

As Christine is sick this will now be presented by Maria Leontios

ACEA 2005 Conference

Workshop Abstract

Title: TAFE NSW provision for Community Offender Services, Probation and Parole Service clients, NSW Department of Corrective Services

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 Community Offender Services, Probation and Parole Service, Department of Corrective Services (DCS), clients to assist them to engage in vocational education and training and to find employment. The main focus will be on the provision of the TAFE Statement of Attainment in *Pathways to Employment, Education and Training* (PEET) and the collaboration between the TAFE Equity and Outreach Unit DCS to provide the course to Probation and Parole Service clients.

In 1998 the Probation and Parole Service, DCS, approached TAFE NSW to develop and coordinate the implementation of a course tailored to the needs of Probation and Parole clients, and particularly, Drug Court clients. Subsequently, the PEET course was developed and has been running successfully for drug court clients from the Parramatta court in south western Sydney since 1999 till the present.

In 2003 DCS received funds through the NSW Drug Summit to specifically run the course for clients in the community with drug and alcohol issues in designated Probation and Parole offices throughout the state over a four year period from 2004 till 2007. The course is targeted at clients with a high risk of re-offending. In March 2004 an Agreement was signed between TAFE NSW and DCS for TAFE to initially deliver ten courses in Semester One, 2004. In 2005 the provision expanded to 37 locations.

The workshop will also cover how TAFE and DCS staff at each location worked together to develop varying flexible implementation strategies related to the particular client group needs. Issues related to provision for isolated Aboriginal clients such as transport arrangements and timetabling will be discussed as well as flexible teaching and learning strategies.

Strategies will also be explored on how to strengthen the relationship between TAFE and DCS to assist DCS clients post release and in the community to gain access to vocational training and employment opportunities.

Biography:

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.