Effective Collaboration leads to Progressive Success

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Challenges faced

• Who pays for the training?
• Building the relationships between DCS and DET - what’s in it for me?
• Securing ongoing funding & support
• Identifying, educating and supporting providers to deliver in prisons
• Engaging industry to consider offenders as a source of potential labour
DET Funding: Correctional Education

- Student Contact Hours Profile
- Access to Competitive Tender $’s
- New Apprenticeships
- Indigenous Training Support
Multiple Sources of Funding

- Dept. of Corrective Services
- Dept. of Education and Training
- DEEWR
- Partnership arrangements
The Training

We:

• Select providers for their expertise
• Select the prisoner/students
• Negotiate with prison admin to keep the prisoners till course completion
• Run more short intense courses with experienced providers
• Because we deliver positive outcomes, providers are interested in coming in.
Securing a commitment for ongoing DET funding:

• Becoming an independent RTO
• Setting precedents: carefully managing new training initiatives
• Building trust
• Communicating the results in and out
• Keeping it relevant and sustainable
• Demonstrating additionallity
EVTU Model of Correctional Education

• Research based; integrated program
• EVTU ‘serves 2 masters’
• EVTU is a “third space” in the model
• EVTU ‘opens up’ the 2 systems to accept their educ. responsibilities
• EVTU model provides itself and both systems positive outcomes
Multi-level Partnership

• Local level: Teachers, teaching & prisoners
• Managerial level: TAFE – Prison Ed. Centre
• Departmental level: DET – EVTU
• Generally, a ‘2 tier’ model- EVTU: lower quals.; TAFE/private prov.: higher quals.
• It works to improve outcomes; increase training and improve flexibility and choice
“What’s in it for me?”

- Cert. I in Entry to General Education
- Adapted CGEA to meet gen. ed. needs
- 300 Traineeships: 36 cert. quals in 14 different study areas
- 86% completion rate by Indig. offenders; 1669 participated in educ.
- ’08 -720,224 SCH; in 2009 to 30/6: 400,185 (200,188 by ASETS)
Identifying and supporting training providers in prisons

- Student needs dictate our training
- Guided by industry & our VET network
- Use private & public training providers—which ever best meets our needs
- In the building trade, we held meetings to educate the industry on the issues facing offenders pre and post release
Reframing the Future

- Aim was to introduce training in every prison workshop in a selected prison
- Change Management course provided for all involved to facilitate cooperation
- Training intro. in selected shops
- Construction training led to the 2nd RTF project - the dev. of the Industry Advisory Group and intro of pre apps.
Engaging industry: Building and Construction

- Identified as experiencing a skill shortage in Perth metro & broader WA
- Can provide sustainable employment for ex-offenders
- Can offer employment across a range of areas: bricklaying, concreting, tiling...
- Favourable wages
- History of welcoming offenders
Achievements

• Intro of New and Pre Apprenticeships
• Inclusion of community based work experience with employers
• Active inclusion of support services
• Intro. of Prisoner Employment Program
Future Directions: The Challenges

- Higher prisoner numbers
- “Efficiency dividends” (budget cuts)
- “Risk aversion” by sections of DCS
- Getting recognition & resources appropriate for services provided to some of the more disadvantaged people in WA
- Getting the message out!