The end of Term 3 is almost upon us, with the end of the year rapidly approaching. It has been a busy time for Western Futures working under the new Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) contract, delivering the Career Advice Australia initiative.

At a recently convened DEST - Career Advice Australia National Conference, the Minister Julie Bishop MP spoke of the Australian Government’s commitment to the CAA initiative for all young people 13 to 19 years, with the possibility of extending the service to people of all ages. The theme of the conference was Partnerships at Work, all stakeholders were involved, National Industry Career Specialists (NICS), Regional Industry Career Advisors (RICA’s), Local Community Partnerships (LCP’s) and Youth Pathways Providers. The conference showcased good practice models and focused on ways for all parties to work together to keep improving our services in the future.

This edition of our new look newsletter features some of our work over term 2 and three.

The Post School Options Expo for parents and teachers of students with a disability held at the West Adelaide Football Club was very successful. Twenty agencies promoted their services and speakers from Centrelink, UniSA, tafeSA, Personnel Employment and Bedford gave informative talks about the services they offer.

The event was held in conjunction with Quality Lincs, Western Futures, DECS and the Regional Disability Liaison Officer. Over 90 parents and teachers attended on the night, feedback indicated that people appreciated knowing there were services that could assist them.
The Some notable outcomes from the Careers Expo in 2006 were:

The event was held at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre. Over 2,000 students and teachers attended from our 24 schools (both government and private) from within the western region of Adelaide.

65 exhibitors across 17 industry groups took part providing both static and interactive displays as well as providing a raft of informational material for the students.

Information sessions were held with speakers from:
- Universities/ TAFE
- Housing Industry Association
- Hair & Beauty Industry
- Automotive

Feedback received from schools was very positive. Comments such as “I thought the Festival of Opportunities went very well. We had 160 students involved and they gained much from the experience”

“Just returned from the FOO and what a great turn out it was. Thank you and your team very much for your roles in organising a fantastic event on a grand scale”
The JobsFest held in 2005 for the first time at Cheltenham Race Course built on the success of the Festival of Opportunities. Many of the exhibitors at FoO are RTO’s or Job Network member that also deal in the employment related field. The first JobsFest saw 12 exhibitors promoting 200 jobs to jobseekers of the western area.

JobsFest 06 grew rapidly with the acquisition of sponsorship from the Adelaide Advertiser and the move to the Entertainment Centre. This year’s event was presented as the Careerone JobsFest

More than 1,200 attended and registered for the JobsFest.

Parents accompanied their children; young people through to the mature aged came along seeking jobs.

65 exhibitors across 17 industry groups took part providing both static and interactive displays as well as providing a raft of informational material for the students.

The jobseekers packed the Entertainment Centre, seeking information and applying for the jobs that were available.

Exhibitors were kept busy for the three hours the JobsFest was open to the public.

Jane Reilly presented the Channel 10 weather live from the JobsFest.
Career Advice Seminars

In line with the objectives of Western Futures career development strategy; The Festival of Opportunities in 2006 saw the addition of the Young Women in Industry Career Advice Dinner.

The Young Women in Industry dinner was held in the Rubikon room at the Entertainment Centre, the evening prior to the Careers Expo. The event aimed at girls in years 11 and 12 and their parents attracted over 100 girls, parents and teachers. Speakers at the dinner were from the non-traditional industry areas of Transport & Logistics, Engineering and Construction.

Organisations supporting the Career Dinner and providing speakers were:
- Transport Training Centre
- NAWIC – National Association of Women in Construction
- Engineering Employers Assoc.

Christine Stock, the current Apprentice of the year, spoke of her experiences and career pathway in the field of engineering.

Christine spoke of her passion for engineering and encouraged the young women to consider the trades as a career.

Sport & Recreation Pathways Career Information Dinner

The second in our series of dinner seminars will focus on pathways within the Sport & Recreation industry. The evening will include case studies, young speakers already working in the industry, information in regard to training providers, courses and traineeships that are available for those wishing to pursue a career in this field.

The dinner will be held November 1st at the West Adelaide Football Club, speaker include:
- Sports SA
- Uni SA
- Australian Institute of Fitness
- SANFL

Flyers have been distributed to each school via VET Coordinators.
Health Pathways

Sasha Dragovevic, our RICA conducted an environmental scan of skills needs and shortages for the major and emerging industries, occupations and professions in the western region. The scan highlighted the need to establish health focused VET pathways to ensure that appropriate workforce planning activities are in place and to give future direction to students from the region.

An alliance of schools, university, TAFE and health industry partners was formed to oversee and implement the VET pathways strategies. A Memorandum of Understanding has been established; the MOU sets out the responsibilities between the signatory parties.

The group has worked together to deliver VET courses in Cert II in Client and Patient Services and the Pharmacy Guild has put forward a proposal for delivery of a Pre-voc Pharmacy course and St George College has agreed to be the host school. This program is being supported by the Pharmacy industry with local western area Pharmacies ready to take students on structured work placements as part of the program.

Adopt a School

Adelaide Airport
Western Futures staff and the RICA met with Phil Baker, Managing Director and John McCardle, Manager Corporate Affairs Adelaide Airport to discuss possibilities of an Adopt a School Program with schools in the western region.

Both Phil Baker and John McCardle are very keen to develop a relationship with Western Futures and closely aligned schools. A proposal is currently being developed by Western Futures, which would see a number of initiatives on the airport site.

Department for Transport Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI):
Several meeting have been held with Principal Policy Consultants at DTEI. Discussions have occurred about ways in which schools could link with DTEI. A tour of major infrastructure project is planned for term 4.
Parents as Career Partners

The African Parents as Career Partners was held Saturday 16 September; 9 parents attended the workshop. Although more people were expected, the smaller number proved beneficial because of the need to translate. In-depth discussions took place in regard to educational differences between Australia and Africa, trends in employment and support available to parents.

Great strides were made with Sudanese elders, the parents and workers; this event gained a great deal of trust within the groups. A discussion to explore further workshops was made.