen for ICVET to identify the links and connections to the strategic directions and plans of the Institutes. This will be a priority for the ICVET visits in Semester 2 2006.

ICVET is arranging a meeting with the Curriculum Centres Working Group early in the new year.

Thank you to Directors and managers – for your warm welcome to the Institute, your support and advice and the positive acknowledgement of the work of ICVET.



Maret Staron
Manager TAFE NSW ICVET
20th December 2005