

INQUIRY INTO SKILLS SHORTAGES IN RURAL AND REGIONAL NSW

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Date Received: 8/08/2005

Theme:

Summary

**A submission from the Milton/Ulladulla branch of the Liberal Party to the
Legislative Council's inquiry into skills shortage in rural and regional NSW.**

PREAMBLE:

It was decided at our last branch meeting that a submission to the Committee should be made making reference to terms that directly influence our region. It was decided that we should limit our comments to factors that directly affect our graduates from our local high school, which has a proud academic history over many years. Our graduates can access a small TAFE college at Ulladulla, but unfortunately, it fails to cater for the needs of this area. Therefore it is necessary for the district's students to travel to Nowra to access courses at the Nowra Regional campus and also avail themselves of courses from the Campus of the University of Wollongong(Nowra Campus)

Unfortunately, to attend classes at these institutions, it is necessary to face the extremely dangerous drive along the most accident-prone section of the Princes Highway. Most parents are very reluctant to allow their teenage children to face this journey on a daily basis. This necessitates them living away from home. Students who wish to pursue university studies or diploma courses at TAFE are happy to do this, but students who wish to enter the workplace after leaving high school prefer to live at home and train locally.

SUBMISSION:

(a) The current and future demand for labour:-

The demand for labour at the present time in the Milton/Ulladulla area involves hospitality, retail sales and management, trades, limited IT positions and small business development.

(b) The economic and social impact of skills shortage.

The impact is not great at the moment because unfortunately youth unemployment is quite high. The only manner in which this can be reduced is by providing youth with the opportunity to obtain a high standard of training in the areas where they wish to pursue their vocation.

(h) The methods used by training organisations including TAFE to assess skills needs in rural and regional NSW and their response to identified needs.

Branch members could not provide an answer to how needs are established, but informed me that parents and students informed them that training in early childhood studies and childcare are irrelevant because job opportunities are limited and not everyone is interested in pursuing a career in this area. Studies in childcare and IT appear to be the only choice available to students now. As stated in the preamble, students have expressed an interest in studying small business management, hospitality, IT and retail sales.

DENNIS C CHUGG
PRESIDENT
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AUGUST 3RD, 2006