Collaboration with adult and community education providers: Leveraging VET and foundation skills to drive economic development in Western Sydney

Dr Don Perlgut, Community Colleges Australia, 4 September 2019
Project Aims

How can Western Sydney’s vocational education and training (VET) infrastructure meet the growing needs of Western Sydney’s population?

What role can adult & community education (ACE) providers play in assisting Western Sydney to become an economically stronger and more connected region?
Presentation Outline

How do we utilise “the power of TAFE” in Western Sydney?

Australian adult and community education (ACE) “recap”

Project activities

Western Sydney economic development challenges

Findings & case studies

Recommendations & conclusions
Adult & Community Education Recap

**History:** NFP community-based learning going back >100 years

**Branding:** Different from, but often confused with TAFE and private providers

**Business:** Public perception of adult education

**Focus:** Increasingly on vulnerable & disadvantaged, foundation skills

**Numbers:** @400 providers serve 481,200 VET students, 11.8% of Australia’s 4.1 million learners; TAFE 777,100 with 19.1% (NCVER, 2019)
Project Activities

➢ Review challenges and opportunities facing Western Sydney
➢ Survey and map ACE skills and economic development activities
➢ Regional economic development forum
➢ Case study models
➢ Recommendations
Waiting, waiting for the twenty past four to arrive; 
Mate, the twenty past four doesn't run any more, 
The next train's the quarter past five.

Time means money, they say, 
And I must get to Guildford today 
Did he say platform nine for the Liverpool line? 
Do I have to change trains on the way?

Indicator, please won't you indicate soon 
With your little round light that this platform is right; 
I've been waiting at Central since noon.

This old fellow here next to me 
Caught the bus up from Circular Quay; 
He scratches his arse with his pensioner's pass 
But he's on the wrong line for Narwee.

But it's Wentworthville, Pendle Hill; 
We're rattling towards Emu Plains. 
I should have got out when I heard someone shout 
At Granville, "You have to change trains."

http://www.shoestringrecords.tv/Australianrootsseries/JohnDengate/dengateindex.html In memory of John Dengate, 1938-2013

Western Sydney Features

Rich rural and agricultural lands, historical sites, recreational, Blue Mountains World Heritage bushland
Why Western Sydney

Home to 1 in 10 Australians; Australia’s third largest economy, after Sydney and Melbourne CBDs; Parramatta CBD unique in Australia
Western Sydney Population Growth

Booming population growth – one of the highest rates in the developed world.

Western Sydney Jobs Deficit

Differential Between Local Jobs and Employed Residents by Local Government Area - 2015

- Parramatta: 30,126
- Holroyd: -10,692
- Blacktown: -40,641
- Bankstown: -5,106
- Auburn: 28,167
- Penrith: -28,610
- Hawkesbury: -6,923
- Blue Mountains: -18,289
- Liverpool: -15,057
- Fairfield: -13,739

LEVERAGING LIVERPOOL’S HEALTH AND EDUCATION PRECINCT

**Walk**
Universities, hospitals and research facilities – all close to transport – and within seven minutes’ walk.

**Eat**
Liverpool is home to 150 nations and much of their food is at hand in our streets.

**Shop**
Westfield, Macquarie Mall and Liverpool Plaza combine to create a city-centre shopping experience.

**Study**
Three high-quality universities and TAFE open doors to the world of higher learning.

**Work**
Liverpool’s proud manufacturing history is shaking hands with an emerging health and education precinct.

**Travel**
Already well-served by bus and rail, Western Sydney Airport is being built in our backyard.

www.cca.edu.au
Community Colleges Australia

Zoe De Saram
NSW Government View
Black & White, makes best music
Also same song sheet

GLOBAL TRENDS
1. Growth
2. Prosperity
3. Inclusion

WESTERN SYDNEY
REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Terese O'Dwyer RDA

33 LGAs in Sydney
Jobs - diverse range close to home

Where are the opportunities to support economic development... role of education
ACE sector help re-skilling

1. 15-24yo in Higher Education
   Universities ↓ further education attendance vocational

2. Industries
   - healthcare & social assist
   - construction
   - transport & warehousing
   - manufacturing

3 Cities Report
Western Sydney City Deal

INVEST
Skills
Infrastructure
Airport

Open up to the world

200,000 people travel
>30km → WORK

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Western Sydney ACE Providers

Macquarie Community College
Nepean Community College
JobQuest
Connecting People and Skills
Verto
Skill to Transform
The Parramatta College
Your local community college
Sydney Community College
Jesuit Community College
www.jesuitcommunitycollege.org.au
Jesuit Social Services
Building a Just Society
Macarthur Community College
Inform Yourself - Transform Your Life
St George & Sutherland Community College
Bankstown Community College
The Deaf Society
www.cca.edu.au
Western Sydney ACE Provider Activities
Western Sydney ACE Provider Specialties

- Business and work skills
- Early childhood
- Aged care
- Disability
- Community services
- Foundation Skills & adult literacy/numeracy
- English as a second language
- Information technology
- Management and leadership
Sectors specialise in different age cohorts

**Western Sydney Total VET Subject Enrolments 2017 by Student Age**
(source: NCVER, 2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Community (%)</th>
<th>TAFE (%)</th>
<th>Private (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 24</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>24.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>31.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>21.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45+</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>22.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Western Sydney Total VET Subject Enrolments 2017 by Student Status

(source: NCVER, 2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider Type</th>
<th>Disability Status %</th>
<th>Indigenous Status %</th>
<th>Non-English Speaking Background (NESB) %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>55.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAFE</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>35.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>49.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learners by SEIFA Quintile

Western Sydney VET Subject Enrolments 2017 by Student SEIFA Quintile
(Total does not add to 100% due to rounding) (source: NCVER, 2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEIFA Quintile</th>
<th>Community (%)</th>
<th>TAFE (%)</th>
<th>Private (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bottom quintile: most disadvantaged 0-20%</td>
<td>42.5</td>
<td>39.9</td>
<td>39.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second from bottom quintile: 20-40%</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>20.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third (middle) quintile: 40-60% advantage</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth quintile: 60-80% advantage</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>13.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top quintile: most advantaged 80-100%</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>(*) 99.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*) Rounded to nearest whole number.
Shaping Western Sydney: The Role of VET

“With one million more people expected to live west of Homebush by 2031, Western Sydney’s population will grow by almost 50% in just over 15 years.”

Seven key drivers for creating jobs: including lifting workforce participation rates to “support disadvantaged groups through training and work transitions, creating a more balanced and equitable city”.

VET providers have crucial role in ensuring that the region has necessary education and training infrastructure. ACE providers can support foundation skills. Pathways are needed.
Foundation Skills & Outreach

➢ Decline of Western Sydney TAFE Outreach
➢ Potential learners from disadvantaged groups lack confidence, networks & literacy skills
➢ Outreach learners are unique, often with multiple factors influencing learning engagement

Conclusions

➢ Western Sydney’s distances to work, rapid population growth & lower employment rates make it a high national priority for post-secondary education, employment and skills.

➢ Western Sydney strongly needs a comprehensively planned VET, post-secondary education and skills strategy that builds on the strength of the different VET sectors, and anticipates future growth and needs.

➢ Aside from TAFE’s 15 campus network, there is little coherence in Western Sydney VET service delivery.

➢ ACE providers are ideally positioned to deliver a cohesive connections, ongoing learning and skilling for the region through a place-based approach and network of more than 200 locations.

➢ ACE providers have limited resources, especially given their willingness to expand and introduce new services to key equity groups.

➢ Investment in governance structures and shared systems for regional networks of ACE and other non-TAFE providers are essential to build sector capacity in Western Sydney.

➢ Collaborations with all layers of government, industry and community stakeholders are crucial for broader success.
Dr Don Perlgut
Community Colleges Australia
www.cca.edu.au
admin@cca.edu.au