

A basic fact of life in fast-paced global economy dominated by new technologies is that education remains the single best predictor for successful employment, life-time income, standard of living, personal achievement, further achievement and keeping people out of prison.

(ACEA Newsletter, 2007)

...many young people are caught in casual and menial jobs and/or training treadmills that don't lead to good job and learning outcomes.

(Larcombe 2006).

Young people live in a culture that promises a vision of life at the top of the up escalator, but rarely glances at how life is for those travelling on the down escalator.

(Spiering 2006)

Within the young adult cohort a deepening divide is opening up as a pivotal stage is reached in the transition from school and learning to active participation in employment.

(Spiering 2006)

Literacy is more than reading and writing: it is economic, political and social in its access to various communities.

(Mc Cormack & Moraitis 1995)

Those who use literacy take it for granted - but those who cannot use it are excluded from much communication in today's world. Indeed, it is the excluded who can best appreciate the notion of 'literacy as freedom'.

*We cannot have a
civilisation that lives in fear.
We have got to find ways
to build more confident
societies.*

(Tibaijuka, in Lovell 2007)

*Jobs are people's passport
to being part of their
community.*

(Business Council of Australia 2007)

*...a growing demand for –
and decreasing access to –
education and training
within Victorian prisons ...a
lack of recent work
experience ... networks ...
motivation ... self
confidence ...stable
accommodation ...equate
to considerable barriers to
obtaining and maintaining
work.*

(McPherson and Lyons 2005)

...community fear of a transition from adolescent delinquent acts to criminal careers is unrealistic because typically, the majority of young people who offend do not reoffend.

(Harris 2001)