UTAS COLLEGE SYMPOSIUM

June 2009
Purpose of the Symposium

• To provide a forum for the wider discussion of university preparation and pathways including raising aspirations of school students to attend university.

• As part of this, to provide a framework for discussing and further developing the ‘UTAS College Program’ and future preparation and pathways initiatives.

• To emphasise our commitment to work in partnership.
Why Partner with the Senior Secondary sector?

- Tasmania Tomorrow reforms an opportunity
- Tertiary sector reforms an opportunity
- Regional sustainability (education a key indicator)
- Education as a determinant of wellbeing (OECD)
- Low participation rates - a large proportion of young people not engaged in any form of post-school education and training
- Responding to knowledge and skill demands of the community (Ageing population and skills shortages)
- International and other students needing language and “learning at university” skills
- EDGE 2
Tertiary Education Context

- Reform agenda including…
  - Improving the participation of students from low socio-economic backgrounds
  - Growing the higher education sector (greater diversity and quality)
  - Income support for students
  - “A fair Deal for Australia’s Regions” (loading, new models of delivery, access to new structural adjustment funding)
  - Improving Tertiary Pathways
    *(Transforming Australia’s Higher Education System Commonwealth Government 2009)*
  - Job Compact - Learning or Earning until 25
Participation in Tasmania

• Low current qualification and participation rates
  – 16% population with a degree or higher (50% aged 15 and over with no post year 10 qualification)
  – 63.3% age participation rate for full time 17 year old students
  – 65.4% retention rate from Year 7/8 Year 12 (68% NSW, 78% Vic) (ABS 2007, Schools Australia 4221.0)
  – Proportion of 15-19 year olds completing Year 12 or equivalent no more than 55% (Australia 69%) (TQA 2007)
  – Low SES students significantly less likely to complete TCE or go to University
APPARENT RETENTION RATES, Year 10 to Year 12, Tasmania

Source: Schools, Australia, 2007 (cat. no. 4221.0)
University of Tasmania Enrolment

Year 12

Number of students

2006 2007 2008 2009

0 200 400 600 800 1000 1200 1400 1600 1800 2000

Year 12
VET
ISSUES

• Family influence (NOHEFT)
• Clear rural and regional disadvantage
• Polytechnic-Academy
• Large pool of mature residents with no post compulsory qualifications
• Emphasis on vocational skills and skills shortages and the myth that there is not enough young people to fill shortages
• Skilled migration – majority professionals
• Permanent visas - overseas students with degrees
  (Birrell and Rapson 2006)
Why Students Don’t Go to University

• Top five reasons economic (Teese and Polesel)
  – Including costs of studying, cost of travel, accessing youth allowance, leaving home

• TER score

• Regional and peri urban study– issue of “intent” (Golding et al)
  – Deliberate choice - aspire to work
  – Benefits of university education - delayed and marginal
  – Judgement of institutions on TE - bypass regional campuses
  – Understanding of university educational experience
AND...

• Limited knowledge of options and support available (or out-of-date information)
• Lack of success at school
• For a significant minority school - a boring and debilitating chore
• Income from part-time work seductive (Golding et al, 2007)
• Gen Y research – an impatient, creative demographic want to work less, engage in meaningful work and be well rewarded (Zemke, Raines & Fitzpatrick, 2000; Mackay, 2007)
A challenge that cannot be addressed alone
Initial College Programs

- HAP
- Prelude and Overture
- Languages co-delivery
- Languages Latin Chinese
- Foundation Practical Study
- Visual and Performing Arts
- Philosophy
- Aboriginal Studies
- 777 students
- 18 senior secondary Colleges
UTAS College Initial Engagement Strategies

- Recognition and valuing of partnership
- Forums for joint decision making
  - TASACT
  - Academy leadership collaboration
- Shared agenda
- Joint programs
- Investment – information, facilitation, symposia
References

• Zemke, R., Raines, C., Filipczak, R.(2000), Generations at Work: Managing the Clash of Veterans, Boomers, Xers, and Nexters in Your Workplace,
UTAS College

A partnered approach to participation in Tasmania