

# MI LIFE MI FUTURE

Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE  
ACAL Conference Freemantle - 2009

## TENDER –DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION, INDUSTRY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SKILLS VICTORIA

- ▶ To design a support and delivery program that supports access and participation in accredited courses for those students identifying as having a mental illness.
- ▶ Mental illness has been identified by state and Commonwealth stakeholders as an emerging issue.
- ▶ The stakeholders are committed to increasing access for people with a mental illness to participate in the community, employment, education and training.

- ▶ Preliminary discussions were held with a mental health worker from Goulburn Valley Worktrainers – Shepparton- Job Agency
- ▶ Managers from ALBE Department Shepparton TAFE



# Our Plan

- ▶ Involve mental health service providers in the area
- ▶ Worktrainers – Mental Health Division
- ▶ Mental Health Fellowship
- ▶ Area Mental Health Service
- ▶ Goulburn Valley Division of General Practitioners (GVGPS)
  
- ▶ Our Plan was to devise a program that would include the following -
- ▶ Core Units – Personal Development & Employability Program, Self Advocacy
- ▶ Vocational Elective Units
- ▶ Workplacement
- ▶ Case Management Support
- ▶ Gillian to gain support from other service providers in the region

# The Program

- ▶ A 20 week program that would go over 3 days a week

Two half days – Core program – modules were chosen from Certificate 1 in Vocational Preparation & Certificate 1 in Work Education

- ▶ Individual Learning plan
- ▶ Personal Development
- ▶ Career Planning
- ▶ Preparation for Employment
- ▶ Orientation to Work
- ▶ Orientation to Learning
- ▶ Job Seeking Skills
- ▶ Managing Personal Change

## Vocational Units

- ▶ Selected from relevant accredited courses which may also include students gaining industry standard licences.
- ▶ To be chosen according to students interests e.g. First Aid, RSA – Responsible Serving of Alcohol
- ▶ Fork lift operator
  
- ▶ Computer Skills – Text Help Read & Write Gold
  
- ▶ WIKI Board
  
- ▶ Digital Story Project

# Work Placement

- ▶ As students became comfortable with the program and were ready, work placement would be made available either with the help of Worktrainers or GOIT
- ▶ In an area that they were interested in
- ▶ If workplacement was successful Worktrainers would approach management to discuss ongoing work and would discuss The Supported Wages Program

## Gathering students & Reference Group

- ▶ Flyers were distributed to organisations in the area who deal with MI clients
- ▶ Clients booked in for interviews
- ▶ Reference group was established and guidelines were developed
- ▶ Fees – All fees were to be met by the program

## Program so far

- ▶ Launch- Letizia's Restaurant – guest speaker
- ▶ Hospitality & Furnishings – beginning electives
- ▶ Core program – Personal Development, Career Planning, Job Seeking, etc
- ▶ Career Voyager
- ▶ Job Skills Store

## Program so far – cont

- ▶ Computers – Wiki, email, digital story, web
- ▶ **Student feedback**
  - ▶ - program gives me a reason to get up in the morning
  - ▶ - I'm now able to email my sister in Darwin
- ▶ 1 student now has a part time job at Letizia's restaurant
- ▶ 1 work placement at Letizia's
- ▶ Organise social outings together

## The future & what would we do differently

- ▶ Assume students would have good computer skills
- ▶ Advertise more widely- contact Centerlink and other job agencies
- ▶ More flexible with students wanting to do other Voc Electives
- ▶ Visits to work places to expand their job choices