



Heather Butler, MP

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier

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Optimising the Extended Year 10 School Year

Trial programs to optimise the extended Year 10 school year are helping to encourage students to remain engaged in education and training, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, Heather Butler, said today.

Speaking at a forum in Hobart, Ms Butler said that the Optimising Year 10 Innovative Grants Program 2008 report showed the outcomes of programs run by 10 schools around the State and the University of Tasmania to engage Year 10 students in the final three weeks of their school year.

“Premier David Bartlett announced in 2006 that the Year 10 school year would be extended by three weeks to encourage young Tasmanians moving from Year 10 into further education, training and employment,” Ms Butler said.

“This is because we want to stop giving any messages to our young people that finishing Year 10 is about finishing school.”

Ms Butler said that in 2008, the Southern Tasmanian Youth Transitions Taskforce established 10 low cost grants to trial programs for optimising the three-week extension to the school year for Year 10 students.

“These programs have been linked to a range of transition, study, life and employability skills and are helping young people in making a smooth transition from Year 10 into further education, training and employment.”

Ms Butler said that a total of 10 projects were funded over four categories including orientation to Hobart for regional and remote students, short course certification and work experience, specific interest programs and further study.

“The programs were all aimed at building motivation for students to continue in education, to proceed to further education and training or to obtain part or full-time employment.”

“For example, Cosgrove High School offered a Careers on the Water program, Oatlands School ran a Hobart city orientation course, and Claremont College offered a program designed to improve retention in the Derwent Valley through film, multi-media and music learning opportunities.”

Ms Butler said that the trial had been a fantastic learning opportunity for students.

“We look forward to seeing what other great ideas school communities across the State come up with to help encourage students to remain engaged in education and training beyond Year 10,” Ms Butler said.