

Expanding the definition of success at school

Scott Widmer
Assistant Deputy Secretary
Senior Secondary Pathways Reform



Workshop overview

Conference theme – Leading together: inspire, learn, network

Workshop goal:

Explore the role of education leaders in expanding the definition of success for students

Outline:

1. Scott Widmer | 20 minutes

What story are we telling students about success?

2. Scott Diamond | 15 minutes

Recognising and valuing varied forms of student success at Northern Bay P-12 College

3. Table discussion | 20 minutes

What do you do to make sure varied forms of success are valued, visible and voiced?

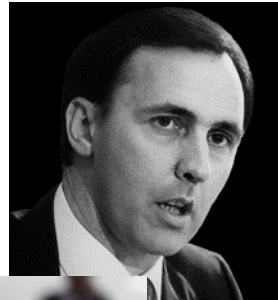
4. Sharing your ideas | 15 minutes

Two things school leaders can do to change the story of success at school

Is there only one pathway to success?



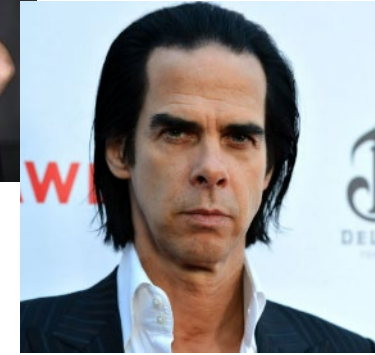
Stake



Westfield



Canva



afterpay



GURNER™
GROUP

Zambrero



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BOOST

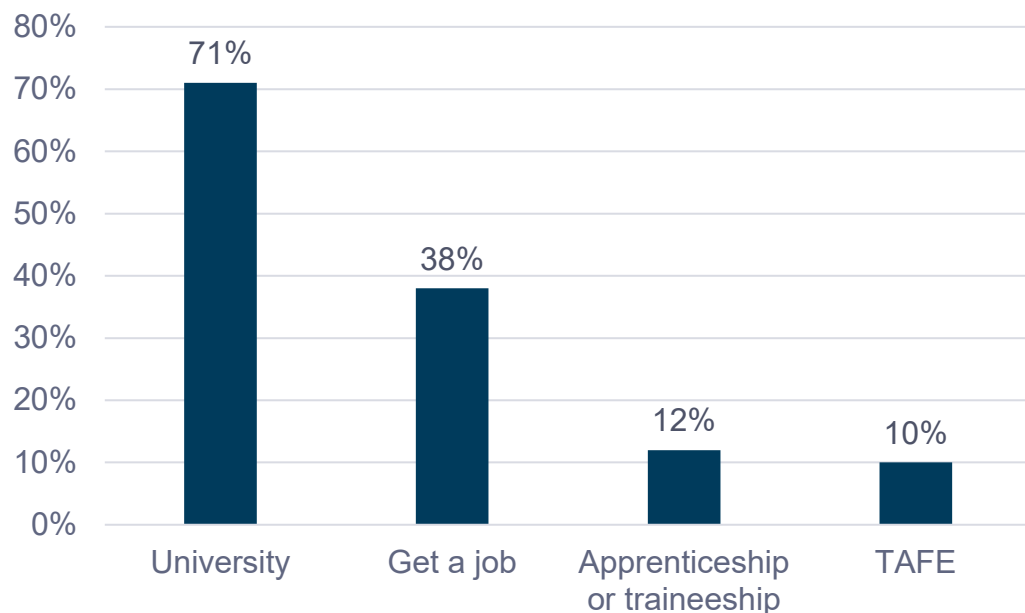


Victorian Academy
of Teaching and Leadership

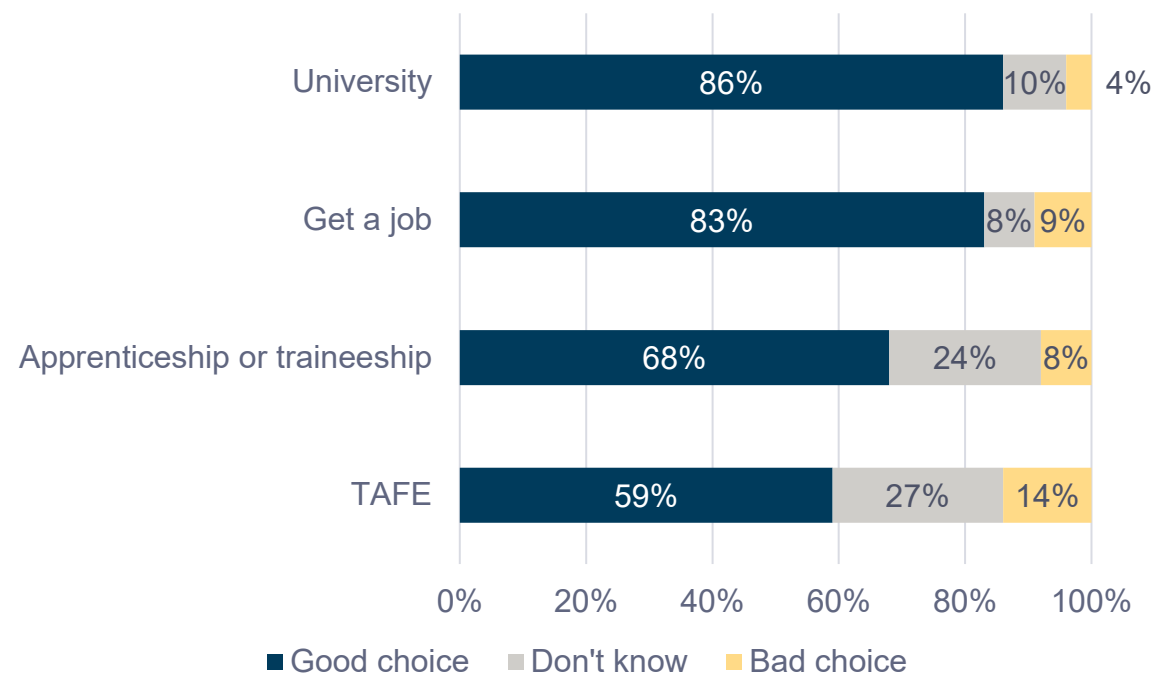


Most Years 7-9 students only consider university

What do you think you might like to do when you finish school?
(multiple response)



What do you think of the following choices that students can make when they finish school?

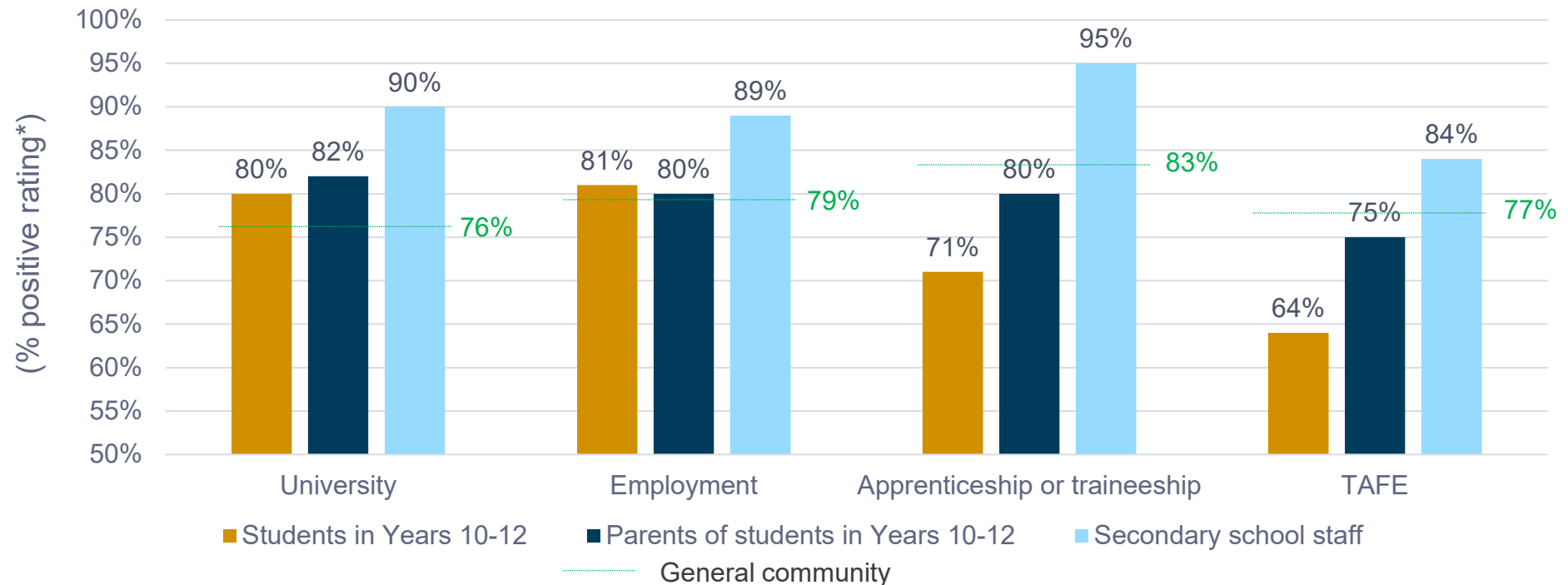


Note: Small sample size (n=100). Surveyed 6-15 December 2023.
Research conducted by JWS Research on behalf of the Department of Education.

What's a successful pathway?

Gaps in student, parent and school staff views

What is your overall impression of each of the following, as options for students when they leave school?



Positive rating meaning 5, 6 or 7 on a scale of 1-7, 1 being strongly negative and 7 being strongly positive.
Sample sizes: n=225 students, n=225 parents, n=50 staff, n=1225 general community. Surveyed 1-15 December 2023.
Research conducted by JWS Research on behalf of the Department of Education.

Parents and students see an inequality in pathway celebration

Students in Years 10-12

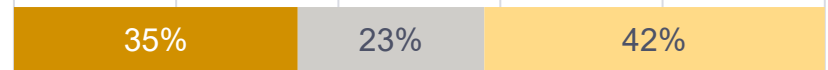
More secondary schools should offer vocational education options



Victorian secondary schools value vocational education

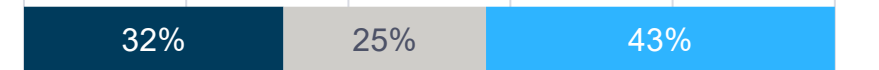


All senior secondary education pathways in schools are celebrated equally



■ Agree ■ Unsure ■ Disagree

Parents of Year 10-12 students



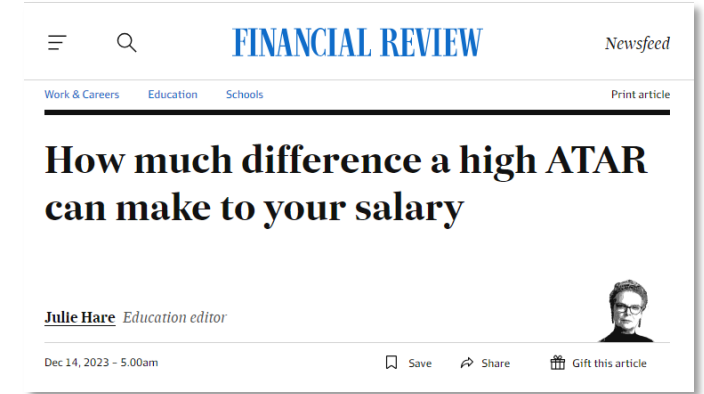
■ Agree ■ Unsure ■ Disagree

Note: Sample size (n=225) for each group. Surveyed 1-15 December 2023.
Research conducted by JWS Research on behalf of the Department of Education.

What do students and parents see and hear?

As it happened VCE results 2023:
Victorian Year 12 students receive results

THE AGE



PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Congratulations Class of 2020

Results	Offers
99 ATAR Achieved by College DUX	94% QTAC OFFERS
100% Music State Exam score achieved by one of our Year 12 students	93% 1st / 2nd Choice
19% Above 91.5	96% Received QCE
73% Above 81.0	
92% Above 65.5	

Prince of Peace QCE Received (96%)
State QCE Average (89%)

AREAS OF STUDY

- Arts
- IT
- Sciences
- Society & Culture
- Health
- Education
- Management & Commerce

VCE Honour Roll 2023

Find out how many 40+ scores your school attained and in which subjects

School

Search by school name

Herald Sun

Top 20 public and private schools for VCE

Victoria needs vocational achievers

CLOSING THE SKILL GAPS IN AREAS OF NEED



67% of Victoria's 364 occupations in shortage can be fulfilled via a TAFE education

Growing jobs towards 2026 attainable via a TAFE education:

 Aged and Disability Carers	 Software and Applications Programmers
 Management and Organisation Analysts	 Accountants
 Human Resource Managers	 Clean economy workforce



☰ THE  AGE

Politics Federal [Infrastructure](#)

Huge construction workforce shortfall will lead to price rises and delays, report warns



90,000 extra construction workers needed for goal of 1.2 million new homes, industry says

Jobs boom tipped for the renewables sector

THE AUSTRALIAN 
SAM DUNCAN

Australia's shift to clean energy is accelerating, and with the federal government's May budget allocating significant funding to make the nation a renewable energy superpower, it brings into focus the job creation opportunities, skills needs and workforce challenges that lie ahead.

'Electricians are everywhere when it comes to the transition. They're in shortage. Get your kids to become electricians'

DR CHRIS BRIGGS
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY,
SYDNEY

THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigour, journalistic flair

To hit 82% renewables in 8 years, we need skilled workers

Skill shortages could cripple the renewables boom

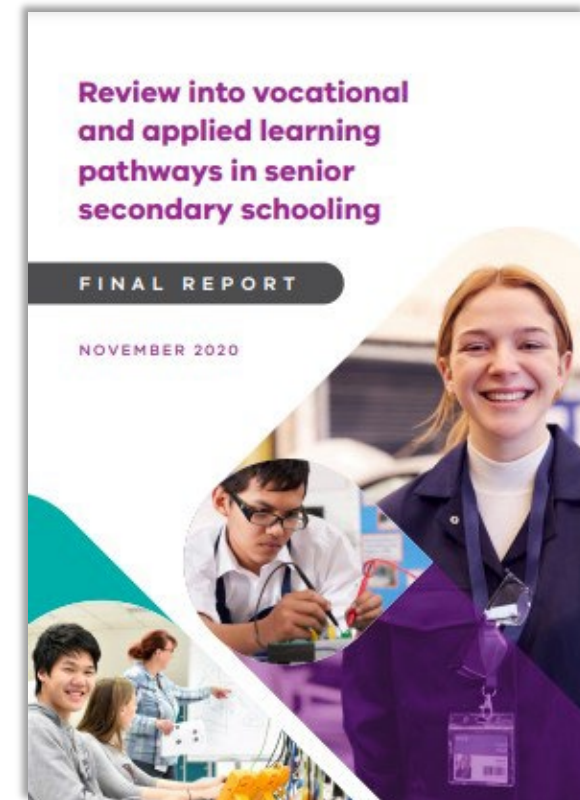
Repositioning what we value

Review into vocational and applied learning pathways for senior secondary students (the Firth Review) set the agenda to transform senior secondary education by:

1. Lifting the quality and perception of vocational education

2. Helping more students access high-quality applied learning programs

3. Providing a vocational pathway that gives students the skills they need to move successfully into further training and jobs post-school



Steady system-level shifts

VCE Vocational Major

Enrolments up 8% in 2023 to 25,200 across all school sectors

VET in schools

Enrolments up 4.2% in government schools in 2023, outpacing student cohort growth

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships

More than 3300 students participated in state-wide Head Start program in 2023



Changing the story

☰ THE AGE

National Victoria

This was published 7 years ago

VCAL students: they see us as the 'dumb ones'

Kaylee Stoffels believes that she and her VCAL classmates were viewed as the "dumb ones" at her old school.

"I would say the school didn't value VCAL like it did the VCE," she says. "They see us as people taking the easier road."

2017



☰ THE AGE

National Victoria VCE

When Annameike finished her VCE last year, she treated herself to a tractor

On Wednesday, Cozens will be among six students awarded the inaugural outstanding VCE vocational major prize at the Premier's VCE Awards ceremony at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

2024



Changing the story

When he first set foot in a Glenroy College classroom as a year 7 student, Elian Youkhana knew basic English and had missed three years of primary school.

His family moved to Melbourne in 2017. Prior to this, he survived being held hostage by ISIS for more than a year, bombs raining down on his family's village and his home being set alight by the extremist group.

“Look at me now, I've graduated. This is a big achievement for me and I finished year 12 without failing a subject, and I got a certificate (award) as well.”

Herald Sun
We're for you

ISIS hostage to proud graduate

Rebecca Borg

For Glenroy College student Elian Youkhana, year 12 results day is not just about receiving an ATAR but a chance to reflect on how far he's come since his family fled war-torn Syria.

The 18-year-old is one of more than 50,000 school leavers who planned to gather around their devices on Monday morning to see if their hard work paid off.

Mr Youkhana's high school journey was far from ordinary, having to overcome language barriers, bullying and childhood trauma to become the first person in his family to attain a VCE.

His family moved to Melbourne in 2017. Prior to this, he survived being held hostage by ISIS for more than a year, bombs raining down on his family's village and his home being set alight by the extremist group.

When he first set foot in a Glenroy College classroom as a year 7 student, Mr Youkhana knew basic English and had missed three years of primary school.

“I focused on my education despite some people saying I didn't know English – they used to laugh,” he said.

“Look at me now, I've graduated. This is a big achievement for me and I finished year 12 without failing a subject, and I got a certificate (award) as well.”

architecture at RMIT,” he said. “When I was younger I always wanted to be an architect.”



Industry and community connections P-12

“From a very young age children begin to recognise that different occupations tend to be undertaken by either men or women and, as children get older, that different status is accorded to different professions.” – *Career education in primary school*, myfuture, Education Services Australia

Schools can change the story of success with:

- VCAA resources linking F-10 curriculum with career education
- Trade & Tech Fit career expo
- Four key career education activities from Years 7-12:
 1. Career action plans
 2. My Career Insights (Morrisby)
 3. Work-based learning
 4. Career counselling
- Using industry connections to create opportunities for exposure and career exploration



New ways to track success in Panorama

Current measure

Exit Destinations

Reports post-school destinations for early school leavers (Years 9-12) and school completers (post-Year 12)



New measures

Coming in Term 3:

VCE and VPC Enrolments

Enrolments between the senior secondary pathways, including the VCE Vocational Major.

VCE and VPC Completions

Completion rates will be reported by student pathway, including the VCE Vocational Major

Scheduled for Term 4:

Retention and VET Enrolments

Changing the story in schools

Are varied forms of success in your school:

1. **valued** in your actions and decisions as a leader?
2. **visible** to staff, teachers and students?
3. **voiced** to students and parents?



Northern Bay P-12 **College**

- Large Multi-Campus P-12 School
- 1800 students
- SFO – 0.82
- 1300 Equity Funded Students – Social Disadvantage
- 35% of Students with a Refugee Background
- Culture of high expectations built around strength-based learning, teaching & wellbeing

Challenges in Defining Student Success

- Media expectations
- Community expectations
- Student expectations
- Department of Education constructs



Senior Year Pathways @ NBC

VCE, VCE-VM and VPC are all on the Timetable
Actively work to remove the 'stigma':

- > Staffing Process - EOI
- > Student Selection into VCE-VM is based on interview

All student success is celebrated:

- > Social media
- > Awards and events
- > Scholarship opportunities





NORTHERN BAY COLLEGE SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT

Year 12 VM

MARINE LIFE AND HABITATS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Miah and Joyce have been developing an education program for Year 7 and 8 Northern Bay Students from Handy and Peacock Campus. The program will focus on the importance of protecting our marine habitats and the ways we can make a difference in the community. Miah and Joyce have been developing a scavenger hunt and an information brochure and have been liaising with Science teachers to ensure a successful program. This project will not only help make a difference, but also help develop the PDS skills of Teamwork, Leadership and Communication we have been studying this semester.



WATERWAYS CLEAN UP

Cody, Jack, Jamie and Calob are organising a local waterways clean up and educating the community about the link between litter and marine pollution. They have organised the locations and the plan for the day which will also include a visit to the Sustainability Hub as well as the Recycling Centre to help inform the CDs group.

- ### WATERWAYS CLEANUP ITINERARY
- Thursday 30th of may
- 11:30 am Get on the bus to head to Cowies creek
 - 11:40 am Clean up Cowies creek and Stead park
 - 12:50 pm Have lunch Stead Park (bring money)
 - 1:20 pm Get on bus to Sustainability Hub and recycle centre
 - 2:40 pm Finish up at the warehouse
 - Arrive back at school



COWIES CREEK WATERWAYS CLEAN UP

On Thursday May 30, Jack, Calob, Cody and Jamie organised a local waterways clean up at the Sustainability Hub and Stead Park. The day was a success and they managed to collect a lot of rubbish. The day was a success and they managed to collect a lot of rubbish.



RECYCLE WAREHOUSE AND CDs

The Recycle Warehouse is looking for volunteers to help with the sorting of household waste. The warehouse is located at the Sustainability Hub and is open to the public.

PLANTING EXCURSION

Last Thursday we were fortunate enough to organise and work along Cowies Creek, weeding, pulling up weeds and planting trees. It was great to return to the site we visited in last year on the Boulevard behind Burnage. It was also great to meet with Friends of Cowies Creek. Thanks to everyone for organising the excursion on behalf of our group and for helping us to plant a tree on the day.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SHOWCASE

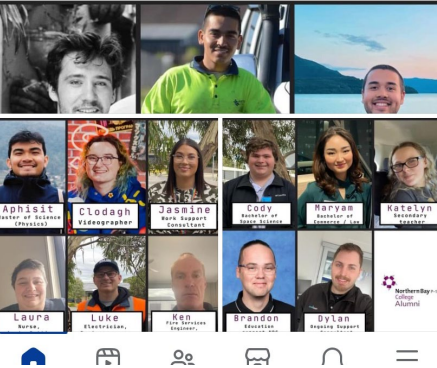
On Thursday the 10th of June we will be celebrating the work we have done so far and sharing important sustainability information to the rest of the Sustainability Community. This will be a great chance for us to share our learning journey and help educate people on the importance of the environment and being more sustainable. Tickets will be sent out to houses in the coming weeks so that as many students as possible can attend looking forward to seeing you all there.



Posts About Photos More ▾

Northern Bay P-12 College 2 Feb · 🌐

#collegewide The VM/VPC students have kicked off their fire safety course today. Getting familiar with all the safety gear that fire fighters wear during bush fires and house fires. Exciting opportunity for our students. #goldsworthy



if VCE or VM is the pathway... See more



6

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Northern Bay College and



Amplifying Student Pathways @NBC

Accepting responsibility for positive messaging
A strong focus on qualifications and employability

- > Traffic Management
- > Hospitality/Barista
- > Fire services

Celebrating student achievement
Strong and connections with industry and community
Maintaining high expectations

- > Student portfolio



Your turn: Changing the story from P-12

Conference theme – Leading together: inspire, learn, network

A) Table discussion (20 minutes):

What do you do to make sure varied forms of success are:

1. **valued** in your actions and decisions as a leader?
2. **visible** to staff, teachers and students?
3. **voiced** to students and parents?

Nominate a notetaker (Slido) and a spokesperson.

B) Report back (15 minutes):

One minute per table spokesperson:

2 impactful things school leaders can do

Notetaking:

1. Visit [slido.com](https://www.slido.com)
2. Enter code #VVV
3. Enter lots of ideas



Wrapping up

Leading together: inspire, learn, network

As school leaders, there are many ways you can make sure all forms of success are **valued**, **visible** and **voiced**:

- Awards and celebrations
- Alumni participation
- Displays and signage
- School communication
- Community and industry involvement
- Prioritising career education
- Staffing and resource allocation
- School networking
- and more...

Next steps – we'll provide workshop slides and resources including:

- Career education resource links (all schools)
- Discussion guide and reflective checklist to use with staff (secondary schools)

