Integrated 0-18 Learning and Development: Promising Practices

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Research Areas of Interest

Research questions

• What is the evidence base that supports a 0-18 approach to learning and development?
• What local and international evidence is there of successful 0-18 learning and development approaches, longitudinally and laterally?

Site visits of three days conducted at six sites with reputations for promising practices in integrated learning and development;

Sites were chosen to include practices across the range, birth to 18 and to represent a range of locations and contexts (suburban, rural-urban fringe, regional)

Stakeholders were interviewed and documents examined.
Research Findings

- At the first site there was a complex interplay between a variety of programs and policy initiatives, including Schools Renewal and Neighbourhood Renewal.

- School has formed productive partnerships to assure that the proposed new school is a community hub that provides valuable community services and facilities.

- The second site had a history of high youth unemployment – up to 25%. Marked skills shortages have made it difficult for local businesses to hire staff with the training they need.

- The school has worked towards providing effective pathways into ‘real jobs’ that also meet the needs of employers in the area for skilled staff and to assist groups of students under-represented in traditional trade training, including indigenous youth and girls.
Future Research

- There is world-wide interest in integrated service provision of all kinds

- While intuitively this development is of value for a range of stakeholders, hard data on effectiveness is scarce at best

- Previous research on evaluating complex policy initiatives points the way to designing appropriate and effective ways to evaluate outcomes and guide development.