



2010 Disability Action Plan for Macleay Valley Community College

Introduction

Role and function

Macleay Valley Community College (formerly Kempsey Adult Education Group) is a non-profit community organisation, supported by the NSW Department of Education and Training (DET) and managed locally by a voluntary Management Committee. The college is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and has been providing quality adult and community education with the Kempsey Shire since 1988.

Services provided

Macleay Valley Community College aims to provide a diverse range of structured skills training and personal enrichment events and activities, which address the professional and personal needs of individuals and organisations across all sectors of our community.

Statement of commitment to responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and other legislative requirements

Macleay Valley Community College is committed to achieving equality of opportunity in education, therefore is committed to its responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). Furthermore, Macleay Valley Community College is committed to promoting an environment where staff and students are able to work and learn effectively, without fear of unlawful discrimination or harassment on any grounds. As such, Macleay Valley Community College is committed to, and adheres to all applicable legislative requirements. (Refer Policy No. CB-15a).

Current situation

Macleay Valley Community College have working relationships with Disability Services Providers and Agencies such as Macleay Options and Centacare to integrate the clients of these services into a range of vocational courses including RSA, RCG, Safe Food Handling, OHS Induction Training and Senior 1st Aid Training. Furthermore, we have successfully integrated students who have identified a disability (vision and hearing), into the Open Learning Centre, Computer Fundamentals training offered through the college. All personnel (staff and tutors) have previously undertaken professional development in Minimising Differences – People with a Disability.

Stakeholder consultations

Together with the other 8 Community Colleges who encompass the Mid North Coast Cluster, Macleay Valley Community College participated in a regional Disability Consultation Forum held in Port Macquarie over the 4 & 5 September 2008. Disability Service Providers and Agencies from across the Mid North Coast were invited and encouraged to attend in order to assist the participating Colleges to meet the needs of learners with a disability and to increase participation in our Colleges by people with disabilities.

Key findings of consultations

- Networking and sharing of resources is possible
- Maintain current sharing and cooperation
- Flexibility and ability to change
- Working with Disability Services
- Client focus for services and training delivery
- Act on feedback from clients, carers and support services for continuous improvement
- Work collaboratively on funding applications and provide letter of support for funding
- Work together on shared projects
- Shared professional development with Disability Services
- Professional development of staff and trainers to enhance understanding of the needs of learners with a disability

Strategic directions and priority actions

- Maintain regular communication with existing disability service 'partners' within the Kempsey Shire
- Establish communication and liaison with all disability service providers within the Kempsey Shire.

- Promote 'partnership arrangements with all disability services providers within the Kempsey Shire.
- Seek external funding opportunities, and utilise NSWDET 'Equity' funding, to meet the learning needs of learners with a disability
- Review and monitor MVCC's enrolment process to ensure it is both user-friendly and that the 'environmental' needs of learners who have identified a disability are addressed (where possible)
- Purchase a set of 'basic' resources such as a magnifying sheet, document holder, head-set, audio-recorder to assist meet the needs of learners with a disability
- Discuss and ascertain need for 'refresher' professional development for personnel (staff and tutors) in relation to learners with a disability

Processes for developing, continuing, monitoring, evaluating and reviewing the Action Plan

- Include review of Disability Action Plan in all applicable MVCC policies and procedures
- Include review of Disability Action Plan in MVCC Annual Planning Calendar
- Conduct an annual audit to ensure MVCC's compliance with Disability Standards in Education