

AIST

The Association of Independent Schools of Tasmania

House of Representatives Inquiry into VET in Schools Up-date of Submission for the Hearing in Hobart

OUR SUBMISSION

This submission was made about a year ago and may therefore be a little out of date.

- The nature of VET in Schools - We make the point that this is not a single 'thing' but varies enormously from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. We describe VET in Schools as practiced in Tasmania. *Since the submission we have been told nationally that of the 180,000 VET in School students in 2001, 80,000 had no workplace component in their VET course.*
- Growth and Development of VET in AIST Schools - In 2003 126 students are involved in 18 industry areas. The growth in industry areas is possible because most schools buy in their off the job courses from RTOs, either other schools or non-school RTOs. *Since the submission the industry areas added in AIST schools are: Agriculture; Beauty Therapy; Business; Engineering; Media (Broadcasting); Music Industry; and Workplace Skills (non-industry specific).*
- Effectiveness of VET in AIST Schools - *Evidence from recent Stakeholder Feedback research continues to suggest that this is still high.*
- Infrastructure Development - *An area not mentioned but valued by teachers and currently important is the VETNETwork, its publications and especially its national biennial conference. To be held in Hobart in 2004. Despite reports that cuts in general funding to the organisation have caused some downsizing, it is hoped that there will still be Commonwealth financial support for the Conference.*
- Resourcing of VET Programs in Schools - There is no doubt that VET programs, as offered to students in Tasmania, are resource intensive. *Teacher time is very significant especially in respect of arranging Vocational Placements without which we do not believe we would maintain employer support.*