Boardroom to classroom: the role of the corporate and philanthropic sectors in school education

Welcome

This edition of the Research eLert is a product of a research partnership project carried out between 2008–09 between DEECD and the Foundation for Young Australians. The aim of the research was to explore the trends in corporate and philanthropic involvement in school education in Victoria, Australia and internationally that are supporting improved outcomes for students.

The findings of the research strongly support the future involvement of companies and foundations in Victorian government schools and suggest a number of strategies to maximise the efficacy and effectiveness of this involvement.

This report will be shared at the upcoming Research Partnerships Forum: 0-18 Learning and Development which is to be held on 21 July. Further details of the forum are included in this eLert.

I encourage you to share your ideas and contributions by providing feedback to: <research@edumail.vic.gov.au>.

Dr Dahle Suggett
Deputy Secretary
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Feature article

Boardroom to classroom: the role of corporate and philanthropic sectors in school education

This report draws on local and international research as well as qualitative data collected through forums with the corporate and philanthropic sectors, school leaders, policy-makers and leading agencies.

It provides information on philanthropic and corporate involvement in school education in Australia and features a range of partnerships that are currently underway both here and overseas.

The report explores issues associated with partnership arrangements including the capacity of schools in different socioeconomic settings to secure and sustain productive partnerships and the importance of corporate social responsibility.

The report is available at:

Related research

Making the Difference: Research and Practice in Community Schools

The Coalition for Community Schools is an alliance of national, state and local organisations in education K-16, youth development, community planning and development, family support, health and human services, government and philanthropy as well as national, state and local community school networks.

A community school is both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources. Its integrated focus on academics, services, supports and opportunities leads to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities. Schools become centres of the community and are open to everyone — all day, every day, evenings and weekends.

The Coalition advocates for ‘community schools’ as the vehicle for strengthening schools, families and communities so that together they can improve student learning. This report presents a review of 20 current evaluations of community school initiatives, the data from which show the positive impact of community schools and offers an action agenda for the multiple stakeholders who must work together to promote community schools locally.

The Community of Business

The contribution of business to Australia’s overall community is not readily understood. The BCA surveyed its membership of 100 leading corporations to quantify their contribution in spreading value to the community as well as its shareholders. This report demonstrates the ways large businesses in Australia not only create wealth for shareholders, but contribute to the social, environmental and economic wealth of the cities and regions they operate, and more broadly through employment, R&D, taxes and exports.


Upcoming events

Below is a list of upcoming conferences which may be of interest. For a comprehensive list of conferences, workshops and events, visit the Education Network Australia site at: http://www.edna.edu.au/edna/go

2009 State Conference: ICT for Tomorrow’s Learning (30 May 2009), Melbourne
ICTEV’s 30th annual state conference, ICT for Tomorrow’s Learning, focuses on weaving ICT into every facet of education, connecting students and teachers in their learning through a broad range of resources and skills.


MERGA32 Conference (5–9 July 2009) Massey University Wellington, New Zealand

The theme of the 32nd annual MERGA Conference is Crossing Divides. These divides include the physical, educational (research and practice), cultural and interdisciplinary. The theme was chosen to celebrate both the diversity within mathematics and the collaborative nature of international research activity which is promoted within MERGA.

http://www.eenz.com/merga32/

Research Partnerships Forum: 0–18 Learning and Development (21 July 2009) Sofitel Hotel, Melbourne

This multi-media forum will share the findings of research projects undertaken in partnership with the Department. Schools, universities and research organisations will present on a range of topics from early childhood through to post-compulsory years.

The forum will also provide information on future funding opportunities available to schools, the early childhood sector, universities and other organisations.

Further information will soon be available on the website:

Professional Development Network Leadership Conference 2009 (6–7 August 2009), Broadbeach, QLD

The conference, titled 3 Rs of Leadership: Revolutions, Revelations & Reality, offers school leaders an opportunity to engage with the future of education and discuss ways to drive academic and cultural changes in schools. Speakers include Professor Allan Walker (The Chinese University of Hong Kong), Professor Barry McGaw (McGaw Group Pty Ltd) and Ms Kate Kirby (The University of Melbourne).


Assessment and Student Learning: Collecting, interpreting and using data to inform teaching (16–18 August 2009), Perth, WA

This conference will explore the information that can be gained from quality classroom and system wide assessment and how effective teachers use that information to guide their teaching.


NCVER & DEEWR - Young people: Finding their way in a new era (10 November 2009), Melbourne

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research and the Australian Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations will present a policy forum in November.

This event brings together new research to throw light on the issues that really matter. Drawing on findings from a range of research using data from the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth, the event will seek to inform policy makers on how they can improve education outcomes for young people, provide them with skills for the contemporary labour market, as well as ensure that they lead full and meaningful lives.

http://www.ncver.edu.au

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