



D9800 Vocational Services Revitalisation Workshops Outcomes - May 2020 Executive Summary

Background

A key priority in the District VS Revitalisation Strategic Plan, is *“to identify and recognise successful VS projects across the District”*. To achieve this, three workshops were held via Zoom on the 17th, 20th and 31st May 2020. Over 70 people including the DG, DGE, DGN, PEs, VS Directors and other Rotarians with a keen interest in revitalising vocational service attended the workshops. The workshops were Chaired by Mary Barry Vocational Service Chair, facilitated by Warwick Cavell President Central Melbourne with a presentation on Rotary Mentoring Programs provided by Francesco Fedele (Central Melbourne).

Workshop Objectives

- To raise awareness of the District Vocational Services Strategic Plan.
- To build enthusiasm for and momentum in revitalising VS in clubs.
- To start building connections in VS across the district.

Key Outcomes from workshops

1. What Clubs are Doing

The breakout sessions held during the workshops identified that while Clubs were involved in a variety of VS programs and projects, the key themes included:

- **Mentoring Programs**

There were a range of mentoring programs provided by many clubs including working with local not for profit organisations, schools and small business enterprises. A number of Clubs were also involved in the Victoria Police and Ambulance Victoria District Endorsed mentoring programs.

- **Working with schools**

Many Clubs were working with their local primary and/or secondary schools providing mentoring and other support including resume development, mock job interviews, essay competitions, public speaking competitions/opportunities, business plan competitions encouraging students to develop a business plan for a start-up and debating competitions. Some of the essay and debating competitions focus on the four way test and ethics.

- **Job Search**

Some clubs provide support and assistance to those seeking to enter the workforce including resume development and structured interview practice.

- **Awards**

Club also identified a number of awards programs including business awards, teachers awards, community awards and Shine on Awards (for people with a disability).

2. What would Clubs like to be doing?

While many of the responses included being involved in the programs identified in 1 above, there were also a number of enhancements Clubs would like to see included in these themes:

- **Mentoring**

Expanding mentoring opportunities to include mentoring for immigrants who want to 're-establish' themselves in Australia; international students and social entrepreneurs.

- **Schools**

Expand debating programs involving Toastmasters.

- **Job Search**

Include work experience programs and opportunities especially for youth/young people seeking to enter the workforce and programs to assist disadvantaged youth with job-ready training (e.g. hospitality, in particular).

- **Partnerships/Awards**

There was a strong desire for Clubs to be able to develop partnerships with local businesses, local councils and universities; to be involved in more Vocational visits but ensuring there is a more structured approach outlining the purpose etc of these visits and expanding awards programs to include Cluster level awards.

3. What support would clubs like/need from District or other clubs?

Clubs identified a number of strategies that would help them to get more involved in VS and expand or scale up existing VS programs including:

- The Development of templates, guides and other resources to assist Clubs implement successful VS programs
- Educating members of their Clubs on the importance of and role of Vocational Service as a Rotary Avenue of Service and in Club discussion/debate on the Four Way Test.
- Having speakers from Clubs that have successful VS programs in place attend their Club meetings
- Identifying VS Club champions and increasing collaboration between clubs on VS programs and projects
- Support and collaboration at cluster level
- District engaging with bigger organisations and filtering opportunities to clubs (e.g. business leaders breakfasts).

Next Steps

1. The next step is to work with the clubs who attended the workshops to:
 - a. Identify club champions.
 - b. Work with the club champions to gather more detail on what they are doing and what they would like to achieve.
 - c. Facilitate improved communication between clubs in Vocational Services.
 - d. Facilitate the development and sharing of best practice Vocational Service templates and 'how to' guides for the most popular VS projects.
 - e. Ask Clubs who are running successful VS programs/projects to write articles about their project for submission to relevant District publications.
 - f. Seek the support of all Assistant Governors to facilitate discussion and the sharing of information of successful vocational service opportunities and programs at the Cluster level. with support and encouragement provided to Clubs to establish VS programs.
2. Vocational Service Chair to establish a work group to develop a plan on how Clubs can promote ethics and integrity in business and in peoples' everyday lives
3. Follow up with clubs who weren't in attendance and gauge their level of interest.

Mary Barry
District Vocational Services Chair