



'Inspire My Future' is an innovative pilot project aimed at providing training for young people who are interested in learning about Entrepreneurial Business Leadership. The project aimed to foster innovation, leadership skills, creativity and confidence in our young entrepreneurs of the future. Participants were provided with the opportunity to listen to entrepreneur and business guest speakers who recounted their personal life story in becoming a successful business person and provided advice on aspects they felt were important to their success.

Thirty three young people attended from 12 secondary schools in the Wollongong and Shellharbour region. The young people, who were year 10 or 11 students, self nominated and attended for two hours per week, after school for nine weeks. The project also provided the opportunity to complete the accredited training module VBQU131 'Plan and undertake a project' from Certificate I in General Education for Adults.

Each week the students listened to a guest speaker and worked in small groups to complete activities that related to the accredited training module. The groups changed each week, so the students were learning how to work with different people as part of a team to achieve outcomes. Students had the opportunity to discuss their own business ideas with their peers and to receive inspiration and support from each other.

Guest speakers included Brett Kiteley (Touchdown Helicopters), Jack Delosa (The Entourage), Lube Markovski (Hairhouse Warehouse Wollongong), Cary Garard (Garard Moulded Pre-Cast Pty Ltd), Rhett Hookam (Media Spark), Nikki Durkin (99 Dresses) and Garry Pinch (Accounting Professionals).

The young people who participated are to be congratulated on voluntarily attending over a 9 week period in order to improve their business and life skills. The steering committee were full of praise for their passion and commitment to the objectives of the project. They were truly inspirational.

Final comments from two students:

- 'Before the project I hadn't really thought about becoming an entrepreneur and I wasn't even sure what one was but I think I am already one and now am going to build on what I learnt. I have already been contacted by one of the speakers and I will be contacting a couple of others to ask questions and advice'.
- 'Now that I have listened to so many inspirational talks, I understand that certain difficulties are inevitable, but there are many ways to overcome them. Now I think I can carry out my dream with more confidence'.

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