**BEACON: ABOUT US**

The Beacon Foundation, established in 1988 in Tasmania, has grown to become a national not for profit organisation, operating in all Australian states and territories.

Beacon’s vision is “an Australia that understands, cares and is motivated to support young people to successfully transition from education to meaningful employment”.

We believe every young person has the right to hope, a job, financial opportunity and the sense of personal success this provides them. Beacon focuses on disadvantaged communities and areas of high youth disengagement and unemployment, where the risk and the need are greatest. We work with schools, businesses and communities to help bring relevance to the curriculum, and inspire young people to think about careers and experience the workplace, long before they leave school. This helps school retention rates and teaches real-life skills, preparing students for the workplace.

Beacon will assist over 15,000 young Australians from just over 120 schools and communities in 2015.

**BEACON: OUR CHALLENGE**

Disengagement in school increases as young people see little hope for the future and see no connection with the classroom content and real life. This in turn impacts youth unemployment rates as young people leave school with no clear pathway to employment, further education or training. At the same time, Australian-based industries with skills shortages are seeking work-ready young people – but employers are finding that today’s young people do not have the skills or workplace knowledge they need to enter the workforce. These issues feature largely on the national agenda; the long term impact of the current situation not only puts these young people at risk of future inequality, but affects the future of Australia.
Beacon: Our Approach

The Beacon Foundation takes a preventative approach to youth unemployment and the range of societal hardships that stem from it. There is no ‘quick fix’, however, it is evident that Beacon’s proven 3 pillar approach provides long-term sustainable solutions.

Beacon Core Community Model

The Beacon Core Community Model is a holistic approach to addressing low school retention rates, engagement and transitions in disadvantaged schools. It is a long term sustainable method of addressing youth unemployment and hopelessness, giving help to young Australians who need it most. Beacon acts as a conduit to bring the school, community and local business together.

Over a three year period, it coaches the key players through the process to work together on shared objectives, delivering a range of activities that enable young people to be work-ready. This results in young people with raised aspirations, confidence and motivation. They leave school with the 21st century employability skills that employers are looking for. Communities have a greater understanding and a heightened sense of belonging and ‘ownership’ that comes from providing long term solutions for their young people.

Beyond the three year core program, Beacon continues to support alumni schools through an online portal where schools, businesses and communities can share knowledge, access resources, and keep up to date with new opportunities.

Beacon: High Impact Programs (HIP)

Beacon offers a series of one-day Work Readiness Programs, targeted to specific age groups spanning Years 7 - 12. Each program is designed to prepare and motivate students for a successful transition from education to meaningful employment. These professionally facilitated programs have high involvement from employers, and build basic life skills ranging from personal awareness, through to dress codes, building a CV and the development of social skills in the workplace. These real-life examples aim to encourage and motivate students to recognise their own potential.

Beacon: Real Futures Generation (RFG) Creation of Real Jobs

Businesses and schools work together to provide real pathways into employment for disadvantaged young Australians. Students are invited to learn about job opportunities in interactive classroom sessions or in the workplace environment and those who develop an interest in the job opportunities are then given the support needed to secure it. In the last 18 months, Beacon has worked with 83 schools and 60 businesses and engaged 5814 young people in school to work curriculum activities. This includes providing insight into a real job via a site visit, a classroom visit from a person in industry, or work experience. In the last year, they have also prepared and placed 210 young people into real jobs.

Beacon: Our Solution

At the centre of our work, and the heart of Beacon, is the power of relationships. For young people to successfully transition into meaningful employment, they need to be connected with, and supported by, the whole community. By actively supporting educators and business to work together to engage with young people while they are still at school, we can be part of the solution to youth unemployment. Our aim is to make education relevant, while creating a skilled, engaged and productive future workforce.