

Belmont High School

Belmont High School is a secondary college with around 1 080 students. While the school did not partner directly with the Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN) or Local Community Partnership (LCP) the school career adviser was working closely with both on a number of projects including career education for Years 7 to 10.

The school career adviser wanted to use the *Blueprint* as a framework for the inclusion of career education in the school curriculum for Year 7 to 10 students. The new curriculum was being developed in the context of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) and the Managed Individual Pathways (MIPS) initiatives. The project provided an opportunity to test and map the *Blueprint* competencies against the Victorian initiatives.

What did they do?

Current activities and resources were identified and mapped back against VELs, MIPS, and the *Blueprint* competencies as follows:

- Years 7 & 8: Activities from The Real Game® were used as local standards for Year 7, while Personalised Learning Plan activities were used as local standards for Year 8. These were mapped against VELs Level 5 competencies and *Blueprint* competencies at Phase II
- Year 9: Local standards activities were mapped against VELs Level 6 and *Blueprint* competencies at Phase III along with some Phase II. Local standards for this year group included: Career Voyager® activities, MIPS plan, Year 9 Health unit/s, visits to industry and Geelong CBD, together with various activities such as team building exercises
- Year 10: Career Voyager® activities, MIPS plans, careers day activities, work experience, industry visits and OHS units were used as local standards. These were mapped against MIPS, VELs Level 6 and *Blueprint* Phase III competencies
- Years 11 & 12: Current Year 11/12 activities such as guest speaker/information evenings, apprenticeship information sessions, study skills and course counselling were mapped against *Blueprint* Phase III performance indicators.

The career adviser planned to develop a new curriculum for implementation in 2007 with career education activities integrated in the general curriculum. All teachers would become teachers of career education. Data would be collected from the career education survey conducted with Year 9 students and from data included in students' MIPS plans. The goal was to analyse this data at a future date to assess how useful the inclusion of career education in the school curriculum proved to be. Learning materials for use by classroom teachers would

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be sourced from the Victorian Department of Education and Training's MIPs resources kit¹

How did the *Blueprint* help?

In the words of the career adviser:

The Blueprint has provided me with a framework to begin thinking and talking about career education. It has provided me with a framework to develop curriculum for the delivery of career education within a school context. At this early stage, the Victorian Essential Learnings has provided me with the initial thrust to start talking up career education. The Blueprint is providing me with the backup and framework I need to continue to introduce a change of culture towards career development. ... The teaching of Career Education cannot any longer sit purely with the Careers teacher in the school. It has to be the responsibility of all teachers (I have presented this view to all staff at my school with general acceptance). The Blueprint is an instrument that can be used to facilitate this (career adviser, Belmont High School, Victoria).

¹ Available at:

(<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/sensecyouth/careertrans/mips/mipsresourcekit.htm>).

