

Business and Education Partnerships

Partnerships operate on the premise that communities are stronger, and more cohesive and dynamic when individuals, community organisations, government and business work together to achieve positive social outcomes. The best, most enduring community business partnerships are those where each partner both contributes and benefits.

On 2 November 2005, with support from Commerce Queensland and the Greater Brisbane Area Consultative Committee, Redland Shire Council held a forum to promote Business Education Partnerships. The focus of the forum was to raise awareness of local skills and employability issues, including the Education and Training Reforms for the Future (ETRF), and build links between business, education and community organisations to facilitate a community approach to local issues and opportunities.

As a result of the forum there was strong support from participants to move forward and build partnerships and collaborations between Council, schools and business. This will provide young people in the community with opportunities and the support they require to move successfully through school or into further education, training or work.

The following opportunities were raised at the forum:

- **Council, industry and schools need to work collaboratively on opportunities and solutions**
- **Industry needs to identify its current and strategic needs. These needs should inform school programs and school-based apprenticeships to ensure schools are developing skills for industry**
- **There is a need to improve information links to industry on what training and employment programs are available in the community**

As a result of the forum the following actions will be undertaken in 2006:

- **Advertorial in the local paper to promote business and education partnerships in the Redlands showcasing successful partnerships in our community**
- **A Careers, Employment, Education and Training Expo to be hosted in April/May with a focus on opportunities for businesses in the Redlands to partner with schools**

Useful links:

Education and Training Reforms for the Future (ETRF) - <http://education.qld.gov.au/etrf/>

The Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership - <http://www.partnerships.gov.au>

Commerce Queensland's Employability Skills Framework - http://www.commerceqld.com.au/docs/IT_Employability_Skills.pdf

Department of Employment and Training - <http://www.trainandemploy.qld.gov.au/>

