



Project Report

A Skills Victoria initiative

Project title	'User friendly' online assessment tool - 2006 Victorian Equity Project
Organisation/lead agency	Sunraysia Institute of TAFE
Contact details	Contact the above for further details

Project summary

The Sunraysia Institute of TAFE's 'User friendly' online assessment resource provided a detailed learning profile. Students completed an intake assessment and self assessment, access literacy and numeracy tasks, and were provided information about learning style inventories, careers websites, resumes and a range of support services.

The learners

The target group was students with learning difficulties in all equity groups, including disengaged youth, people with disabilities, sole or teenage parents, and indigenous or mature age. The needs of this target group were identified as students demonstrating difficulty with learning, being disengaged through negative learning experiences, having high support needs and requiring intensive customised responses to specific learning needs.

The challenge

The challenge was to develop a 'user friendly' online assessment tool, which provided a detailed student learning profile informing both staff and individual students of strengths and weaknesses, which can direct the development of customised teaching and learning strategies.

Sunraysia Institute of TAFE's approach

Sunraysia Institute of TAFE's Educational Manager, Further Education, managed the Project. There was extensive consultation and collaboration with the Youth Pathways Co-ordinator, the Youth Worker, Student Services Unit, Disability Liaison Officer, Student Counsellors, Koori Support Worker and Information Technology experts.

An evaluation of existing assessment tools and strategies within the Institute and externally were draw together to bring the most effective elements into an online resource package.

The resource/package was trailed with a representative group of students. An evaluation of the trial results lead to the development of the final product.

The results

The 'user friendly' online resource currently provides learners and teaching staff with valuable information obtained through completion of intake assessment and self assessment, learning styles inventories and literacy and numeracy skill levels

However with additional resources further evaluation and development will allow all the elements of a student's learning profile to be automatically collated in to a comprehensive profile report similar to, for example, the individual learning style report produced for a student using Quicksan.

Lessons learned

The Project Team had a vision for the project, which was unrealistic, and they found that the online assessment tool could not be completed in the time available. There were some difficulties in getting IT support regularly. The product is considered a worthwhile tool for teachers across the four Institute campuses, but again a lack of time and funding has caused frustration in rolling the product out.

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