

VET and vocational learning in Catholic schools in Queensland



Position Statement

Introduction

The Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) is committed to supporting Catholic school authorities in their work of providing curriculum offerings that respond to the educational needs of students.

Each Catholic school authority is encouraged to use this position statement to frame Vocational Education and Training (VET) and vocational learning policies and procedures, which are socially just, equitable, inclusive, educationally sound and suited to their particular context.

Definition

Vocational Education and Training (VET) has a skills acquisition purpose and is engaged in by students whose primary pathway focus is entry to the workforce. VET enables students to acquire workplace skills and knowledge through nationally recognised training described within an industry developed training package or an accredited course. VET also provides opportunities to develop foundation skills such as workplace literacy and numeracy.

Vocational learning has an exploratory purpose which is applicable to all secondary students. It encompasses a range of educational opportunities including career education and development programs, subjects that allow students to undertake general work-related curriculum or explore particular occupations or industries and opportunities for students to directly experience the world of work.

Rationale

Catholic schools exist to educate the whole person and to provide an educational foundation for the whole of life. They play a critical role in preparing young people for life after school including the world of work. High quality educational experiences, access to a range of courses, career education and support for students during their secondary years help lay the foundation for rewarding, productive and fulfilling careers and the development of a sense of responsibility and active citizenship.

Catholic social teaching recognises the place of education¹ and of work in promoting the wellbeing of individuals and of societies². VET and vocational learning provide opportunities to meet the needs of young people in Catholic schools and contribute to a holistic and engaging education.

Position Statement

The Queensland Catholic Education Commission supports the provision of quality VET and vocational learning that addresses the needs of students and contributes to their post school outcomes. Catholic education authorities seek to ensure VET and vocational learning are an integral and valued part of curriculum offerings in secondary school.

Implications

Catholic education authorities and school communities will give consideration to:

- Providing a range of curriculum and learning opportunities that cater for different talents and skills

¹ *Educating Today and Tomorrow: A Renewing Passion, Congregation for Catholic Education, 2014*

² *Intervention of the Holy See at 95th Session of International Labour Conference, 8 June 2006*

of young people and enable and value different ways of learning and knowing.

- Supporting a range of pathways to further education, training or work.
- Providing opportunities that assist students to make informed decisions about their future pathway.
- Providing opportunities for individuals to develop their capacity to contribute to their own economic and social wellbeing and to the wellbeing of society as a whole.
- Providing flexible schooling structures that support VET and vocational learning options for students.
- Developing a range of effective partnerships with appropriate agencies external to the school and with the wider community that support VET and vocational learning for students.
- Promoting an understanding of the value of VET and vocational learning to students, parents, teachers and employers.

References

- Preparing Secondary Students for Work: A Framework for Vocational Learning and VET delivered to Secondary Students (Education Council, 2014)
- Educating Today and Tomorrow: A Renewing Passion, Congregation for Catholic Education, 2014
- Intervention of the Holy See at 95th Session of International Labour Conference, 8 June 2006
- The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium (Congregation for Catholic Education, 1997)

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