Engaging with Indigenous learners: How the VET sector needs to change

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Our day to day is engaging with Indigenous Australian learners: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (ATSI)

- Nirrumbuk established 1993
- Djaringo RTO 1997
Building Partnerships Builds Better Training Outcomes
Mission Statement

To provide Aboriginal People of Western Australia, with Training to develop the skills required to gain employment in the mainstream labour market and to assist in the achievement of self sufficiency, self management and to obtain a better standard of living.
METHODOLOGY: TEACHING AND LEARNING

- A holistic approach to basic personal development
- Developing positive relationships with each student
- Seeking student input
- Planning a work program
- Using relevant, real life texts
- Assessments that are culturally inclusive
Get Ready to Work

Caters for a variety of students from different educational backgrounds practical hands on work based activities to classroom based tasks.
Structured work based learning
Support Programs

* Training is delivered in a friendly non-threatening environment
* Individual attention
* Flexible delivery of units of competency
* Workbooks: Djaringo has developed a series of workbooks, written in simple Standard Australian English (SAE).
The VET sector needs to recognise that an Aboriginal identified position (50D) for an engagement/student support officer is integral to successful completion rates.
Training support officer

- To ensure the understanding of cultural protocols that varies between each town and community in the Kimberley.
- To act as an advocate / go between the non Indigenous trainers and Indigenous learners.
- Work and liaise with the traditional owners, the community council members and local and government agencies.
- Developing positive relationships and links with communities and agencies,
- Talk up the importance of undertaking accredited training to get a national recognised qualification.
Accredited mentors are critical to engaging Indigenous learners.

Trained mentors provide the encouragement and physical support for Indigenous learners to gain and stay in training and employment.

Mentoring works on the basis of mutual trust and respect.

Mentors assist an individual to think and problem solve and must be sensitive to the relevant cultural issues.
* Give Indigenous people a greater say and

* greater responsibility about how best to respond to local issues

VET Reform

* VET needs to be linked to job specific training and real jobs

* Current Government policy and funding focuses on higher level qualifications and technical skills, at the expense of lower level qualifications or foundation skills

* Changes to Training Packages
Training for real jobs
Aboriginal owned and Aboriginal managed RTO's are in a better position to engage Indigenous learners
Djaringo RTO

www.nirribuk.org.au/djaringo