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## Parental Engagement Project

HGLV Research Conference August 2009

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## Careers Advice Australia (CAA)

- Australian Government initiative 2006-2009
- Career and transition support system for all Australians aged 13-19
- Local Community Partnerships (LCPs) – 213 regions
- Regional Industry Careers Advisors (RICAs) - 57
- National Industry Career Specialists (NICS) - 10
- Youth Pathways Providers – 100 providers
- Connections – 60 locations



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## **Local Community Partnerships: Strategic Focus**

- Building the capacity of local communities and helping to develop a sustainable social infrastructure
- Bringing together the key stakeholders: schools, industry, parents and community organisations
- Assist young people to make improved career choices by increasing industry and employer engagement in schools and career development



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## Parental Engagement Project

- Hume Youth Commitment
- Skills Pathway Team
- Parental Engagement Working Party
- Joint Project: Hume LCP, Hume Whittlesea LLEN, Hume RICA, HGLV.



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## Rationale

Existing research indicates that parents are the most significant influence upon a young person's career decision making; and along with schools the greatest source of careers information.



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## Issues

Anecdotal evidence from schools and other stakeholders raises a number of issues:

- Access to accurate & up to date information
- Understanding of the full range of options available
- How to increase significantly the number of parents who access careers information



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## Parental Information

Information on how and where to access information:

- Flier
- Poster
- Brochure

Widely distributed



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## HGLV Forum

- 'Decisions, Decisions, Decisions: The Three Stages of Career Development'
- Held 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at the HGLC
- Hume GLV, Hume LCP, Hume RICA, Hume Whittlesea LLEN



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## **HGLV Forum cont...**

- Table workshops on 'Parents Providing Support for their Children's Career Decisions'
- 93 attendees
- Teachers, students, parents, community members
- Forum summary on HWLLEN and HGLV web sites



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## What is useful about a parents' role?

- Family, parental values and expectations
- Supporting child's decisions
- Latch on to young person's motivational interests
- Suggesting that keeping options open is best
- Encouragement towards education and staying in school
- Promoting a variety of experiences in or out of school



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## What is not useful?

- Parental assumptions/expectations
- The idea that there is only one career for their child
- Criticism/ pressure
- Pressure to go to university
- Not enough encouragement for girls into trades
- Low aspirations
- Language barriers/ Cultural barriers



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## Research Project - Considerations

- What role do parents play in providing careers advice and information for their children?
- What careers advice and information do parents provide?
- Do parents wish to play a greater role in providing careers advice and information? If so, what assistance do they require?



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## Considerations cont...

- Do parents have an awareness of the full range of career pathways and options?
- Is there a need for parents to have a greater awareness of the range of career pathways and options? If so, how can this be achieved?
- What sort of careers information do parents require?



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## Possible Research Questions

- In what form(s) will parents find careers information most accessible and useful?
- What is the most efficient means of providing careers information to the greatest number of parents with a given level of resources?
- Are there identifiably different groups of parents with different requirements?



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## Next Steps

- Hume SPT Working Party
- Research project with HGLV Research Committee
- Focus groups



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*Thank you*