

New ways to do old things: Building Basic Education in Corrections

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The way we were.

- Heavy emphasis on face to face moderation meetings
- We felled whole trees at every moderation meeting
- The staff working in more remote areas of the state were more professionally isolated
- Staff turnover proved problematic



Collaboration- features of our relationship

- Two departments (DET and DCS)
- Physical distance between prison and TAFE education sites does not always enable face to face meetings
- Staff working in prison sites often experience academic isolation within the prison environment
- A network of support with many strands



IT - How we make it work for us

DCS Portal and the ABE page

- DCS has an internal portal where coordinators can have a page dedicated for their area
- Helena has her own Adult Basic Education page
- The ABE page is like a forever changing newsletter that is updated most days with professional development, curriculum and resource development information
- The ABE page is a one stop shop for DCS ABE staff



IT- How we make it work for us DCS Portal and the ABE page

- Information sharing
- Teleconferences
- Resources for induction



IT- How we make it work for us

DCS Portal and the e-port

- E-port is part of portal and contains all the learning resources DCS has developed
- ABE staff can post their resources on e-port for others to use
- Resources are shared internally, feedback is given and they continue to develop into more considered versions



IT- How we make it work for us

ALaN Google Groups

- The next step is for tutors to share their work on the external ALaN Google Group that has been set up by Cheryl
- Features:
 - post resources
 - ask for feedback
 - seek answers to questions
 - find you're ALaN feet or
 - become a mentor



Sharing the work of implementation

ALaN Model Activities Google Group

- ❏ <http://groups.google.com/group/alan-model-activities?hl=en>
- ❏ Open to all Google account members (free)
- ❏ Contains a set of 23 Model Activities for the CGEA.
- ❏ Most Model Activities provide a range of different sorts of material including samples of students' work and documents you can edit to use with your own students.



Staff Development

What Portal, e-port and the Google Groups achieve?

- Timely feedback
- Expertise drawn from a range of learning environments
- Resources shared and developed: eg ALaN model activities
- A range of access points (from home or at work)



Curriculum- another area of collaboration

The IGE-EGE story

- Problem: a curriculum called IGE was due to expire
 - The curriculum was called 'Introduction to General Education'
 - The IGE was Developed by Curtin University in early nineties for Aboriginal adults
 - Most sites within the Department of Corrective Services used the IGE (up to 100 students at 14 sites)
 - DET agreed to manage reaccreditation



Curriculum- another area of collaboration

The IGE-EGE story

- The reaccreditation was a group effort in curriculum writing
- A reference group was formed involving specialists from education sites all over the state
- Aspects of the curriculum were written by reference group members without a face to face meeting
- Teleconferences were the key to the communication required for this process to succeed.











Features of new curriculum

- Target group: adults who are either learning to read and write from scratch or have received a jigsaw puzzle of learning that has not yet enabled them to acquire and use initial literacy, numeracy and life skills.



Core units








Three levels for core units

| | |
|--|----|
|  Entry to Reading and Writing 1 | 40 |
|  Entry to Reading and Writing 2 | 40 |
|  Entry to Reading and Writing 3 | 40 |
|  Entry to Mathematics 1 | 60 |
|  Entry to Mathematics 2 | 60 |
|  Entry to Mathematics 3 | 60 |
|  Introduction to Completing Forms | 20 |
|  Introduction to Managing Your Bills | 20 |



More features

New Electives

| | |
|---|----|
|  Introduction to Oral Communication 1 | 20 |
|  Introduction to Oral Communication 2 | 20 |
|  Introduction to Oral Communication 3 | 20 |
|  Your Health | 20 |
|  Healthy Eating on a Budget | 30 |
|  Digital Time | 20 |
|  Analogue Time | 20 |



More features

New Electives (continued)

■ Preparing for the Learner's Permit Test 20

■ Extraordinary Driver's License 20

Imported Units from other curricula:

■ Safety Signs and Information 20

■ Participate in activities related to current
Indigenous events of significance 20

■ Complete a project with support 20

■ Use computer language and perform
simple computing tasks 20



Features of new curriculum

- Effective break up of initial skills e.g. phonics
- Covers initial skills that are not outlined in detail within the CGEA (e.g. alphabet, initial sounds and sight words)
- 60 hour core modules covers most areas required as building blocks for lower levels of CGEA
- Time in separate electives (Analogue/Digital)



What was achieved through this collaborative project

- An entire group of staff learnt a lot about curriculum and developed their expertise in this area
- We developed some ownership of the curriculum we will moderate with in future
- The variety of roles and expertise brought to this project ensured the ABC two way aspects were given appropriate consideration



Where to find more information on the EGE?

- CGEA Google Group

- Contact Helena Zielinska at DCS

- Phone 08 9229 6584

- helena.zielinska@correctiveservices.wa.gov.au

- Contact is Cheryl Wiltshire at DET

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DET and DCS

Summary

- Efficient use of resources
- Empowering model for all staff
- A fulfilling relationship

