Alternative Education Programs aim to re-engage vulnerable young people in education. These programs cater for students who experience significant difficulties or behavioural issues which may cause disruptions to their learning or impact on the learning of other students.

About the review

The purpose of the review is to inform the development of an evidence based policy framework to guide the future delivery of alternative education programs funded by DEECD.

The policy framework will provide a consistent and sustainable approach to the provision of appropriate education options for disengaged or at risk young people in Victoria.

Objectives

The objectives of the review are to

- articulate the aims and objectives of AEPs and develop a set of criteria to address eligibility, access, funding, accountability and program evaluation
- enable consistency within program delivery
- determine if programs are delivered in line with standards for quality and risk and the broader policy context
- develop a policy framework and revised funding model for AEPs in the future

What’s involved

The review will involve

- researching the current range of Victorian AEPs to understand what is happening now
- undertaking a literature scan to identify best practice in delivering alternative education programs
- consulting with stakeholders to understand the range of views and experiences
- developing a policy framework in consultation with key stakeholders
- developing a funding model to support the policy framework
- reporting back to DEECD and making recommendations for future directions

When will it happen?

- The project commenced on 9 March 2009
- The desk top review will be completed by 10 April 2009
- Stakeholder consultations will occur from 30 March to 24 April 2009
- The policy framework and funding model will be developed by mid May 2009.
- The final report will be provided to DEECD in early to mid June 2009
DEECD and KPMG recognise that consulting with a wide variety of stakeholders is the best way to inform the development of a practical and comprehensive policy framework.

**Consultation approach**

The KPMG team will conduct the following consultations:

- Attendance at a meeting of Assistant Regional Directors
- Meetings with the Project Advisory Group, which is made up of representatives from relevant areas of DEECD, Office for Youth and Adult Community and Further Education (DPCD), Children Youth and Families Division (DHS), AEP providers and other key stakeholders
- Three regional forums where educators, AEP providers, community service organisations and other relevant stakeholders will have a chance to provide input
- Five visits to Alternative Education sites to gain insight into the delivery of Alternative Education Programs
- Targeted consultations with key individuals to further inform the policy framework

**Consultation Timelines**

A meeting with Assistant Regional Directors was held on 25 March 2009.

Meetings with the Advisory Group will be held on 31 March and 18 May 2009.

The three regional forums will be held on 20, 21, 22 April 2009.

Site visits will be completed by 24 April 2009.

Other consultations will be held from early April and will be completed by 24 April 2009.

**The project team**

The project team comprises KPMG staff who will work closely with the DEECD Project Management Group and the Steering Group.

The Project Steering Group consists of senior managers from across DEECD.

**Finding out more**

If you would like further information about the project you can contact KPMG:

- Pauline Duncan, Project Manager on 9288 5929 or pduncan@kpmg.com.au
- Tracey O’Halloran, Project Director on 0412 294 495 or tohalloran@kpmg.com.au

Alternatively, information about the project can be provided by contacting DEECD:

- Steve Passalis, Senior Policy Officer, Student Wellbeing and Health Support Division, DEECD on 9637 3341 or passalis.steve.s@edumail.vic.gov.au