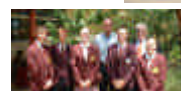
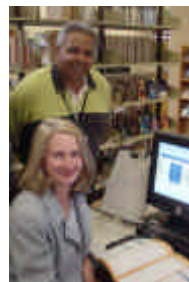
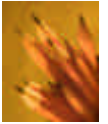




South Burnett Education Employment and Learning Strategy





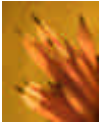
South Burnett Local Government Association

The **South Burnett Education, Employment and Learning Strategy** provides a community service that enhances community livability in the South Burnett. The strategy, developed by the South Burnett Local Government Association (SBLGA), covers the education and learning needs for a population of 35,000 in the combined 7 local government areas - Kingaroy, Murgon, Wondai, Kilkivan and Nanango Shires, part of Rosalie Shire and the Cherbourg community in southern Queensland.

Education, employment and learning plays a vital role in generating and sustaining economic activity in rural communities. The availability of a skilled, educated and flexible workforce to enhance the economic diversification and the attraction of income and job creating opportunities to rural areas requires a planned, coordinated and managed approach to education and learning service provision.

The South Burnett Education, Employment and Learning strategy builds on existing community assets to ***provide opportunities for everyone in the community to reach their potential through education and training.***

The Education, Employment and Learning Strategy is our rural communities' approach to providing people with the ability to realise their full potential and provide them with the skills to access job and income opportunities in existing and future occupations. The capacity to reach individual and collective potential includes attracting and developing the opportunities for new technologies. This requires a flexible, and capable work force. The strategy is innovative, flexible and focused on rural and regional sustainability. The focus is on ***Life - time learning*** based on the community, economic, cultural and social capacity to manage learning and employment from Preschool to (and including) retirement.



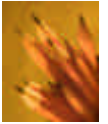
The focus on **Country Kids for Country Jobs** underpins the strategy by providing capacity for young people to connect with education and training without leaving the area. This has significant consequences for the population profile of the South Burnett. The education and training strategy is aimed at all rural communities in the South Burnett developing the full potential of its citizens to meet skilled professionals, paraprofessionals and trades needs.

The strategy identifies appropriate training and education opportunities to up-skill, train and educate within the community and recognise the existing capacity within the community to meet its current and future needs. There is strong commitment to providing opportunities for school leavers within the community rather than requiring students to leave the district for tertiary education. The strategy addresses the provision of retraining and changing career options for older residents.

There are two complementary parts to the strategy. The first is **Sustainable Communities** to enhance the capacity of the community to provide learning opportunities and the second is **Education and Learning** covering the specific education and learning sectors of

- Higher Education,
- Trades and Vocations,
- Continual Development short courses (often referred to as professional development) and
- Interest based and life skills programs.

Education and training in interest based and life skills is particularly important to the South Burnett community to ensure that voluntary associations, occupational groups and community groups have the capacity to participate in, co-operate with and contribute to, the education, employment and learning process.



The Education, Employment and Learning strategy complements the State Government's ETRF (Education and Training reforms for the Future) initiative and supports the current agenda managed by Education Queensland, Council, TAFE and private or independent providers.

The key driver for this strategy is the total commitment from the South Burnett Local Government Association (SBLGA) to developing capacity within the South Burnett region to enhance a sustainable and liveable learning rural and regional community.

Commencing in 2005, the strategy should begin to produce significant results by 2006-2007 and will be achieved by delivering the following actions.

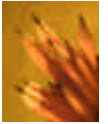
1. In the South Burnett we will achieve our aims to create a sustainable community that provides ***opportunities for everyone to reach their potential through education and training by ...***

1.1. Establishing needs (i.e. nurses and accountants, trades and vocations and personal or professional learning needs.) through needs analysis and desktop audit (from existing data and sources):

- QTAC
- Surveys
- Skills needs survey

1.2. Investigating ways to satisfy needs such as

- Various models of delivery
- Different models of funding to support individuals whilst they are studying. Community scholarships to encourage employees in skill shortage areas.
- Enhancing the use of local facilities



1.3. Make lifelong learning part of the culture of the South Burnett:

- Involvement in Education Week
- Regional promotion of Adult Learning Week
- Involvement in career markets
- Involvement in Job Market
- Create a community that promotes professional communities and reduces professional isolation

1.4. Establish a marketing, promotion and communication strategy to: -

- market the educational and learning potential of the community
- enhancing the culture of life long learning in the South Burnett: -
- Create a central location for information on education and learning opportunities.

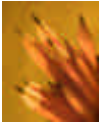
1.5. Establishing broader access to Broadband internet access as a primary requirement (as a major access portal for education and learning) by:

- Establishing need
- Engaging Telstra and other providers in discussion on the provision of broadband across region.

1.6. Encouraging and promoting IT training for community to support access to Education and Learning

1.7. Addressing Student accommodation issues to ensure that accommodation is accessible, appropriate and affordable for various sectors of the community i.e. boarding facilities for school age students, mature aged students and school leavers.

1.8. Engaging in discussions and investigations of transport limitations in the region.



1.9. Promoting the lifestyles of South Burnett through tourism and life style marketing

- Promotion of successful programs, eg South Burnett Schools industry traineeship / apprenticeship program.
- Establish and promote South Burnett as a multi-level learning community.

1.10. Adopt Smart State initiatives and ETRF

2. To address our Education needs in the South Burnett, we will *provide Higher Education opportunities in the South Burnett by addressing the community needs:*

2.1. for a year 13 transition to further education

2.2. of articulation of certificate to diploma to degree

2.3. of marketing the region as a destination for regional study groups

2.4. for careers market for the entire community

2.5. for LNQ centres in South Burnett

2.6. for developing practical experience opportunities

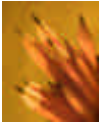
2.7. for developing work experience opportunities.

2.8. for developing a case management approach for individual learning needs



As community we will proactively act to enhance the dignity of the trades in *providing trade and vocational education opportunities in the South Burnett to by:*

2.9. conducting an audit of current and planned capacity and capability of existing providers eg TAFE, schools, LNQ, training organisations etc
2.10. developing a coordinated service delivery across training providers and with industry to maximise potential and avoid duplication
2.11. developing various flexible pathways for the identified training areas in the South Burnett such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Manufacturing • Retail • Food processing • Forestry • Traditional trades (electrical, automotive, carpentry, construction, office trainees) • Aged care
2.12. enhancing the dignity of the trades and increasing the number of apprentices
2.13. facilitating and enhancing the opportunities for mature age apprentices (wages, recognition of prior learning)
2.14. creating non-apprentice pathways to obtaining a trade or vocation.
2.15. developing an broad awareness of future employment trends
2.16. develop awareness of post secondary education dropout data and offer alternatives



2.17. engaging industry in active support for the strategy through marketing and promotion

Promote industry their success stories in their trades and related pathways

2.18. Investigate possibilities of developing practical experience opportunities

3. Locally we will enhance continual development short courses by providing *short course opportunities to industry, business and private individuals by:*

3.1. identifying courses and opportunities required for:

- business and industry
- volunteer and community organisations
- Individuals

3.2. develop opportunities and communication strategies for community and business training partnerships to combine training programs. This will create a variety of participation scenarios resulting in greater cost effectiveness and potential for local provision of learning opportunities.

3.3. Facilitating communication between employers

3.4. List trainers and qualified course providers

3.5. Establish database of providers and opportunities

3.6. Promote and market what is available

3.7. Seek alternate and additional funding opportunities



4. Finally, to provide interest based and life skills education opportunities in the South Burnett we will

4.1. Establish and fostering a U3A group
4.2. Establish community capacity to provide training and facilities and providing trainers where necessary linking to tourism strategy etc.
4.3. Identify and promote network links
4.4. Identify what is currently available, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cultural activity• Arts and craft• Hobbies• Home maintenance• Life skills• Sport

The work plan for achieving our goals follows.

Please note that the reference links the strategies and actions listed above to the work plan and the start and finish dates are indicative only. It is recommended that the work plan extend to the end of the financial year with full implementation in the 2006-07 financial year.

