



MEDIA RELEASE
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CAREERS IN FOCUS

Students at Drouin Secondary College are reaping the benefits of a new Careers and Pathways program introduced at the school for the first time this year.

The program is providing an opportunity for all students from Year 7 to Year 12 to identify and explore careers as part of the weekly curriculum with classroom activities, guest speakers and industry tours providing additional learning opportunities.

Careers Pathways Advisor at Drouin Secondary College Kerrie Wainwright said the school had been awarded a Careers Education Lighthouse Scholarship to fund the program by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

“Education Centre Gippsland - Local Community Partnership (ECG-LCP) has provided support for this program and recently set up a careers exhibition in the school library as a further resource for students during National Careers Development Week. Through ECG-LCP, we are also planning to run an industry tour for year 9 and 10 students so they can visit workplaces and see careers in action.”

Ms Wainwright said the program is innovative in that it enables students to start learning about careers at an early age, exploring who they are, what they like doing, their skills strengths and matching those with potential careers.

“The school has developed a careers work booklet with a theme for each year level which students can keep track of their achievements throughout the school year. Personal learning sessions are also being held weekly to enable students to participate in activities such as writing resumes, discovering job outlines, employment opportunities and more.

“As well as the career program, students are able to take part in work experience, structured workplace learning through VET and VCAL, visit careers expos, and higher education providers. This year we have 50 students undertaking structured workplace learning where they work in various industries one day each week to gain hands-on experience and skills. The program also focuses on increasing students understanding of occupational health and safety issues. We also have 110 students studying a wide range of VET subjects from beauty to building.”

ECG-LCP's Julie Hackman said Drouin Secondary College was to be commended for its innovation and energetic philosophy to careers education.

"This program effectively embeds careers education into the curriculum giving students an opportunity to work week-by-week, year-by-year to gain careers information, hone their skill strengths and job preparation. By the time students reach their senior years they should have a good handle of the career direction they wish to pursue."

She said ECG-LCP is able to support local schools and organisations through its Commonwealth-funded Careers and Transition Support Program.

"The program provides resources, workshops, guest speakers and industry visits to connect schools and students with business and industry to build skills and strengthen opportunities for the region," she said.

Media inquiries:

Drouin Secondary College Kerrie Wainwright 03 5625 1002

ECG-LCP David Lane, Julie Hackman and Lynne Hudson 03 5622 6000



L- R ECG-LCP's Julie Hackman, Drouin Secondary College's Careers Advisor Kerrie Wainwright help Year 12 students David Gray and Jake Harper with career planning.