

## St John Fisher College (QLD)

The vocational education and training (VET) and careers coordinator at St John Fisher College (QLD), a Catholic secondary girls school, worked with the school guidance counsellor to develop a career education program (*Futures Week*). The team planned on using the program to garner support for career education and engender support for more substantive curriculum change.

### What did they do?

The team used the *Blueprint* to perform a needs assessment and map existing career development activities in the school. The VET/careers coordinator and guidance counsellor then developed a career education program that would provide career development learning opportunities for students that addressed career management competencies they might be lacking.

Promoting the *Blueprint* throughout the school became an important aspect of the project, as there was no history of commitment to the career development of students. The team felt that promotion of the *Blueprint* was an important first step as it helped to ensure all staff believed in the importance and were able to positively model career management competencies.

The team based their needs assessment questionnaire on Phase II competencies as they quickly established that this was most appropriate for a cohort of students who had previously had few formal career development learning opportunities. The team adapted the language of the performance indicators and learning taxonomy and piloted the survey tool on Year 10 students prior to surveying Year 8 and 9 students.

The project team then created a mapping document to evaluate existing career development activities, using the *Blueprint* tools. The information gathered during the needs assessment and the mapping exercise was then used to develop the career development program.

### How did the *Blueprint* help?

The *Blueprint* enabled the project team to articulate the learning outcomes of career development activities to other staff members in the school. The team felt that they had managed to gain support for career development activities in ways that would not have previously been possible.

The *Blueprint* has credibility and this provided us with some leverage....(and) the mandate to facilitate the career development of students – here and elsewhere – is growing.

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