

Parents & Citizen's Association
Carnamah District High School
48 McPherson Street
CARNAMAH WA 6517

PUBLIC

Hon Giz Watson MLC
Chair
Estimates and Financial Operations
Legislative Council
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

20 May 2010

**RE: INQUIRY INTO THE REMOVAL OF YEAR 11 AND 12 COURSES AT DISTRICT
HIGH SCHOOLS**

Dear Madam,

We are writing to you in response to correspondence that we received on the 13th of May 2010 in regards to the Inquiry into the Removal of Year 11 & 12 Courses at District High Schools.

The Carnamah District High School Parents & Citizens' Association would like to thank the Legislative Council for taking the time to ask the opinions and concerns from the communities that such a decision will have an effect on.

The Carnamah District High School P & C was shocked and bewildered to hear of the proposed closure of the Vocational Education and Training (V.E.T) program that the Carnamah District High School (CDHS) has been running, with success, since 2005. There has been no consultation in this decision with the relevant people, those being, the school community, general community within the Carnamah District High School area or the students who are participating in the V.E.T program.

The School has, and will continue with your help, to give this program an enormous amount of support. The teachers that help the students are a committed group who go beyond the call of duty to help these students with their chosen path of education.

This program has a large impact on the general community. The local businesses that support this program are fully aware that if this program did not exist they would have to look elsewhere for employees. This is a growing problem in the smaller communities because not many people wish to live in communities that do not provide the amenities that Perth and larger centres provide. Therefore the placing the year 11 & 12 students in businesses within the communities of the Carnamah District High School's area is helping towards the problem with finding adequate employees.

As a parent and a former student, I know that having family close by and being in the knowledge that you have a strong support network, whether it be the local footy coach or your parents, you are able to commit yourself with more enthusiasm to your chosen path of studies, whether they be academic or work based. If the students cannot go to CDHS to further their education using the V.E.T program for year 11 & 12, then they have to either move to a boarding facility or their family has to move to a larger community that offers year 11 & 12. This has a massive impact on the community. When people leave they not only take one child from the school, but any other school aged siblings. It takes the parents from their jobs, therefore leaving that business to look for another person. It may take away a volunteer position, i.e. local netball or hockey coach, scout leader, (the list goes on), therefore placing further strain on the opportunities that are available in a regional community. This outlines what a large impact the V.E.T program has on the social implications within the students' communities.

While we acknowledge that some students have to move away from their local communities to further their education at a larger school because they are academically minded, some students are not, therefore not having this program available, limits their choices for their future.

There is also a huge cost factor involved. It costs an enormous amount of money for families to send their children away. Would it not cost the government more in the "Living Away from Home Allowance", then to pay one or two teachers to teach the V.E.T program per year?

Some families have no means to send their children away and are forced to move from their communities for their children's education. We have 17 students enrolled for the V.E.T program for 2010 and the trend has been increasing each year. If these families have to move from their communities then they take maybe four to six people away from the local shops in town. With that in mind there is less money being distributed within the communities therefore this would impact on which facilities are available within these communities. Personally I find it is hard enough to live in a community where there is no regular doctor. I would hate to think what would happen to our local grocery store if people were forced to leave. They could become unviable and have to leave? Where does it all end?

We are a very proud community, who are proud of our school and what it achieves. We are asking you to consider, very seriously, leaving the V.E.T program at Carnamah District High School to give those students who wish to stay in our communities a chance to do so. Allowing these students to stay in their communities is not "limiting their experiences", it is adding to their experiences. We believe this is a very important life skill. The television advert for being a well balanced adult, advises us to Act, Commit, Belong. We believe students in the V.E.T program staying within their communities are better able to do this.

Thankyou for your time in considering our submission for the Inquiry Into the Removal of Year 11 and 12 Courses at District High Schools.

We urge you to find in our favour.

Yours Sincerely,

Colleen Bennier
President

The Honourable Philip Gardiner MLC,
Member for the Agricultural Region
PO Box 392 Moora
WA 6510

24th February 2010

Dear Mr Gardiner

Re: Future of Year 11 and 12 programs at Carnamah District High School

Since 2005 a very successful Vocational Education and Training program has operated at Carnamah District High School involving all year 11 and 12 students. This program has ensured that the students have been able to combine an educational program at school for part of each week with a placement in a work situation for the remainder of the week.

The program, perhaps the most successful of any operating at a District High School in the region, has ensured that students, less academically talented, have remained in education and training, a fundamental expectation since the raising of the school leaving age, with most meeting the requirements of school graduation. The program has led to many students gaining permanent work, some with apprenticeships, ensured that young people have remained in the local community, and assisted in developing extremely positive relationships between the school and businesses in local towns.

Unfortunately, the Department of Education has advised the school and community that the Senior School Allocation of staffing will cease at the end of the year, almost certainly bringing an end to the year 11 and 12 program at Carnamah. The reasons given appear to all relate to the value that every student gains when they attend a big secondary school, an assumption that we would challenge, with the expectation that students from here will now readily move to school boarding facilities in larger towns.

The members of this School Council would appreciate the opportunity to speak to you in person about this decision with a view to gaining your support to have it reviewed and overturned. To have the decision continue would be a failing, in our opinion, to acknowledge the contribution that small schools continue to play in our enormous state. It will also bring to an end a successful educational program making a great contribution to rural life, an issue that it is our understanding this Government stands for.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Joanne Read
Chairman

Cc Mr Grant Woodhams MLA
Mr Brendyn Grylls MLA

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Carnamah District High School
48 McPherson Street
Carnamah
WA 6517

11th March 2010

The Hon Brendan Grylls MLA
Member for Central Wheatbelt
Old Town Hall Building
Bates Street
Merredin
WA 6415

Dear Mr Grylls

Re: Carnamah District High School Year 11 and 12 Program

This is to give you additional information about the program that operates at Carnamah District High School for year 11 and 12 students.

This year we have 15 students enrolled in either year 11 or 12. With the exception of one student, who has just commenced, all have a work placement for two days each week.

This year students are placed at Waltons, Elders, Carnamah and Three Springs Shire Councils, Rio Tinto Talc Mine, IGA, North Midlands Hospital, The Water Authority and Carnamah District High School.

Since beginning in 2005 with a small number of placements, all at Waltons, the program has grown in size with wonderful local community support. Employers in the district see the value in the placement of students and their support is expected to continue while there is a yr 11/12 program.

The program has achieved the following awards within the Mid West Education District.

- 2009 Bradley Kamman Top Yr 11 School Based Trainee
- 2009 Elaine Dalgetty Top Yr 12 SBT for an Aboriginal student with an Aboriginal Training Company
- 2008 Elaine Dalgetty Top Aboriginal School Based Trainee
- 2005 Amanda Bentley Top Yr 11 School Based Trainee

- 2009 North Midlands Health Service won an employer award for their work with our trainees.

It is important to note that our program has a very successful academic component as well. In 2009 all of our year 12 students met all requirements of their course and graduated, being awarded the Western Australian Certificate of Education.

Our Council is surprised by the decision to reduce the allocation of teacher time for year 11 and 12 students at Carnamah. It is not all that long ago that the *School Leaving Age Changes* were introduced, together with the expectations that schools and communities would endeavour to make local arrangements for students in year 11 and 12 where possible. This has happened successfully here.

Our Council recognises that not all rural schools are able to implement and sustain a year 11 and 12 program and that, in some circumstances, it may be necessary to direct students to another location where a suitable upper school program can be provided. However, we feel strongly that Carnamah District High School should not be included in this group and we are frustrated by the lack of consultation by the Department of Education or opportunity to present our case. We are also aware that there are probably other rural schools that are facing the same circumstances.

It is for this reason that we would like to meet personally with you as the leader of the National Party. We wish to demonstrate to you the quality of our program with the expectation that this is the determining factor in whether the program continues and that it is not a decision based solely on enrolments or other unknown factors.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Joanne Read
Chairman

Year 11 and 12 Info

Program started in 2005.

Started with just 5 students.

Today there are currently 15 students enrolled.

11 local businesses are involved in conjunction with the school and Tafe.

There has been a 100% success rate in graduations as we are aware of at this point in time. Awards received are as follows

2009 Bradley Kammann Top Yr 11 School Based Trainee

2009 Elaine Dalgetty Top Yr12 SBT - Aboriginal student with an Aboriginal Training Company

2008 Elaine Dalgetty Top Aboriginal SBT

2005 Amanda Bentley Top Yr 11 SBT

2009 North Midlands Health Service won employer award for their work with our trainees

Currently 3 Aboriginal students enrolled.

We would lose 1 full time teacher from the school.

Students that have stayed in the area

*Scott Hughes - Waltons

*James White-Waltons

*Allan Barry-Farmworks

*James Moody-Farmworks

*Reece Craggs- North Midland Motors

*Sarah Biddle- Carnamah Daycare Centre

*Elaine Dalgetty-Three Spring Primary (AEIO officer)

2010 Work Placements

Richelle Antonio : IGATS: Jamie Pages 99541102

Jason Beck : Waltons : Kevin Coyne 99511130

Jessica Kidd : Waltons : Tara Patiniotis 99511130

James Dalgetty : Wayne Jolly : ShireTS 99541001
Steve Blackburn 1202

Mitch Reid : Ian Walsh : ShireTS 99541001
Kylie McGree

Kristen Harrison : Kylie Kammann Shire Co
Ian Walsh 99517000

Nadine Gamble : TS Hospital : Jenny Craggs
99543200

Alysha Jolly : Rio Tinto : Jenny West: 99543024

Coddee Johnston : CDHS : Chris Lucas 99511266

James Machin : CDHS : Ken Blow 99511266

Bradley Kammann : Elders : Peter Hill 99511022

Jarmare Thomas : Water Corp: Benji Benier
99543466

Shaun Brewer :

Mrs Kylie Kammann
PO Box 178
CARNAMAH WA 6517

Mrs Jo Read
Chairperson
CDHS School Council
MacPherson Street
CARNAMAH WA 6517

Dear Jo and Committee

RE: SCHOOL BASED TRAINEE PROGRAM

I write to you as a parent of a student completing a School Based Traineeship, I am concerned about the implications the closure of this program will have not only on him but all the students who are participating in this program.

With the introduction of compulsory Year 11 & 12, the School Based Traineeship program has proved to be a successful alternative to boarding school for students and a less costly option for parents. It has also kept some students at home in the family and community unit which I feel is a good thing.

Our son wasn't really keen to continue on at school, so for us as parents the thought of sending him to boarding school didn't sit well. The costs involved with this are substantial and to have a student whose heart isn't really in it, it would have been a substantial waste. Fortunately for us the School Based Traineeship program was in place and our son didn't have any problems gaining a placement with Elders as a Stock Agent, which is what he has wanted to pursue for quite sometime. He has been very successful with this placement, being awarded the Top Year 11 School Based Trainee for 2009 for the Midwest Region.

In finishing I would like to say I have supported the School based Traineeship program from its commencement in 2005 and I believe it has proven to be a very successful and popular program.

Yours sincerely

Kylie Kammann

Malcolm Pumphrey
Wendy Mauchline

09/03/10

To Whom It May Concern,

It has come to our attention regarding the closing of year 11 and 12 at Carnamah District High School. I Malcolm Pumphrey who is The Manager of Works and Services at The Carnamah Shire and my partner, Wendy Mauchline who is a Registered Nurse at The North Midlands Health Service based at Three Springs, have many concerns with regards to this.

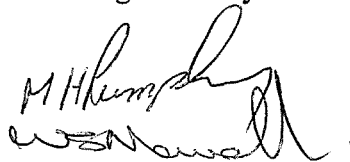
We are supporting 3 siblings who currently attend Carnamah District High School, ranging from year 7 through to year 10 this year. We are supporting a child who is currently attending Curtin University who commenced studies this year and also have another child who is currently doing a traineeship with the local accountant.

Around 2008, the Government made it compulsory for children to attend school until 17 years of age, unless obtaining an apprenticeship or traineeship. If this is the case, why then isn't the Carnamah District High School available to those children who have to attend year 11 and 12 without sending them away!

To send our children away from home to attend years 11 and 12, is a very expensive cost to us. If this is the case, we will have to seriously look at moving away from Carnamah, which is not only taking away numbers from the community, but also our positions which are not easy to fill being in a small country town.

We as parents require the Carnamah District High School to continue with years 11 and 12 so our children can attend the school to continue with their education without the extra cost of sending them away or moving residency.

Regards
Malcolm Pumphrey
Wendy Mauchline

Handwritten signatures of Malcolm Pumphrey and Wendy Mauchline. The signature of Malcolm Pumphrey is written in black ink and is positioned above the signature of Wendy Mauchline, which is written in blue ink.



Elders Carnamah

Cnr McPherson &
Robertson Streets
Carnamah, WA 6517
Ph (08) 9951 1022
Fax (08) 9951 1304
0429 827 105
peter.hill@elders.com.au
www.elders.com.au

To whom it may concern

I have heard with great dismay that the government is considering closing the year 11/12 school based trainee program Elders has being a long term supporter of the school based traineeship with our current trainee bradley kammann achieving tremendous results

Elders will be seeking with the schools assistance another suitable trainee when bradley finishes this program

Bradley is assured of full time employment with Elders when he completes his course

This program enables young people living in rural disticts like carnamah the opportunity to aquire employment and and lifeskills without leaving the district

Without this program there is limited oppourtunity for the young people ,who then have to leave to continue there education in the city or larger regional centres

Some families do not have the resources to fund there children with boarding fees etc and leave the district

This impacts on the town in many ways with job losses,school class numbers[most have younger siblings at school] etc

Sport plays a large part in rural communities and this impacts on the community as well with both the school children and there parents involvement

The closure of this program will be to the detriment of the school children,the school and teaching staff,the rural community and the employers who have supported this since it's inception

regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Peter Hill", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Hill
Branch Manager
Elders Carnamah



Three Springs Shire Council

153 Railway Road, Three Springs WA 6519, PO Box 117, Three Springs WA 6519
OFFICE: Telephone : 08 9954 1001 Facsimile : 08 9954 1183
E-Mail : admin@threesprings.wa.gov.au

WORKS DEPOT: Telephone: 08 9954 1202 Facsimile : 08 9954 1580

10th March 2010

Mrs J Read
Chairman
Carnamah District High School
School Council
PO Box 61
Carnamah WA 6517

Dear Joanne,

Oh behalf of Council I write in support for the continuation of the Vocational Education and Training Program for year 11 and 12 students at the Carnamah District High School.

The program allows students, including those less academically talented, to remain in the education system and very importantly remain within our communities rather than having to move to a larger regional centre or Perth.

I am aware that the program has resulted in many students obtaining apprenticeships or permanent work. The Shire of Three Springs currently has two students working with us under the program, and are very pleased with the value of the program to both the Shire and the student. We would be keen to continue our involvement in future years.

The withdrawal of the program will not only adversely affect the students but may lead to families leaving the district and would definitely see a reduction in teacher numbers. This in turn would have a negative impact on our small communities and make it more difficult for businesses to attract younger employees.

The Shire of Three Springs is a strong supporter of the Vocation Education and Training program and believes in the continuation of the program for the benefit of the year 11 and 12 students of our community.

Yours Sincerely

Ian Fitzgerald
Chief Executive Officer
IF:AB

Dear Joanne Read,

On behalf of the Carnamah Child Care Centre I am writing to you today to congratulate the school for running a program which benefits both the students and the business's that take part.

The child Care Centre has been involved in the work place learning program for the past 3 years and we have found it to be an extremely rewarding experience for the staff and the participating students. For example Sarah Biddle who has been at our centre for the last 2 years has developed a fantastic sense of what it means to be a child care worker as well as being part of a work place. She has contributed to the Carnamah Child Care Centre in many ways and we have valued having the extra hands to help around the place. She has shown enthusiasm in all of her work and has shown some real promise in succeeding in her role as a child care worker.

She has become a very important staff member at the centre and as a result of the workplace learning Sarah has now decided to follow the same career path and take up further studies with TAFE and is doing her certificate 111 in Children's Services.

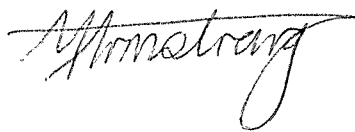
Unfortunately no one has selected to come to the centre so far this year but we will miss the fresh perspective the students bring to the child care centre. We look forward to continuing the workplace program with the school and students.

I hope to keep in touch with the school as we are willing to take on any new student who may be willing to try out child care as a career.

Thanking you Michelle Armstrong

Supervising Officer

Carnamah Child Care Centre Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Armstrong', written in a cursive style.

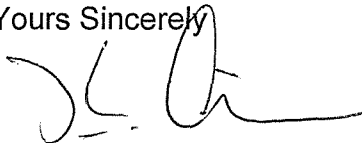
To Whom It May Concern:

Our company has participated in the Carnamah District High School year 11/12 traineeship program since it began. This program provides these students with the opportunity to stay in their local district and gain skills they might not have otherwise been able to. The students benefit from the training, further education and employment opportunities that they may not have had if the traineeship program wasn't available.

As a company we benefit by having these keen young people working for us as we find these students are motivated employees because they are in an environment that is somewhat of their own choosing. We enjoy sharing in their success – a couple of earlier students for the program will finish their apprenticeships with us later this year.

The district also benefits from the retention of these students and their families. In the past there have been instances where families have left the district because the education options for the students in years 11 and 12 have been limited or non existent so anything that encourages young people to continue their education and contribute to life in rural areas should be encouraged and allowed to continue.

Yours Sincerely



Campbell Aiken
Branch Manager
Waltons Carnamah



JOHN DEERE

DEALERS FOR John Deere • Holden • J.C.B. • Bourgault • Isuzu. Freightliner and Mercedes Benz Trucks • Gold Acres

CARNAMAH

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MOORA

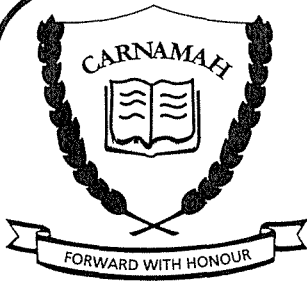
Phone 08 9651 1363
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MOORA W.A. 6510

GERALDTON

Phone 08 9921 5044
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MIDLAND

Phone 08 6274 2400
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CARNAMAH DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

48 McPherson Street,

Carnamah WA 6517

Phone: 08 9951 1266 Fax: 08 9951 1328

Email: Carnamah.DHS@det.wa.edu.au

School Council
C.D.H.S.
48 McPherson St
Carnamah 6517
8/3/2010

Dear Members

It has been brought to my attention that the current Work Based Learning Programme may not be offered to students at C.D.H.S. after this year.

At present I have a student who works with me in the Early Childhood area of the school on Thursdays and Fridays. I have been fortunate enough to be a part of this programme for the past four years and have found the students who have chosen to work in this field have been diligent, conscientious and enthusiastic workers whose help and presence in the classroom has been invaluable. By participating in this programme the students are given the opportunity to have practical work experience from which they can draw when making career choices. I think it would be detrimental to both the children and to us as staff, in the Early Childhood Centre, not to have the option of Work Based Learning available to the students who choose to complete their year 11 and 12 schooling at Carnamah District High School.

Yours sincerely

Christine Lucas
Early Childhood Teacher
C.D.H.S.



Department of
Education
and Training