

Erindale College

Canberra ACT

So you want to leave home

Erindale College in Canberra is a comprehensive secondary college with 830 Year 11 and Year 12 students from a variety of backgrounds. 'So you want to leave home' is designed to cater for students who are likely to be leaving the family home and are at risk of leaving the college in the near future.

Developing independence and finding affordable, financially sustainable accommodation is difficult for a young person, and budgeting for expenses associated with independent living is an acquired skill.

Students will be more engaged if they can see a direct benefit from learning.

'So you want to leave home' will involve students learning about the types of rental accommodation available in the ACT, how to search for and assess rental properties, the legal pitfalls of renting accommodation and expenses associated with renting and independent living. The program will also introduce students to personal budgeting and prioritising commitments; lifestyle choice; the legal aspects of leasing, including tenants' rights and obligations; as well as the interpersonal and communication skills required to successfully access rental accommodation.

"Financial literacy is something that needs to be emphasised by real life situations and we are excited to be able to provide these experiences to our students," explained Erindale College Principal Michael Hall.

"Our program aims to develop financial literacy through real life situations that they can pass onto others and we would like to thank the Commonwealth Bank Foundation for providing funding to target this specific learning area."

Teachers and students involved in the program will collaborate with members of the community such as real estate agencies and guest speakers from relevant authorities. Students will visit rental properties to develop their awareness of the difficulties associated with finding accommodation. The outcome of this program will be the production of a DVD that will be made available to every Year 12 student exiting or graduating from Erindale College.

The program will also test the ability of students to work successfully in groups and with an interdisciplinary approach. At the end of the semester a formal evaluation will be held which will involve on-line surveys to students, teachers and all community members involved in the program.

Erindale College has made a commitment to implement a greater diversity of programs to meet the identified needs of targeted groups in the college community. The program is sustainable because it has the potential to be built in to a number of our programs already in existence such as The College Link program that has been devised to provide a more satisfactory transition for students from high school to college. It is anticipated that other colleges and schools could also use the program in the same way.

Condobolin High School

Condobolin NSW

The Condobolin High School Lavender Farm

Condobolin High School has 240 students and is located in Central New South Wales. The area's main industry is agriculture, which is currently experiencing its seventh successive drought year. The effect of this on the town's small businesses is dramatic and many are closing. As a result some students have a misunderstanding of the value of small business and how a business operates in their community.

Condobolin High School's Commonwealth Bank Foundation Financial Literacy Grant will establish a teaching resource to develop a small business that produces lavender products on the school grounds. The Condobolin High School Lavender Farm will engage students from Years 9 to 12 across all subjects in practical learning activities. Lavender will be grown by the Agriculture department, distilled by the Science department, processed into lavender soap and hand cream by the Design and Technology department and packaging will be designed by the Visual Arts department.

Business Studies students will monitor the financial performance of the entire business as well as develop marketing and sales strategies. All departments will manage the budget for their production process and will be involved in selling the products from the lavender farm at the local show.

"Our Financial Literacy Grant provides a wonderful opportunity for students to design and manage a small business venture," explained Mr Lloyd Batten, Principal at Condobolin High School.

"The program is very hands on and will mean that students come out of it with real life skills."

These skills include interpreting profit and loss statements, managing budgets, developing product, understanding bank statements, balance sheets and revenue statements, tax and GST and dealing with cash sales.

Specific community alliances will be developed to make the project as authentic as possible in replicating a small business and demonstrating small business functions. For example a bank account will be established at the local Commonwealth Bank to enable students to work with bank statements and the banking system. Local Bank representatives, Agronomists, Accountants and other specialists will also be invited to provide specific information and comment to the students. Once established the project will be ongoing and offered to students in future years.

Numbulwar Community Education Centre

Via Katherine NT

Fit for Business

Numbulwar is a remote Indigenous community located on the Gulf of Carpentaria. There are currently 800 – 1000 residents, with Numbulwar Community Education Centre catering to the educational needs of approximately 220 students aged between 3 – 20 years of age. The group of 16 students targeted for this project are Year 10 and 11 boys who have missed large amounts of schooling and are on either Youth Allowance or Abstudy benefits.

The project will be a 'real life' situation that the students themselves have negotiated with the School Council and teacher. It will give the students an understanding of personal finance and how to start up and operate a business as they work collaboratively to create, market and appraise a business of their own.

“The program is a co-operative program between the school, students and local community that brings the three areas together,” explained Principal Erica Prosser.

“Students will gain entrepreneurial skills and employment opportunities and learn how to develop local business opportunities.”

All money from the grant will be used to purchase and pay for the delivery of the gym equipment. The program will involve students researching a location for the gym, determining a budget for gym equipment and opening an account at the local bank. Students will be involved in all aspects of setting up the gym including the design of a sign, setting opening hours and charges for members, building and assembling gym equipment and learning about personal and business accounts.

Different departmental teachers at the Community Education Centre will work together with students to facilitate the project. A Physical Education teacher will assist by teaching the students proper use of equipment and individual programs, a Studies of Society and Environment teacher will assist by developing a nutrition program to complement the training sessions and an English teacher will assist with the language and report writing. The local community will also get involved by taking out memberships at the gym.

The program will help to develop and demonstrate practical skills in banking, applying knowledge and understanding of running a business, completing a needs analysis for the gym, evaluating and communicating financial literacy knowledge and showing an understanding of the connection between financial literacy and their own lives.

Aquinas College
Southport QLD
Schoolies - Fully Sik!

Aquinas College is a Catholic co-educational high school situated on the Gold Coast with a school population of approximately 650 students. 'Schoolies – Fully Sik!' is a fully integrated unit of work which will develop students' financial literacy skills to plan their Schoolies Week. The proposed project will involve a group of between 40 and 50 Year 11 students who study Maths and English.

The embedding of a structured unit of work such as 'Schoolies – Fully Sik!' into present school work programs will ensure that students develop financial literacy in a context relevant to them. The skills learned will also be transferable to other relevant life areas needing financial literacy, such as purchasing a car, leasing a unit or managing a personal budget.

'Schoolies – Fully Sik!' will be a task-oriented, skills-based unit of work aimed at developing financial literacy within a relevant and practical context. Students will produce an individual budget for Schoolies Week including rent, food and entertainment and an 18 month financial plan that includes financial goals, a saving plan, cost projections and how they will be met. They will also learn about rental/lease agreements and the financial and legal consequences of lease breaches.

"We are very excited about being able to implement our financial literacy program. With financial planning and risk management in place, Schoolies should be a fun and safe experience for all of our students," said Toni Bressan, Program Coordinator.

'Schoolies – Fully Sik!' will involve students producing a DVD, containing a brief introduction to Schoolies Week and interviews with local community members who are involved in Schoolies, such as accommodation managers, a contract solicitor, volunteer supervisors, police and past Schoolies attendees.

Students will use internet sites to seek information such as accommodation options and online financial tools to produce budgets. Students will also be taken on an excursion to Surfers Paradise to investigate accommodation options, collect lease contracts and to interview accommodation managers.

The program will be ongoing and relevant as long as Schoolies' Week exists and it is possible that it could be applicable in a wider context, either at other schools or linked to the Schoolies' website.

Kenilworth State Community College

Kenilworth, QLD

The Bean Counter

Kenilworth State Community College is located in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland. There are 146 students attending the college, many of whom have a rural background and travel up to 25km to school. 'The Bean Counter' will involve students from Years 5 to 10 establishing a business venture to produce and sell coffees at local community and school events throughout the year. An objective of 'The Bean Counter' is to give the students ownership of their learning. The program will be implemented primarily in business, information and communication technology, maths and home economics classes.

The program will enable students to build their basic awareness of how a business is run and to develop their understanding of marketing, customer service, book-keeping and financial management. Through their involvement in 'The Bean Counter' enterprise, students will develop relevant skills and values such as money management, personal development and teamwork.

Students will apply their learning in a real world context by using a cash register, creating graphs of sales figures, using diagrams to illustrate customer preferences and developing spreadsheets to monitor and analyse sales figures. Advertising boards, leaflets and posters, aprons and t-shirts and a coffee stand will be created for the business by different classes throughout the school. Students will also develop a web page to be linked to the school and community websites to promote 'The Bean Counter' and to encourage ongoing learning through the program.

"To give students real world opportunities, such as being able to establish and run a business is invaluable," explained Principal Mr Peter Wilson.

"This program has really allowed us to take advantage of the region's strength – tourism and 'The Bean Counter' will capitalise on this. The program is sustainable too – we are looking to make it a unit every year".

Involvement in 'The Bean Counter' program will enable students to interact with the community by using the coffee machine for fundraising activities, at the local shows and at the local camp-ground. Students will be required to submit articles for the weekly school newsletter and local media publications to raise awareness of the program.

Students will be expected to maintain and develop a portfolio of their work for 'The Bean Counter' program including evaluation checklists. The school will also produce a questionnaire for completion by students, teachers and the local community to evaluate the relevance of particular units, whether students' financial literacy skills have improved and which areas of financial literacy need to be addressed in the future.

Gawler High School

Evanston, SA

Let's Go Shopping: Money Skills for life.

Gawler High School is situated 45 kms from Adelaide and the 830 plus students from Years 8 to13 reflect a large and multicultural enrolment zone. This program is designed for the newly established special class at Gawler High School.

The purpose of the program is to set up a simulated shop and purchase resources that will provide both practical and theory experiences for the students to enable them to develop life long financial skills. The group of students that will participate in the program in 2008 will all be in Year 8 and aged 12 to14. The students in the special class will come from a number of different primary schools with a variety of learning experiences and skill level. All students have been placed in a secondary special class because of their intellectual disability. The focus for students in the special class is for them to develop financial skills that will enable them to be more independent.

Students will be assessed when they first begin at Gawler High School in regards to their basic Maths skills and financial skills. After the resources have been purchased and the program has begun students will be regularly assessed with computer software packages.

"This financial literacy program will aim to incorporate both theory and practical components," said Roslyn Conboy, Coordinator Learning Support.

"Students will be able to focus on the development of basic maths skills through simulated learning experiences."

The aim of the program is to develop skills in earning and spending money. With the use of computer programs such as "Lets Go Shopping" and "Hot Dog Stand" students will get a simulated experience in shopping and running a small business. The computer programs will be complemented with a simulated shop in the special class where students can experience buying and selling of items, plus excursions that will allow them to practice the skills they have learnt in the classroom in the real world.

The program will be evaluated mid year and again at the end of the year in preparation for new students. As the students are on a negotiated program they are regularly reviewed to see if they are meeting their goals and to set new goals. This will allow measurement of how students are progressing in their financial literacy skills and how successful the program has been. The resources that will be purchased include computer software, shopping items and resource books and these will be able to be used for a number of years allowing the program to continue on an ongoing basis.

Newstead College
Launceston TAS
Budget Busting

Newstead College is based in Launceston, Tasmania and caters for 780 Year 11 and 12 students from across the region. Newstead's Financial Literacy Grant will fund the project 'Budget Busting' which aims to develop a budget resource package to support students in making financially secure decisions for their future.

Resources will be developed by students for students and accessed via the College intranet. The package will highlight the importance of budgeting to achieve desired financial outcomes. It will ensure all students to establish some basic financial literacy and responsibility for their financial choices. 'Budget Busting' will be introduced to all students via the College's Tutor Group Program and it will be available for the individual as the need arises.

"Never before have young people been confronted with such a complex financial web to navigate," explained Newstead College Principal Mr Dennis Betts.

"This program will enable us to develop resources and processes which will hopefully make these paths more transparent and prevent young people having to always learn from their mistakes."

This project is aimed at supporting the entire school population, providing them with tools which can be used by both special needs students and those studying pre-tertiary Accounting. The Grant will be primarily used to finance time release for the teachers to develop the program.

With over 60% of students working part-time and a large proportion of them financing items from mobile phones through to the purchase and running costs of their own motor vehicle and living independently, the project is in response to student requests for support in learning to manage their finances.

The Commonwealth Bank Foundation Financial Literacy Grant will provide all students with the opportunity to take responsibility for their financial futures. Students will learn to set goals and work towards their completion. They will be able to apply the resources to help them make everyday financial decisions that are truly relevant in their lives.

The Grant also provides opportunities for all teachers to deliver the materials, and enforces the message that financial literacy is a vital skill required by all responsible members of the community. Due to the learning tools being available on the College intranet it is anticipated that students will visit it in their own time to support their specific needs.

South Oakleigh College

South Oakleigh VIC

Consumer Awareness Pack for Adolescents

South Oakleigh College services a multicultural community located around 15 kms south of Melbourne city centre. The College has an enrolment of approximately 580 students.

South Oakleigh's Commonwealth Bank Foundation Financial Literacy Grant will involve Year 7 to 9 students participating in multiple literacy and numeracy activities in order to create a consumer awareness pack for adolescents, with a specific focus on the Monash area.

In the program, students will create two short films. One about aspects of financial literacy and an evaluation film about the program. They will also create an interactive CD ROM with consumer awareness tips and there will also be supporting material such as consumer awareness pens, rulers and stickers.

"Having the Commonwealth Bank Foundation Financial Literacy Grant enables us to expose our students to an authentic learning experience in relation to financial matters," explained South Oakleigh College Principal Vincent LaRagy.

"It's applying numeracy to the real world – students will be engaged through bringing these matters to life."

Guest speakers from organisations such as Consumer Affairs, Australian Consumer Fraud Taskforce and local banks will be invited to speak to the students. The project will involve an interdisciplinary approach to the curriculum and teachers from a range of subject areas will work together. The aim is to have an applied learning approach to financial literacy and consumer awareness.

The year-long program aims to provide students with an age appropriate understanding of consumer affairs and financial issues so that the students are scaffolded into future learning in the area of Humanities and Economics.

The proposed program will be measured against relevant Victorian Essential Learning Standards; progression points in the areas of the Humanities, Mathematics, English and Civics and Citizenship. Surveys and reflective pieces of writing and oral reports will be used as assessment instruments.

La Salle College
Middle Swan WA
The Pitfalls of Mobile Phones

La Salle College is located in the Swan Valley east of Perth and is a co-educational Catholic school with a student population of 1,100.

Mobile phone use is prevalent among young people and the technology of these phones keeps advancing rapidly. While many students are very good at navigating new technology, they are not as savvy when it comes to managing the costs. As a result, many accumulate phone bills in the hundreds of dollars.

The 'Pitfalls of Mobile Phones' will initially be aimed at Year 10 students taking part in an alternative education program and aims to make young people more aware of the possible pitfalls of mobile phones and the cost that can be involved in owning them.

"Our Commonwealth Bank Foundation Financial Literacy Grant will be aimed at Year 10 students participating in a new program aimed at developing literacy and numeracy skills. The grant will be put towards the development of a program aimed at educating students on the possible pitfalls of mobile phones as many students are unable to make informed decisions when it comes to mobile phone choice and management", said Angela Johnson, Learning Area Coordinator of Learning Support and Literacy.

The course will teach students how to manage their money better and how to make better decisions that are not just based on how 'cool' their phone looks. These skills can be transferred to other real life situations such as buying a car, moving out of home and applying for loans, so students will develop a greater understanding of finances and they will be able to make more responsible financial decisions.

The final assessment task will be for students to make a multimedia project aimed at young people outlining the hazards of mobile phones. This project will give students the opportunity to bring all their knowledge together and create a final product that is informative and entertaining. Throughout the program students will be engaged in a number of learning activities that include comparisons of different mobile phone plans, examining the cost of mobile phones, investigating costs of downloads and associated accessories that come with phones.

The greatest measure of success is student involvement and participation. A survey will be conducted with students to measure what they thought of the program and what improvements could be made. They will also be assessed on their final multimedia project against a range of outcomes. The staff involved will also meet to evaluate the program and see where improvements can be made.

Mazenod College

Lesmurdie WA

What's in my wallet?

Mazenod College is a Catholic school for 640 boys located outside Perth. The school offers a low fee education for boys from Years 8 to 12. Mazenod's 'What's in my wallet' financial literacy program will engage students who have low literacy and numeracy. Specifically, the program will focus on students in Year 10 who all have an interest in working in a "trade" environment when they leave school.

The unit of work will take the contents of the average person's wallet as a starting point such as their cash, receipts for purchases, credit cards, their driving licence, their medical insurance membership card etc. Each item will be the starting point of a section of work to help them build their understanding of earning an income, tax, consumer protection, buying a car, insurance, budgeting, RAC membership, credit and loans.

"With our Commonwealth Bank Foundation Financial Literacy Grant we have been able to broaden the curriculum for a special group of students and make their learning relevant and contextual. It will prepare them to be knowledgeable and critical personal money managers and consumers, removing many of the anxieties that young people face when they first enter the workforce", said Barbara Heelan, Head of Maths at Mazenod College.

Parallel with this unit, students will undertake a workshop task that will result in them producing quality metal or wood products for sale to the general public. The financial issues relating to the production and sale of these items will be integrated into the program in the form of setting up a small business, in other words generating income. The items they produce will be sold in the student section of the College Annual Fine Arts Exhibition and Sale each year.

The aim of 'What's in my wallet' is to give the students an opportunity to understand the basic financial issues of everyday life as a working adult and to develop a growing understanding of how to manage personal finances. These students will develop skills such as managing their income, understanding personal tax, choosing a car and managing credit cards.

Mazenod College is committed to making the program a successful and valued pathway for students. It will develop life skills as well as academic knowledge and students will be well placed to continue their education by a vocational pathway either at the College or TAFE.