

## Recipient Details

Name of organisation or individual: [O] Golden West Apprenticeships Limited

Reference Type: Group Training Organisation

State or territory: Qld

Serial Identification Number: 478531

## Responses

Curriculum and assessment

Sustainable communities

Golden West Apprenticeships is supportive of the sustainability flavour for rural communities that has been incorporated into the discussion paper.

Youth migration from our small rural communities due to a lack of education, training and employment opportunities can have profound effect on the social wellbeing and economic viability of our communities. These population changes can cause the withdrawal of both public and private sector services, making living in these communities less attractive. A whole of community approach must be taken to ensuring our students are provided with information and opportunities to allow them to transition into further study, training or employment locally.

It has been our experience that some teachers are not in a position to provide advice and guidance to students on local careers and in particular vocational employment pathways such as apprenticeships or traineeships. Teachers may not have been exposed to or have in depth knowledge of these pathways and are generally more comfortable providing advice to students regarding university pathways, as this has been their personal experience. There is an opportunity to support additional professional development of our teachers to provide balanced advice to students, allowing them to make informed decision about their opportunities beyond school.

Rating: 7

Teachers and teaching

Rating: 7

Leaders and leadership

Rating: 7

School and Community

VET Programs

Local schools incorporate elements of vocational education and training (VET) into their programs, this can provide students with valuable work-based learning experiences. However, there have been times where this training is not relevant to the local needs for skills.

It is our view that some of the VET in Schools programs have not been beneficial to school students, particularly when these programs have been delivered with limited exposure to work environments. There are situations where students have undertaken multiple qualifications while attending school at the direction of their school career advisors. At times, these qualifications are not linked to the

student aspirations or local employment opportunities. The achievement of multiple qualifications can have detrimental impacts on a student's ability to access funded training after school.

Training programs that are developed within the school system must be relevant and linked to local employment opportunities. It is acknowledged that it can be difficult to match student aspirations with local opportunities, however there is an opportunity for all stakeholders to work together develop programs. The Department of Education and Training have been active in developing BEST Groups – Bringing Employers and Schools Together. The success of these groups are varied across our region, however when operating effectively can be extremely beneficial to both schools and industry. The groups aim to improve engagement between schools and industry, and provide advice to schools on development opportunities for students to maximise the local employment and training opportunities, should they wish to remain in the town after school. An opportunity exists to form more robust collaborations for the benefit of both schools and industry.

Rating: 7

Information and Communication Technology

Rating: 7

Entrepreneurship and schools

Entrepreneurial education opportunities

It is critical that our students are able to explore entrepreneurial education opportunities. Some of the recent challenges have been an inability to attract workshops and courses to the region due to the small numbers of students available. It is suggested that regional training hubs be identified to support these opportunities. Regional training hubs will provide for flexibility in education and training delivery, not only for students currently engaged in the school system, but also post-school for VET or university education and training.

Locally, State Government Departments have courses and programs available to inspire students explore future opportunities, these have included health aspirations programs, spatial awareness workshops, coding camps and robotic programs. These courses are wonderful opportunities, however at times these agencies do not tend to cater for the regional context and smaller students numbers – which can impact on a workshop provider's decision to hold these courses and programs in our rural towns. From time to time, the agencies try the one size fits all approach, which generally does not meet the local needs for either students or industry. Further collaboration between schools, industry and government at all levels is required to ensure programs are meeting local needs.

Rating: 7

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding

Rating for enrolments: 7

Rating for clusters: 7

Rating for distance education: 7

Rating for boarding: 7

Diversity

Rating: 7

## Transitioning beyond school

### School-based apprenticeships and traineeships

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships provide school students with a wonderful opportunity to complete a qualification, while studying for their senior certificate. It has been our experience that students who engage in a school-based apprenticeships or traineeship have higher completion rates and generally obtain employment following school more quickly than other students.

The level of school support for students seeking an apprenticeship or traineeship varies greatly between our regions. This can be due to a lack of understanding from the career advisors on the opportunities and benefits of these pathways for students. It may also be due to the schools inability to manage changes to a student's timetable to accommodate the school-based apprenticeship or traineeship. Schools and students must both be supported, should the student wish to progress down this pathway.

Rating: 7

### Additional Comments

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the discussion paper for the Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education. Golden West Apprenticeships welcomes the opportunity to discuss this submission further.