

Background

- Community Consultations in September 2001 sponsored by TAFE and Limestone Coast Regional Development Board.
- High community interest, well attended.
- Identified key issues:
 - Promotion of available courses
 - Market research to identify community needs
 - Delivery mode
 - Specific provider issues
 - Cost of tertiary education

Tertiary Education Links Committee (TELC)

- Formed as a result of the community consultations.
- Developed terms of reference.
- Broad membership.
- Input to Higher Education Review, local school forum on higher education costs.
- Representations to Federal and State politicians.
- Low activity by 2003 - key members moved and lack of clarity about the role of the group.

University Steering Committee

- Formed in June 2004.
- Representatives from Grant District Council, City of Mount Gambier, TAFE South East Council.
- Individuals on the committee also have links to South East Education and Training Association, TAFE, Limestone Coast Regional Development Board, South East Area Consultative Committee, secondary schools, community groups, business.

Role of the committee

- **To work cooperatively to ensure quality tertiary education for the region.**
 - Focus on University sector.
 - Support universities to work in the region.
 - Feasibility Study into models for university provision in the region.

Feasibility Study

- The feasibility study will research and report on the models or model for a university campus which can best meet the needs of the region.
- By a University Campus, we include a range of delivery modes, including lecture and tutorials person to person either in the workplace or on campus; on line and flexible delivery: tele and video conference based delivery; and other options.
- The feasibility study will provide recommendations for further action.
- The feasibility study will provide the community with a comprehensive report and key findings to inform our decision making.

Feasibility Study.....

The study will be useful for:

- Organisations making decisions about supporting University development in the region.
- Business and Community planning in the area of skills development.
- Universities, businesses and organisations making decisions about moving into the region.

Outcomes achieved to date

- Community awareness and support.
- Political interest and support at State and Federal level.
- Strong working relationship with Tertiary providers.
- Feasibility study will give a clear plan for further learning opportunities within the region and for action by the committee.
- The Committee has helped to further build links and working relationships between organisations in the community.