

# Offender Education & Training in ACE

A Pilot Program



ACEA Conference 2007



# Government goals



## A whole of government initiative:

- Founded on the link between the role of education and training in increasing access to employment options and reduced re-offending
- Designed to address the needs of a group disengaged from education and training



Adult, Community and  
Further Education

# Policy Background



- Research report on education and training needs of offenders (2003)
- Policy alignment:
  - Corrections Long Term Management Strategy
  - Future Directions for ACE in Victoria



Adult, Community and  
Further Education

# Pilot program



## *Offender Education and Training in ACE*

- Funded by Corrections Victoria (CV)
- Managed by Adult Community & Further Education (ACFE)
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CV and ACFE
- Independent evaluation



Adult, Community and  
Further Education

# Objectives



- Contribute to high level Government policy objectives:
  - Growing Victoria Together
  - A Fairer Victoria
- Increase the employability and vocational skill base of offenders
- to increase offender access to and participation in education and training



Adult, Community and  
Further Education

# Objectives cont'd



- Build ACE capacity
- Build ACE – CCS networks
- Sustainable corrections education system for offenders



Adult, Community and  
Further Education

# Pilot Sites



- Chosen according to CCS need
  - Mildura
  - East Gippsland
  - Werribee Newport
  - Heidelberg Greensborough
  
- ACE providers invited to express interest.



Adult, Community and  
Further Education

# Partnership

- The partnership model operated at a number of levels:
  - Department with Department.
  - ACFE with ACE providers.
  - ACE providers with CCS location offices to engage offenders.
  - ACE providers with other education and training providers, employment and support service agencies.



Adult, Community and  
Further Education

# Participant outcomes



- **Outcomes-based approach**

- Complete training plan and/or
- Achieve employment or further education outcomes



Adult, Community and  
Further Education

# Targets



- **Targets**

- 300 offenders referred from CCS to commence training with ACE
- 150 outcomes achieved by offenders who participated.



Adult, Community and  
Further Education

# Participants



- Eligible Offenders:
  - Currently serving Community Based Order (CBO)
  - Assessed as moderate to high risk of re-offending
  - High education and training needs
  - Unemployed
  - Motivated but needing assistance
- Participation was voluntary



Adult, Community and  
Further Education

# Timeline



- Program commenced in late 2004
- Program completed in April 2007



Adult, Community and  
Further Education

# Referral



- CC Officer:
  - Identified and referred offenders to ACE provider.
  - Obtained consent to refer and release information.



Adult, Community and  
Further Education

# Assessment



- ACE provider:
  - Assessed offender individually.
  - Completed an individual assessment report.
  - Completed Individual Training Plan for each offender.



Adult, Community and  
Further Education

# Training plan



- Articulates education and employment pathway
- Dynamic, changing with the needs of the participant as required
- Endorsed by the participant and ACE provider
- Provided to CCS Locations and retained for reporting and accountability purposes.



Adult, Community and  
Further Education

# Delivery

- Referral to community agencies.
- Personal development.
- Literacy and numeracy.
- Specific vocational courses.
- Licences, eg forklift.
- Brokerage where necessary.



Adult, Community and  
Further Education

# Support to partners



- Regional ACFE
- Community of Practice
- Field officer



Adult, Community and  
Further Education

# ACE *TRAX* Resource kit



- The *ACE TRAX* Resource Kit
  - Booklet
  - DVDs
- Statewide professional development program to be conducted early in 2008



Adult, Community and  
Further Education

# Critical success factors



- Communication between CCS and ACE - community of practice
- CCS Coordination time (funding)
- ACE provider coordination time (funding)
- Strong links between ACE and other community agencies, TAFEs etc



Adult, Community and  
Further Education

# What would we do differently...?

1. Local level management
2. Uniform MOUs
3. Information and resources
4. Professional development
5. Alignment of Training Plans with Individual Management Plans (IMPs)
6. Data collection, reporting and evaluation

