

# SWC Partnership with Business & NSW Department of Education

South West Connect (SWC) has worked in collaboration with the NSW Department of Education (NSW DoE) since 2006, delivering over 60,500 student workplacements in that period.

SWC has previously partnered with NSW DoE to deliver the Student Pop Up Café initiative to help students gain real life experience, serving up to 100-200 paying customers within a 3 hour period (serving up to 2 customers a minute during peak time).

A key reason for the Student Pop Up Café was to allow students to be co-assessed under the guidance of industry experts and their teacher outside of the school environment.

SWC is currently collaborating with the Regional Industry Education Partnership (RIEP) initiative to deliver 10 Class Chefs events over a 12 month period. **The RIEP initiative strengthens connections between industry and schools. RIEP helps students develop the skills they need to get a job by linking what is learned at school and what is needed in the workplace.**

During the Class Chefs event, students can serve over 100 customers within a 3 hour period – comparable with some of the busiest restaurants in Sydney. It allows students to demonstrate strong communication, outstanding teamwork, workplace time management, problem-solving skills and experience working under pressure.

These skills are often difficult to demonstrate or master in the classroom yet are crucial in the workplace. The Class Chefs initiative bridges this gap and provides the 'next level' link to industry that students require to succeed beyond school.

The success of Class Chefs is also attributed to the contribution of the many hospitality businesses over the years. Cucina 105 and Bellbird Dining are both RIEP Class Chefs venues, with both employers regularly hosting SWC student workplacements. The feedback from teachers, students, parents and the general public about the impact of Class Chefs has been extremely positive.



***Class Chefs students take over Cucina 105 Restaurant to perform, serve and prepare a night of good food & live entertainment for paying customers.***





*Non-alcoholic mocktails & food prepared and served by Class Chefs students*



## Educational Pathways Pilot Program (EPPP)

The Educational Pathways Pilot Program (EPPP) was launched in 2020 and continues until 2023. It is an innovative program designed to give students a better sense of what lies beyond the school gates, and provide them with more personalised and targeted careers advice.

The 10 pilot initiatives centre on:

- Helping students into school-based apprenticeships and traineeships through mentoring and support
- Expanding opportunities for school students to engage with fee-free VET Smart & Skilled programs
- Strengthening careers advice and job-ready life skills for young people

SWC is a strong supporter of the EPPP, having been involved from the initial group consultation meeting on 16th September 2019, we also provided a formal submission to help enhance the impact of the EPPP.

SWC has been actively contributing to 2 of the key pilot programs, **EDGE for Work workshops and Careers Immersion Teams (CIT)**, working closely with the CIT Head Teachers to identify the needs gaps, build on relationships and connections with industry and create synergies across both the Liverpool and Cowpasture clusters. 11 of the 15 schools (73%) in the South West Sydney Pilot are in the SWC footprint.

In addition to the CIT cluster meetings, SWC also participates in the Industry Engagement Working Group which is the steering committee to enhance the EDGE pilot. The EPPP's objective aligns with SWC's aim to improve the quality of, and access to careers information and advice for young people in our region.

This is also why SWC contributes to the Careers and Transitions Advisers Network to enhance career advisor capacity and capability and industry engagement to new cohorts, particularly in Years 8 to 10, in addition to Years 11 and 12.



SWC has been an active member of the Workplace Learning Network (WLN) for the past 3 years. The WLN is an association comprised of 16 organisations with a business model that focuses on the youth of NSW.

In addition to being a service provider of the Structured Workplace Learning program, the network members have delivered a variety of workplace programs and services to schools, industry and communities in their regions for over 15 years.

The WLN provides opportunities for students to obtain the skills and workplace learning experiences they require to make sound personal, educational and vocational choices to ensure they have the best chance of thriving in the workplace in the future.

Currently the WLN works with 778 schools across NSW and over 20,000 employers, and provides work placements for over 60,000 students annually. Each region works relatively autonomously to deliver their own unique collection of work placement services.

WLN members are unencumbered by alliances to out of region influences ensuring the; management is local, the staff is local and the services are local.

## WLN Engages with all Education Sectors

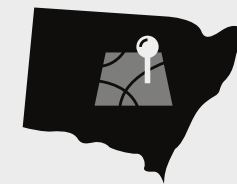


**STATE** wide Strength

**LOCAL** knowledge, impact, network and change

## Across NSW, the WLN works with:

**778**  
HIGH SCHOOLS



**16** REGIONS  
Including rural,  
regional and  
metropolitan

**20,000+**  
HOST EMPLOYERS  
PER YEAR



**60,000+**  
ANNUAL PLACEMENTS  
PER YEAR



**3,000+**  
NEW HOST EMPLOYER BUSINESSES  
RECRUITED PER YEAR