Project Report

2006 Victorian Equity Projects – An Office of Training and Tertiary Education initiative

Project title: PATHWAYZ
Organisation/lead agency: East Gippsland Institute of TAFE
Project coordinator: Paul Mlynarz, eLearning Manager
Contact details: (03) 5152 0749

Project summary
This project involved developing a valuable resource for TAFE students that would provide information and resources that would assist in their career development and pathway planning. A DVD was produced which delivered information to the students in an interactive visual and auditory format.

The learners
The target group for this project are those identified as requiring individual support and assistance to successfully re-engage in training, and reach a positive outcome of further training or employment. Our primary focus was on ‘Equity Groups’, including disengaged youth, people with a disability, sole or teenage parents, indigenous and mature-aged students and long term unemployed. These groups often face barriers due to low literacy and numeracy skills, low self-esteem, and reduced computer, study, social and employability skills.

The challenge
Our challenge was to produce a resource in a format that would be of most benefit to our learners. Text based or web based information would not be easily accessed by our targeted students, as many are geographically remote, have low literacy and computer literacy skills and are not broadband connected.

Research showed us that an interactive, visual and auditory format would be most user-friendly. The information presented on our DVD also had to be relevant, local and accessible.

Our approach
Our DVD includes information presented in a variety of formats, including visual, auditory, interactive and text to best suit the needs of our wide variety of students.
One of the main components of the project is an interactive maze, through which learners traverse to reach their goals, dealing with ‘pop-up’ barriers along the way, which are then solved via information included in the DVD.

The results
The bright, visual and user friendly format has enabled our students to access information that will assist them in increasing their opportunities for successful outcomes in both training and employment. Local service directories, hints regarding resumes/applications and work readiness are included, as well as information regarding support services available to students of East Gippsland TAFE.

Lessons learned
Our DVDs were ‘road tested’ on a random selection of our equity group students, as well as staff from other departments before the final product was released. All feedback was practical and useful and resulted in some minor changes being made before release. Our main difficulty was factoring in all the research, fact-checking and networking required to ensure relevance, value and accuracy to our project in the timeframe and budget that we had allowed.

Contact details for queries regarding the project
Pam Waters
Team Leader, Vocational Support and Services
East Gippsland Institute of TAFE
(2006 Victorian Training Provider of the Year)
Bairnsdale Vic. 3875
PO Box 886
Tel: (03) 51520725 Fax: (03) 51526317
Mobile: 0429701296
Email: pwaters@egtafe.vic.edu.au Web: www.egtafe.vic.edu.au

Product 1
Title PATHWAYZ
Are you a returning to study? Looking at increasing your employability skills? A little unsure of your options regarding further training and employment? Then we have the tool for you! Welcome to “PATHWAYZ”, an interactive DVD which helps you break down employment barriers and increase your opportunities. Take a journey with Ian and Nugget along the pathways to getting the support, training and job you want.