

# ACEA 2005 Conference

## Workshop Abstract

**Title: TAFE NSW Provision for Aboriginal Offenders Implementation Plan 204 -2005**

**Facilitator:**

**Maria Leontios**, Senior Education Officer, VET Corrections, TAFE Equity & Outreach Unit, TAFE Equity Strategy and Programs Directorate, NSW Department of Education and Training

This workshop will provide an overview of the *TAFE NSW Provision for Aboriginal Offenders Implementation Plan: 2004 – 2005*.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) 2002 -2005 was signed between the NSW Department of Corrective Services (DCS) and TAFE NSW in July 2002 and this agreement provides the framework for TAFE NSW provision in adult correctional centres with provision for Aboriginal offenders a key priority area.

In line with the objectives of the MOU and the need for continued implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody the *Aboriginal Offenders Implementation Plan 2004 – 2005* was developed and launched in late 2003. The aim of this plan is to establish objectives, strategies and clearly defined measurable outcomes to ensure the quality of TAFE provision for Aboriginal Offenders.

The workshop will cover the strategies developed to ensure the effective implementation of the plan, particularly at the local level, including the following key strategies:

- The establishment of the Aboriginal VET Working Party ( a sub committee of the TAFE/DCS Monitoring and Liaison Committee to ensure wide consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders;
- The establishment of statewide regional committees to facilitate implementation of the Plan at a local level
- Annual workshops and conferences providing a forum for the evaluation of the key strategies of the plan; for feedback provision on local strategies and initiatives and sharing of good practice and innovations

## **Facilitator Biographies:**

### **Representative, Aboriginal Education and Training Directorate TBA**

#### **Maria Leontios**

Maria Leontios is employed as a Senior Education Officer with the TAFE NSW Equity & Outreach Unit supporting VET provision in correctional centres. Her previous work history includes: providing and co-coordinating counselling services to students and staff within TAFE NSW; professional development training and consulting services.

#### **Chris Sylva**

Since 1996 Chris has worked as the Senior Education Officer, Corrections, TAFE Equity and Outreach Unit with the NSW Department of Education and Training. In this role Chris liaises with the Department of Corrective Services and the Department of Juvenile Justice to coordinate TAFE NSW vocational education and training provision for adult offenders and juvenile justice detainees. Prior to her current position Chris coordinated a range of TAFE NSW equity programs for disadvantaged learners. From 1987 Chris has coordinated programs for women from non English speaking backgrounds, youth at risk and the long term unemployed in TAFE NSW. Chris has a Bachelor of Arts (Communication) and a Graduate Diploma in Adult Community Education both from the University of Technology, Sydney.