

Nationally Recognised Training

Success stories in Queensland schools

Transcript of video 1 of 1

Success stories in Queensland schools is available from

https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/downloads/multimedia/snr_vet_success_stories_qld.mp4.

Introduction

Chris Rider

Chief Executive of the
Queensland Curriculum
and Assessment Authority

Hello, I'm Chris Rider.

I'm Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

From the early 1990s, Vocational Education and Training has developed into a core part of senior secondary education.

This video showcases what nationally recognised training in schools looks like today.

The four schools featured have nationally recognised training programs that support students to make a successful transition to the next stage in their lives.

These programs empower students to learn, practice and implement industry-standard skills.

Students are responsible for large-scale, real-world projects, as well as leading, mentoring and coaching others.

Partnerships with employers and education institutions bring school programs alive and give students tertiary and work-ready skills.

These stories show why nationally recognised training in schools is so valuable. I hope they inspire you.

Participation in real-world projects All Saints Anglican School

Narrator

Voiceover

All Saints Anglican School is pre-Prep to Year 12 school located at Merrimac on the Gold Coast. The schools offers an extensive vocational education program to cater for the range of student interests, while tailoring their learning experiences to ensure the best possible opportunities for the future. As a school-registered training organisation (RTO), they have Business, Information and Communications Technology and Creative Arts qualifications on their scope of registration.

The Headmaster, Patrick Wallas, encourages an emphasis on the whole person and the fostering of enquiring minds.

Patrick Wallas
Headmaster,
All Saints Anglican School

Our awareness that the reality is every single person learns in different ways at a different pace.

Every child has talents and we start from that premise. Our job is to nourish those talents and give them the facilities and opportunity they need to really shine and vocational education and national training programs give some children precisely that opportunity.

Narrator
Voiceover

Alison Weeks is the Director of Careers and Vocational Education and Training at All Saints Anglican School, a role which includes the management of the school as a registered training organisation.

Alison Weeks
Director of Careers and
Vocational Education and
Training,
All Saints Anglican School

We started our own RTO about 15 years ago and we started with Live Production and Hospitality and they have been key to our vocational programs since then. In the past couple of years we have expanded upon that to include Business and IT.

I think the benefit of doing a vocational subject at school is that it helps students to have a direction for their plan when they leave school, plus they have all those employability skills that employers look for, whether they are going to be looking for a job immediately or for their employment post university.

They have developed connections within industry as well, which has meant that pathway from school into employment has been smoother because of the people they have got to know while they have been at school.

Patrick Wallas
Headmaster,
All Saints Anglican School

We feel so blessed, really, that the pathway does diverge for senior high school students because it does allow us to really engage them, every child and they are doing something that they can see is serving their future.

Alison Weeks
Director of Careers and
Vocational Education and
Training,
All Saints Anglican School

The success of any vocational program sits fairly and squarely with the trainer. You need a trainer who is passionate not only about their industry and sharing their skills with their students, but about their students and wanting them to give of their best and to be their best in whichever industry they are training for.

Greg Fraser is our teacher who delivers the Certificate II in Kitchen Operations and Greg is a chef. He is passionate about being a chef. He wants his students to be the very best.

He trains students to do everything from bone chicken to fillet fish and to create the most amazing desserts and the students walk out of here with amazing skills when it comes to the kitchen.

Greg Fraser
Teacher of Hospitality,
All Saints Anglican School

Yep, just take that off. You should be able to pick up and tear it off. That's it. It's a little bit hard. Maybe make a little incision with your knife, just like that. That's it.

Alison Weeks
Director of Careers and
Vocational Education and
Training,
All Saints Anglican School

Deb Prentice works alongside Greg and she looks after our Certificate II in Hospitality. Deb has worked in front-of-house, in hotels, in restaurants and cafes throughout her life as well and she shares that passion for the industry with the students.

Deb Prentice
Teacher of Hospitality,
All Saints Anglican School

Heavens Above is a working environment. We tell them, 'You are out of schools. You are in a working environment'. It's the workplace and that's how Heavens Above operates.

... no cracks, no chips ...

Georgia Andreou
Hospitality Certificate
student

Every Tuesday morning, for Year 11s, we come into the kitchen and cook from 7.30 through to, I think, 9.30 so we get a big chunk to work on skills and stuff, but it's usually more knife skills and cooking [a] different method nearly every week.

Melissa Fenton
Hospitality Certificate
student

We have, like, school functions, like, Mother's Day morning tea and 'connections' so business come along and interact.

Patrick Wallas
Headmaster,
All Saints Anglican School

The whole emphasis is on replicating real world experiences as much as they possibly can, so the children who work in our kitchen, in our hospitality venue, Heavens Above, when they go out into the industry and work in a commercial kitchen it will be familiar to them. It is a replica of what we expect them to encounter in the real world.

Greg Fraser
Teacher of Hospitality,
All Saints Anglican School

We have had an arrangement with the Watermark for the last five years for our students to come here and work on-the-job.

They understand our requirements for that focus on the job, which we find very important so the students can relate to what we teach them at school and then they can put those skills into practice.

It is not just specific to food and beverage and cookery.

They are in concierge, front office, in the bar, house-keeping, banquets. They are setting up at the moment for dinners. So they have a wide range of areas to work in.

I think the students have a foot in the door even before they leave Year 12. And they, you know, the punctuality and the communication and the base management skills are there, which, you know, gets them off to a good footing with their employer.

Deb Prentice
Teacher of Hospitality,
All Saints Anglican School

Chloe's got a lovely personality. She is one of our past students and she is currently working in a family restaurant.

Chloe Ferber-Tan

Restaurant Manager &
Waitress,
Kampung Malay
Restaurant

I'm sort of in a very 'management' sort of role so I coordinate the night's events and make sure that the staff are working efficiently and quickly and doing everything right and talking to people all the time. You never know who is going to come through the front door, so being confident to be able to talk to anybody who might come through.

The course provided me with skills to be able to comfortably and confidently sort of work in a hospitality environment so, working with people and things like cleaning and setting tables, and, you know, um working with food and other people so it sort of gave me, all the skills that I needed to be able to jump from being a school student, right into work.

Deb Prentice

Teacher of Hospitality, All
Saints Anglican School

It's not just simply being able to go out and being able to cook or able to, you know, working in a restaurant. It is ... it's personal skills, it's their attitude, their ability to be able to talk to people, their customer skills, I think their all-over people skills.

Melissa Fenton

Hospitality Certificate
student

With the skills that you learn here, it's not just for hospitality. A lot of people think, 'Oh, the skills you learn in this course, it's just for hospitality'. But it's not; it's for all different areas.

Georgia Andreou

Hospitality Certificate
student

There's a lot of customer service skills when we are doing functions, so that's skills that don't need to be directly linked to hospitality. They can be taken to nearly any industry.

Alison Weeks

Director of Careers and
Vocational Education and
Training,
All Saints Anglican School

Sharon is our Live Production trainer. Live Production was Sharon's program from the first day that we implemented it within our school and she has driven it from there.

Sharron Cronin

Live Production teacher,
Theatre Manager,
All Saints Anglican School

I started with a Certificate II because it, it was new. It was new to schools, it was new um, to the industry and we put them into the venue and ran the Certificate II. As that built that up, we realised there was more we could do, there was more we could offer so we increased it to a Certificate III purely because the students were doing above and beyond what a Certificate II level was and therefore should be recognised for it.

What the program offers, what Certificate III and the Live Production and VET in total offers, is the opportunity for the student to understand what it's like in the workplace.

**Grady
Ferricks-Rosevear**
Live Production Certificate
student

In our Cert III in Live Production we've been learning the basics for lighting and audio and a lot of man-handling with backstage work.

Creating lighting plots for shows is just a lot of fun 'cause you can change up the colours and we have different movers and 'gobos'. And there is just all different sort of types of lights that you can use just to create a nice image on stage.

... one two, one two ... hello, hello ...

... there we go ...

... is that sounding alright?

... sounding good.

Sharron Cronin
Live Production teacher,
Theatre Manager,
All Saints Anglican School

The program here started in 2004 and since then we've had a significant amount of students that have graduated. Elliot has stayed locally and he's in a production management role, which has made him move up faster through the ranks purely because his Cert III gave him those foundation skills.

Elliott Laird
Senior AV Technician,
Audio Engineer, Gold
Coast Convention Centre

The Cert III that I did at All Saints in Live Production was great. It enabled me to get into the industry. I always was curious as to how everything worked behind the scenes in the theatre, and so the Cert III really gave me an 'in' into both the industry and into the knowledge of it.

Sharron Cronin
Live Production teacher,
Theatre Manager,
All Saints Anglican School

The theatre is run by them. I am going to say that flat out. When they have ownership they then have the passion and the drive to finish the job and so some of the jobs they do is a full-scale musical.

**Grady
Ferricks-Rosevear**
Live Production Certificate
student

Alice in Wonderland is our junior school musical.

Savannah Bell
Live Production Certificate
student

I think we have pretty much finished the set, haven't we?

**Grady
Ferricks-Rosevear**
Live Production Certificate
student

Yeah. Yes, the set is pretty much done. Um, the lighting plot we started and almost finished yesterday and ...

Savannah Bell
Live Production Certificate
student

... audio is ...

**Grady
Ferricks-Rosevear**
Live Production Certificate
student

... pretty much done, I'm pretty sure, as well.

Patrick Wallas
Headmaster,
All Saints Anglican School

We have about 1850 students and we do have lovely facilities but I would like to be really clear on this, you know, they mean nothing without the people to exploit them.

Alison Weeks
Director of Careers and
Vocational Education and
Training,
All Saints Anglican School

It's the quality of the people that are delivering the course at the end of the day. The passion that they bring is what makes the students passionate, you know, for all of us, we know, if we've ever stood in front of someone who is really not connected to what they are doing then that enthusiasm and excitement doesn't come through to us. Vocational training is where students are able to connect with their trainer. They do become passionate and the students know that and see that and they want to lift to that level, to do their very best for their trainers.

Patrick Wallas
Headmaster,
All Saints Anglican School

If there is a child who has a passion to learn something, then, as teachers, we have to find a way of making that happen.

Collaborative engagement between schools and industry

St Patrick's College, Mackay

Narrator
Voiceover

St. Patrick's College is a senior secondary school in Mackay, and is part of the Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton and an active member of a supportive and collaborative cluster of schools in the Mackay district. The school provides students in Years 11 and 12 with an opportunity to engage in nationally recognised training and to focus their attitudes and efforts as young adults. As a school registered training organisation, they have Business, Information and Communications Technology, Construction, Engineering and Manufacturing qualifications on their scope of registration.

The Principal of St Patrick's College is Mrs Janelle Agius. She strongly supports a range of educational options to meet the individual learning goals of the students.

Janelle Agius
Principal,
St Patrick's College,
Mackay

St Patrick's College believes that all students have the right to be educated to suit their needs and their goals. By doing vocational education in the school and offering it, we are offering our students a different pathway. We are offering them, you know, higher education and even to think about going higher again, going into tertiary, going into a workplace. The vocational education is very important to fulfil the students' outcomes and their goals.

It's just a wonderful experience for those students to have success in the area that they are good at and that's what we are focusing on — student success, students outcomes, student goals.

Vocational education offers students a chance to get a qualification that is recognised nationally and I think that this is really important — that they can move, you know, throughout, from state to state and that qualification is still there and it's meaningful.

Narrator
Voiceover

The Registered Training Organisation (RTO) Manager of St Patrick's College, Mr William Cassells, is responsible for the management and coordination of the vocational education and training provided by the school. Being an active member of the local high school is vocational education and training cluster, which comprises Catholic, independent and state high school membership, Mr Cassells strives to align best practice across the nationally recognised training programs delivered at the school.

Will Cassells
RTO Manager and Trainer
of Engineering,
St Patrick's College,
Mackay

This school has a good and proud academic record and I think we have an equally proud vocational record.

The Business and our Engineering, or Business and Construction we bundle together so we make sure those students are doing both, so that the, and that's a request from industry from our surveys.

We run a 'prepare for work' for the vocational students, once a

week, for a lesson, which we have a variety of industry people come and speak to them. They do a variety of other exercises. I think the students are responding very well to the skills they get from the nationally recognised training. I think there is a wonderful collection of competencies that have been put together to make those certificates. Between the ones that are for experience, and the ones that are for skill building, and the ones that are for personal development, all tied together in that certificate really set them up well for leaving school and job hunting. The tasks that we set up for the boys in here, we look very closely at the competencies that they use from the national package and particularly with the machining skills. There's an engineering measurement unit in the certificate that's worth 20% or 5 points of the 24 that they have to do for their certificate.

Simon Korneliussen
Trainer of Engineering,
St Patrick's College,
Mackay

Year 11, I guess, it's more about developing their awareness around the machinery, developing tasks on the machines so they are learning how to use them. By Year 12 we're hoping they can take on a project, they'll be given an engineering drawing and they'll be able to go from there and basically make it themselves.

Brock Schmidtke
Engineering Certificate
student

This is all done in this classroom just with using the lathes and the milling machine. This is what I'm making at the moment in this classroom, yeah. It's a steam engine called an elbow engine. This is the plan I've been given for it. They all come in imperial sizes so I've converted it to metric. This is what I've done so far. That's probably the most, most time consuming part of it. You start on the lathe, then you bore the centre out and turn your edge off it. And then all the careful marking out, milling the slots out. These are the cylinders. They have yet to have the bores drilled in them.

Janelle Agius
Principal,
St Patrick's College,
Mackay

Our resources here are modelled as industry standard workplace equivalents. I'm very thrilled about the welder, the virtual welder, where students can actually perform their skills and master them before they get onto the real tools.

Simon Korneliussen
Trainer of Engineering,
St Patrick's College,
Mackay

When we look at our process SMAW — Shielded Metal Arc Welding ...

A virtual welder is basically, students are able to have a go at welding in a safe environment. They are taught all the basics of an arc weld, so looking at arc gap, travel and work angles, penetration, a lot of techniques around proper arc welding. It's a fantastic opportunity for students to learn within a safe environment. We have found that once they go on to that, they seem to go into the real world and do a proper weld, safely, but using a lot less material.

You'll see oxy welding gear and arc welding gear, machinery where they're developing skills on lathes and milling machines but obviously there is a lot around employability skills as well, so how they work as a team in an industrial environment. As you can see, our workshops here are set up to quality industrial standards and

that's what we are wanting them to get out of that.

Will Cassells

RTO Manager and Trainer
of Engineering,
St Patrick's College,
Mackay

If we are going to teach industry we need to mirror industry in our facility and that came down to setting out machinery with the appropriate industry standard footprints. We worked out an appropriate size for our engineering and our construction workshop. We are very proud of it and industry certainly like it.

Martin Borg

Engineering Certificate
student

So there are a lot of health and safety procedures that we go through. One of them is how the workshop is set out — the welding bays are on one side of the room and the machining lathes are on the other side of the room. The yellow lines around all the machines in the workshop, they outline the machine where only one person should be using it.

Logan Kaddatz

Engineering Certificate
student

Following the procedure for every task, whether it be welding or on the lathe or using the drill press, you've really got to follow the set instructions, so, you know, no one else around you can get hurt or injured.

We really get to understand the skills at a younger age so when we really head out into the workforce, um we already have a set of skills available to us, so employers can look to use and see that we have learnt procedures, tasks and set skills.

Haynes Mechanical Pty Ltd, Mackay

Narrator

Voiceover

As suppliers of mechanical and electrical services, Haynes Mechanical in Mackay pride themselves on the employment of local people and apprentices. Having formed a strong partnership with St Patrick's College, Haynes Mechanical provide work experience opportunities for its students, as well as school-based traineeships.

Laurie Willett

Chief Operations Officer,
Haynes Mechanical Pty Ltd

From our point of view, we could see an opportunity for the kids to transition from a school-based environment to a work-based environment.

Shayne Larcombe

Safety Training
Coordinator, Haynes
Mechanical Pty Ltd

It gives them an understanding as to the purpose of the training that teachers are putting to them, and it gives them a good opportunity to understand where their career can go and how it can all work for them.

Laurie Willett

Chief Operations Officer,
Haynes Mechanical Pty Ltd

It's almost a transition from childhood to adulthood. Actually, instead of interacting with children their own age, actually starting to interact with adults as well. And I suppose it's that transition ... we like to try to make as smooth as possible.

Shayne Larcombe

Safety Training
Coordinator, Haynes
Mechanical Pty Ltd

Dylan started with us at the start of this year as an auto electrician apprentice, and he's very positive, well established within the group in a short period of time.

Dylan Muskat

First year apprentice,
Haynes Mechanical Pty
Ltd, former Engineering
Certificate student,
St Patrick's College,
Mackay

My teacher was Mr Korneliussen at St Pat's and yeah he gave us a big heads up because he did a long time out in the field, so basically everything that was at school for health and safety was basically exactly the same here. We had to wear glasses, steel caps, long shirt and all that so everything was the same. I want to continue this and keep going until I retire really. I like it, yeah ...

Laurie Willett

Chief Operations Officer,
Haynes Mechanical Pty Ltd

We are always trying to push that attitude of safety and obviously reliability and um, to try to teach them to be the best people they can be and the best tradesmen they can possibly be.

Shayne Larcombe

Safety Training
Coordinator,
Haynes Mechanical Pty Ltd

I believe it is really good because again it gives the students at the school, while they are at the school, the opportunity to see where their future can take them, what they can do, the skills they need. It's actually some hands on application to the future.

Laurie Willett

Chief Operations Officer,
Haynes Mechanical Pty Ltd

Banjo's a great young fella. He's a great young fella with a great young attitude. So I believe he will work out very well and he is fitting in to Haynes quite well.

Banjo Macklin

School-based apprentice,
Haynes Mechanical Pty
Ltd, Engineering Certificate
student, St Patrick's
College, Mackay

For work experience, I came here for six weeks. For my first one, I really enjoyed it because I got to do a lot of hands on stuff and, yeah, I really enjoyed that so I kept on coming back. At school I learnt about safe work and quality work.

My Engineering Certificate is gonna help me with work here, I believe it's helping me with my future because I'd like to get a trade.

Laurie Willett

Chief Operations Officer,
Haynes Mechanical Pty Ltd

We see a strong future in this, I mean as society goes on we need to think for the future, not just for the now and we've had tremendous success with this program.

We get good tradesmen and, you know, we skill up our children, we protect ourselves, we protect our own jobs and it encourages something in the schools as well and it gives the kids an opportunity.

Janelle Agius

Principal, St Patrick's
College, Mackay

The teachers that we have doing the vocational education have all come from industry-based areas, so they know exactly what it's like to be at the workplace.

Warren Bolton

Trainer of Construction,
St Patrick's College,
Mackay

My background is as a cabinet maker. I am dual qualified as a joiner as well. I worked with Mackay TAFE College for approximately 18 years, within the furnishing and construction area. I've been now with St Patrick's College for two and a half years. This will be my third year.

I believe our Cert I is very beneficial because it does give them the hands-on experience.

They commence with a basic project, which is a joint exercise utilising the same sectional-size timber, which is the stud material

that carpenters work in industry with. They then progress through to more complicated skills, which is compound angles.

They also work with levelling so they use optical levels as well as produce full-sized elevated work platforms.

John and Daniel are great young students. They are very active and very keen with what they are doing.

Daniel Collingridge

Construction Certificate student

So in our Cert I in Construction class at the moment, we've started with carry-alls for tenon joints, and now that we have finished that we are starting to go onto building saw stools, and that. When you've finished it, you are actually having to finish it to the industry standard.

John O'Loughlin

Construction Certificate student

This workshop and the engineering workshop they have built to replicate an actual engineering or construction workshop. If you want to be a builder or wanna be a mechanic or an engineer or something, you'd definitely need this in school because it gives you sort of an inclination to what it is actually going to be like.

Warren Bolton

Trainer of Construction, St Patrick's College, Mackay

There are 60 plus trade areas that they can utilise this certificate across and what we suggest to them is that they actually try the different areas whilst they have the availability within the training here.

For the students to be able to undertake this type of training, it gives them a step ahead of a lot of other students that effectively walk in cold off the street.

Will Cassells

RTO Manager and Trainer of Engineering, St Patrick's College, Mackay

We find that with the 200 hours that we do in our simulated work environment we can put another 320 hours out in the workplace, in the real environment, which really makes what you do in the classroom real.

Janelle Agius

Principal, St Patrick's College, Mackay

That gives them the real-life experience.

Mackay State High School

Narrator

Voiceover

Established in 1912, Mackay State High School is one of the oldest secondary schools in Queensland. The school values the partnership it's created with people and organisations within the community. And the strong links it's formed with other schools to support the provision of quality learning experiences and flexible learning pathways for its students. As a school registered-training organisation, they have Business, Information and Communications Technology, Construction, Engineering, Furnishing, Manufacturing, and Sport and Recreation on their scope of registration.

The Principal, Steve Paulger, believes that schools must cater for a range of pathways and provide curriculum offerings to reflect student needs.

Steve Paulger
Principal,
Mackay State High School

It's very important to match our learning to the needs of the students who we have. What I want for them is to be well-prepared for the transition into whatever pathway they choose. So, what we need to do is have a curriculum that matches all of those needs.

Narrator
Voiceover

As the Senior School Head of Department at Mackay State High School, Sharon Barnard works with and collaborates with other registered training organisations managers within the region in an effort to align their best practices. Her focus is on providing quality educational programs that meet the needs of individual learners.

Sharon Barnard
Head of Senior Schooling,
Mackay State High School

Mackay State High School offers a range of nationally recognised training programs to students in Years 10, 11 and 12. We are our own RTO. The school is an RTO but we also engage external RTOs to deliver flexible pathway options for our students.

On site we deliver qualifications in Business, Information, Digital Media and Technology; Construction; Engineering; Manufacturing; and we've recently introduced Sport and Recreation and Fitness.

We are very lucky to have an experienced trainer in Craig Monaghan, who actually implemented the program. Craig has a lot of industry experience and is very knowledgeable, not just in ... he is rugby-league specific, but has a lot of expertise in sport and recreation in general.

Craig Monaghan
Trainer of Sport and
Recreation,
Mackay State High School

I've been playing and coaching rugby league for about 25 years, so everything that I've learned as a player and a coach has really had positive impact on the kids that we've been teaching.

We have a really good tie with between school and club and our representative rugby league in Mackay. The training that we do with the Mackay Cutters, with elite players has been really beneficial, and it is really good to get real-life coaches coming into the school and also taking on roles with the students.

Dan Kelly
Sport and Recreation
Certificate student

We go down and, um, ref a couple of the primary school games, which is good experience so it prepares us for when we are out of school.

Tom Dearden
Sport and Recreation
Certificate student

It was good experience because it put me in a position of a referee at a high level, where they cop a lot of complaints and cop of lot of criticism, so it put me in a good position to know what it feels like and to have experience of that.

Craig Monaghan
Trainer of Sport and
Recreation,
Mackay State High School

The personal skills and values that this program offers these students is around things like community interactions, reliability and accountability, and another really big thing, I think, with school kids especially in this region is resilience.

Steve Paulger
Principal,

Using that nationally, nationally accredited qualification is something that assists employers in their consideration around students who they are taking on to their employ, to see what the

Mackay State High School	capacities of those students are.
Dan Kelly Sport and Recreation Certificate student	I'd prefer to do it in school rather than out of school because, then, well, I'm ready.
Tom Dearden Sport and Recreation Certificate student	It puts us a step ahead of, like other people too, 'cause we've already got our level 1 course in refereeing and coaching so we are a bit of a step ahead. We've learnt our first aid course so we are prepared for when we get into real-life situations.
Craig Monaghan Trainer of Sport and Recreation, Mackay State High School	We've seen students finish school and go on to become personal trainers and we see them down at local sporting fields refereeing and coaching and I think that's what we ...we love getting out of it.
Sharon Barnard Head of Senior Schooling, Mackay State High School	Andrea Dearden is the heart and soul of Mackay State High School. She has a great deal of belief in our students and she has been, quite rightly, nominated for a Queensland Training Award, so she's now a regional finalist for the Central Queensland region in the Trainer of the Year award. So, we are so proud of Andrea and she engages our students in nationally recognised training programs, both within our school and also with our outside partnerships.
Steve Paulger Principal, Mackay State High School	The local state high schools here in the Mackay district have the opportunity to engage our students with the Mackay Engineering College, which the students from the six state high schools in Mackay all are invited to participate in. And that's an excellent facility.
Frank Duthler Head of Mackay Engineering College, Trade Training Centre	The centre has been set up here since 2013 and it's a fantastic facility and it caters for all types of students, all learning abilities. The students gain not only skills that they will be able to take into the workforce in regards to work ethics and attitude and readiness at a very fundamental level for employers, but the students also, at the end of the program, are able to attain a Certificate II in Engineering Pathways. The feedback that we have with industry, because we do have a lot of feedback with industry, is that the students are leaving the college a little bit ahead of most students that they do see exit school at Year 12.
Steve Paulger Principal, Mackay State High School	The linkages that we have and the support that we gain from the Catholic and independent schools is also a very positive one. They learn from each other, building networks, which can just be that 'touch base' that teachers are seeking.
Sharon Barnard Head of Senior Schooling, Mackay State High School	In Mackay, we have a VET co-ordinators network that meet every term. I believe our network is very key to the success in the Mackay region with our nationally recognised training programs. We support each other and we share resources.

Will Cassells
RTO Manager and Trainer
of Engineering,
St Patrick's College

We've got our local VET reference group, which has been running since about 2008 and supported by Training Queensland.

Steve Paulger
Principal,
Mackay State High School

I think it's important that you build on what you have and look to neighbouring schools in the local context because that gives you the opportunity then of drawing on success in those local areas.

Sharon Barnard
Head of Senior Schooling,
Mackay State High School

I believe that our VET network operates very well with local industry, so they are happy to work with all the schools and maintain that 'on-the-job' training, which is a vital component of our nationally recognised training programs.

Will Cassells
RTO Manager and Trainer
of Engineering,
St Patrick's College
Mackay

There are many schools doing many great things with VET in schools, particularly for their local areas. We work very hard with the wider community here so that we know the certificates that we offer are matched fairly directly to the requirements once they leave school.

Pathways beyond school Sheldon College

Narrator
Voiceover

Situated in the Redlands Shire, Sheldon College is an independent, co-educational, non-denomination school. As a school-registered training organisation, it has qualifications in Information and Communications Technology, Hospitality, and Live Production on their scope of registration.

Dr Lyn Bishop is the founder, principal and CEO of Sheldon College. She ensures that learning is facilitated in real-world, authentic settings, where partnerships are built with business, industry, tertiary and other training organisations to provide multiple pathways for success.

Dr Lyn Bishop
Founder and Principal/CEO
Sheldon College

I think first and foremost we have to understand that we are living in times of exponential change and the world our students are entering is one where they are going to change jobs many times in their lifetime, so we have to ensure that the programs we have on offer are meeting the challenges of a globalised economy: one where there is a diversity amongst the cultures, one where students are participating in a media-saturated environment. And what we are finding is the learner is now driving the agenda and also driving the learning environment and the pedagogies that accompany that.

Narrator
Voiceover

The Director of Senior Schooling, Mrs Dianne Vandermeer, is firmly focused on the importance and significance of acquiring industry-standard skills and knowledge as well as academic outcomes and ensures that students are provided with individualised programs, which reflect their interests, skills and aspirations in an environment supported by student mentoring

and coaching.

Diane Vandermeer

Director of Senior
Schooling, Sheldon College

At Sheldon College we provide opportunities for students by ensuring that they follow programs that are to their interests and their needs and, in doing that, yes, we are an RTO and I'm the RTO Manager, but we can capitalise on opportunities elsewhere so that we can offer a board range of nationally recognised training.

Dr Lyn Bishop

Founder and Principal/CEO
Sheldon College

We make sure that the programs we offer are set in authentic, world settings, that we have a relationship with the business industry communities, one where children can immerse themselves in the actual workplace and bring those skills back into the classroom environment such that we are getting a very rich mixture.

Diane Vandermeer

Director of Senior
Schooling, Sheldon College

Being an RTO ourselves enlightens us in terms of the opportunities for students but also the framework within which other RTOs operate.

We like to provide them with choices and to provide them with choices they have to have had experiences, and that's why it's important to provide a myriad of opportunities, not just within a school, but external partnerships as well.

Dr Lyn Bishop

Founder and Principal/CEO
Sheldon College

We are finding that even when our students go out to work experience that many of them are being offered positions out there because of the skills set they produce and also the fact that they feel highly confident in that sort of working environment.

Diane Vandermeer

Director of Senior
Schooling, Sheldon College

We see Certificate III as being the beginnings of their journey and many students go on to Diploma, Degree courses and beyond, as part of the national qualifications framework. So, it's all about ensuring that students have the opportunity to have these experiences whilst they are still at school so they make wise choices in terms of their career path. And working with industry and business, along with their studies ensures that they have realistic expectations when they do get into the full-time world of work.

So I guess my job is to look at what the students are interested in. If we don't have it, my job is to go and find it. And we do. Or create it. And we have.

Dr Lyn Bishop

Founder and Principal/CEO
Sheldon College

So these children are getting the best of both worlds, they are getting the pedagogy here in the schooling environment and they are able to take that then and see how those concepts apply in the real world.

Diane Vandermeer

Director of Senior
Schooling, Sheldon College

Murray James is our Director of ICT in the college, but most importantly he is our lead teacher in the screen and media area. The outcomes he achieves with students, he makes them truly autonomous.

Murray James

Director of ICT and Head of
Film, Television and New
Media, Sheldon College

The students themselves drive a lot of the program and drive a lot of the techniques that we put into our events at the college and some of those can be everything from live projection to 3D animations on screens, to motion capture elements. And some of the best results that we've had of the learning process is where the students have actually come up with the idea and developed it all the way through the entire production process.

Ethan Roberts

Screen and Media
Certificate student

Being able to have these opportunities here at high school is an awesome head start for moving into the real world, and it's incredible that we can learn these while still at school and then take that into the real world.

Redland Performing Arts Centre (RPAC)

Tiaan House
Screen and Media
Certificate student

[Performance of 'One Normal Night' from *The Addams Family Musical*]

Today we here at RPAC and we are getting ready to film the live show of the 2016 musical *The Addams Family*. For the last two shows we have been recording so we have four different cameras set up and we have a vision switch and a director of presentation and we've just been cutting through the show just so we can produce a DVD at the end of it.

Tom Nankavill
Screen and Media
Certification student

The school is really like a real-world situation that we've been placed through, so we do everything. We do live production, we do editing, we do animations, we do effects, we do everything from post-production to the final production.

Tiaan House
Screen and Media
Certificate student

I think it really like helps you build a sense of team work, definitely. Like, you have to work with people and you have to, like, work together always to get things done at the end. But also, like, time management because everything we do is very time regulated. Like, everything needs to be done by then, or then.

Tom Nankavill
Screen and Media
Certification student

It gives you a great head start on everyone else so you are already more experienced, you already have an advantage over everyone else and you know what you're doing.

Murray James
Director of ICT and Head of
Film, Television and New
Media, Sheldon College

What we've been able to achieve with the students has been an amazing thing to see and see them grow and develop and obviously as they graduate from the college, you know walk into the industry with those skills.

Diane Vandermeer
Director of Senior
Schooling, Sheldon College

One of our students who graduated several years ago completed his Certificate III in Screen and Media and went on to a full-time cameraman position straight out of Year 12 with Channel 9. And I guess that says that the standards and the quality that often schools are questioned about is guaranteed because that student won that position based on his skills and knowledge.

Ben McMurray
Floor Manager, Channel 9
Brisbane

As a production camera operator we do a lot of news bulletins, also do football and cricket. As a floor manager, my responsibility is then looking after the presenters and looking after a studio floor with the camera operators, autocue, making sure everyone is across any changes that happen.

There is a lot of responsibility knowing that you are putting something that's live to air. You can't make any mistakes.

Murray James
Director of ICT and Head of
Film, Television and New
Media, Sheldon College

The skill sets that he demonstrates on a daily basis up there, I think for him, all stem back to the work that he has done at Sheldon College.

Ben McMurray

Floor Manager, Channel 9
Brisbane

Every Friday our school does an assembly and we do a massive multi-cam production of that, which gave us so much experience in being able to learn from our mistakes. And because we did it so often, it become second nature so being able to then to carry that into this environment, you already know how important it is to get things right the first time, you can't make mistakes.

Because of my experience here, and because of the things that I have been able to learn here, I go back to Sheldon College and every now and then I will help and mentor the students there.

Murray James

Director of ICT and Head of
Film, Television and New
Media, Sheldon College

When we have a student like Ben who is in the industry and is readily contactable and comes back to the college on a regular basis, we use that as an opportunity to check our trends and what we're doing from a process perspective, where Ben can come onsite and be one-on-one with our students and one-on-one with me looking at our assessment, looking at our work program and looking at what we need to develop for the future as well.

Dr Lyn Bishop

Founder and Principal/CEO
Sheldon College

Our alumni are producing some absolutely remarkable outcomes from their placement in various industries, business and the like.

Murray James

Director of ICT and Head of
Film, Television and New
Media, Sheldon College

We've also other students, Cameron March, who use the skill sets to go on to Griffith Uni and then graduate from Griffith Uni and now is in the industry as well. So, the program was really just a starting point, or a stepping stone for him for his future pathway.

Cameron March

Producer, *The Dreamers*

At the moment I'm working as a producer at a production company called *The Dreamers* on the Gold Coast. I have future aspirations to be a feature film director. And learning the fundamentals of film and media in general was really, really helpful.

Murray James

Director of ICT and Head of
Film, Television and New
Media, Sheldon College

It's always pleasing to have Cameron come back and we sit and chat and look at his work and we still critique it just like he was when he was here at the school.

Cameron March

Producer, *The Dreamers*

Through my tertiary studies I completed a short film in my final year and that short film is heading to the Cannes Film Festival. Cannes is a film market, so we will be dealing with producers, sales agents, distributors and people that will really help us in furthering our career. So, that's really exciting and something that I'm definitely looking forward to.

Murray James

Director of ICT and Head of
Film, Television and New
Media, Sheldon College

To see him doing so well, I guess, his film going to Cannes where he is at the moment, is a testament to him as a student in developing that skill set and taking, I guess the opportunities that he's had at Sheldon College and drive them to his special interests of what he wants to achieve.

Cameron March

Producer, *The Dreamers*

Sheldon College was really good in giving us real-world situations so they host a number of events throughout the year that are on a professional scale. All of it is run by students and I would urge anyone to go and attend one of those events to see it run, because it is really done like a professional production.

The grass roots for this really began through Sheldon College and the Certificate III in Media. It was a great base and platform for me to work with, so I'm just excited for what's ahead in the future.

Ben McMurray

Floor Manager, Channel 9
Brisbane

Sheldon College enabled me to do my certificate in such a real world environment where I would be able to walk into a classroom and not feel like it was a classroom. It felt like an edit suite in the real world.

Diane Vandermeer

Director of Senior
Schooling, Sheldon College

From our perspective, we are industry. We run big events at this college and our media students run the show.

Alistar Brown

Camera Operator, Reel
Image Productions

From what I've seen today, it's quite amazing. The equipment you've got, the facilities you've got, the studio, the edit suite — it's real world. At school, through a program like this, with these facilities, it's giving you the option to learn with what the professionals use and learning the right way.

Dr Lyn Bishop

Founder and Principal/CEO
Sheldon College

I feel the nationally recognised training programs are something that is essential in every school because it's about preparing children for the world of work. It's about moving them on into a globalised economy. It's about understanding that they are going to go out into a world that's very, very different from what we did and they are going to have to take their part there in that sort of working environment.

Murray James

Director of ICT and Head of
Film, Television and New
Media, Sheldon College

Under the umbrella of having nationally recognised training, wherever they go to is that standard skills set that the students have that is nationally recognised. So, the students, no matter which career they go into, they will be able to use those skills at a national level.

Sharon Barnard

Head of Senior Schooling,
Mackay State High School

We are very proud of what we do here and our nationally recognised training programs are a very important part of that.

Greg Fraser

Teacher of Hospitality, All
Saints Anglican School

Remember, a nice sprig of parsley next to that tartare ...

Alison Weeks

Director of Careers and
Vocational Education and
Training, All Saints
Anglican School

I think that the beauty of VET is that students are changed. From the day they start in a vocational course, they don't know anything. By the time they have finished their qualification they are experienced people.

We often hear from parents and employers who say, 'I can't believe the change in this young man or this young girl because of

their vocational training’.

Craig Monaghan

Trainer of Sport and Recreation, Mackay State High School

Building these skills as they are maturing from adolescents to teenagers and into adult life, I think the earlier we can teach them these skills, these personal skills and values, the better, so that they can use the skills and use everything that we’ve taught them once they finish school into their job careers of their choice.

Laurie Willett

Chief Operations Officer, Haynes Mechanical Pty Ltd, Mackay

I’ve seen some of the young people come through and then you see them move on, they grow up to have relationships, they’re having families and, we’re a bit proud at Haynes that we’ve had a little bit to do with that.

Dr Lyn Bishop

Founder and Principal/CEO Sheldon College

These skill sets are giving them absolute wonderful, wonderful opportunities. We’re seeing that repeated over and over with the return of our alumni students who come back to thank our teachers for the work that’s being done in setting them up and ensuring that they have a very, very worthwhile experience, not only within the schooling environment, but also in the world of work.

Will Cassells

RTO Manager and Trainer of Engineering, St Patrick’s College, Mackay

There has always been a problem, and probably a false one, that VET is an enormous amount of work. I find that you have your training package, you set your training and assessment strategy, add to it, you organise your staff profile, you organise your teaching resources ... to me you are not really doing anything different to what you do with a regular syllabus.

Diane Vandermeer

Director of Senior Schooling, Sheldon College

A lot of people think that schools aren’t able to provide the standard required in industry. And I think if you can be working with industry and having them validate your assessment items, looking at projects you can work on together collaboratively, and then looking at the outcomes of student work where you get endorsement by industry, then nobody can question the quality of your program.

Sharon Barnard

Head of Senior Schooling, Mackay State High School

I believe that student engagement in nationally recognised training programs is vital in secondary schools across Queensland.

Janelle Agius

Principal, St Patrick’s College, Mackay

In all our programs we should say to ourselves, ‘How are we going? Where are we going with students’ education?’. So, vocational education is very important. It has its place in every school, if we are looking at a relevant and holistic education for everybody.

Steve Paulger

Principal, Mackay State High School

What we try to do is link with the available groups that we can partner with to try and extend and grow those opportunities as much as we can. There are advantages that we can take from those partnerships and working closely together.

Diane Vandermeer

It’s about quality outcomes for students. How you achieve that

Director of Senior
Schooling, Sheldon College

and, cost effectively, is to work in partnership with others so you don't have to have all bells and whistles at your school. You can work in collaboration with other schools and also certainly with business in industry to provide those real-world opportunities.

Sharon Barnard

Head of Senior Schooling,
Mackay State High School

It doesn't matter whether you are a state or a non-state school, we are just happy to work together for the best outcomes for our students.

Will Cassells

RTO Manager and Trainer
of Engineering, St Patrick's
College, Mackay

It makes it easy for everyone in the end.

Sharon Barnard

Head of Senior Schooling,
Mackay State High School

That's right.

Patrick Wallas

Headmaster,
All Saints Anglican School

This is just a part of their journey and our goal is to set them out into the world ready to face the challenges that they will face with a really good set of values that will serve them for the rest of their days. The vocational education stream and the nationally recognised training programs help us to do that.

With thanks to the staff, students and all those involved in the programs at:

- All Saints Anglican College
- St Patrick's College Mackay
- Mackay State High School
- Sheldon College.