

Project ID No.	CP 332 / 4 / 1 / 2
GOAL	4 SUB-PROGRAM

Effective Networking Communities of Practice

Name of organisation funded by Reframing the Future

Learning Network Queensland

1. Convenor's details

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2. Facilitators' details

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3. Project overview (100 words maximum)

To establish a Communities of Practice for LNQ trainers operating in the rural, remote and very remote communities of Queensland, who often deliver training up to 300km from places like Weipa, Longreach and Cunnamulla. Trainers, area coordinators and the RTO (LNQ) will identify issues related to AQTF and remote delivery and develop strategies for best practices to meet AQTF standards. These practices will also reflect the cultural considerations associated with Queensland's rural indigenous communities.

4. Domain of knowledge

This project will focus on the development of systems to allow LNQ trainers, particularly those delivering through the IT Very Remote (ITVR) program, access to the sharing of ideas and delivery techniques that are reflective of all AQTF standards.

The Domain of Knowledge will first be established and then enhanced through the community members who traditionally have always operated in an isolated environment.

It is envisaged that:

- the COP will confirm, highlight and formulate issues related to rural and remote training;
- document the special learning needs, and cultural considerations, of training participants and their relationship to the delivery undertaken;
- a reinforcement of trainers 'worth' in delivery in an environment of perceived isolation will be established;
- assessment methodologies and strategies for success will evolve, and
- a collaboration of innovations in delivery, necessitated by isolated environment would be established.

This knowledge will bring all community members into an environment where trainers will still operate in isolated, however there will be a greater recognition of the issues, confirmation of difficulties and constraints in delivering VET to these regions, and an understanding that they are 'not alone'.

5. Facilitating your community of practice

The facilitator will be external to the organisation and will be working in a cooperative partnership with the Manager of the IT Very Remote Program to initially establish the community, its membership and the documentation of the communities domain of knowledge. The ITVR Manager will also assist the Convenor in the day-to-day management of the community as it is established.

LNQ's Centra 7 conferencing system will be utilised in the providing a 'face to face environment' even though community members will be spread throughout rural Queensland. Centra has the ability to visually record all workshop proceedings and then make them available to members for future referencing.

The coalescing stage will be heavily structured towards the establishment of a discrete Bulletin Board approach developed through LNQ's IT department. All members of the community will be provided with computer access through our Learning Centres. In the cases where members visit the Learning Centres, or have family commitments etc, the flexibility will be available via the provision of LNQ laptop computers (Mobile Laptop Laboratory). Access to the Bulletin Board and Centra 7 options would be available 24/7.

The active stage will involve all members through email/Centra conferences/direct workshops/bulletin board to evolve the practice. Full documentation and associated reviews will be conducted to formalise and recognise individual participation in the development of the COP.

An important aspect will be the continued support by LNQ in maintaining the Bulletin Board for all parties involved to encourage continuous communications between trainers.

To ensure a smooth facilitation process, LNQ will:

- provide IT support for all participants;
- provide training for Bulletin Board use;
- link Centra to all sites; and
- have participation from all LNQ learning regions.

6. Structuring your community

The majority of the COP will be focused on the use of information technology with a particular focus on emails, Bulletin Board and the Centra conferencing system to support the development of this community and the practice of that community.

It is anticipated that when the community has been established a better understanding of the domain will be identified, however the following issues will be considered in the development of the communities' domain of knowledge. As the ITVR project has only been in place for a year, the initial strategies will be to gain the support of the trainers in establishing this specific domain of knowledge has no precedence within the organisation.

Issues include:

- determination of existing knowledge;
- mapping AQTF to knowledge;
- addressing shortfalls within AQTF, and
- assessment tools and delivery techniques will be of particular interest.

The community will be drawn from within the LNQ organisation, and will comprise:

- Manager ITVR project, who will also assist in facilitation;
- ITVR trainers (open to all presenters non a voluntary basis);
- the three regional Group Coordinators, and
- a representation from the 'other' presenters delivering non ITVR programs.

The practice will establish a working network in playing a critical role in creating, sharing and applying their organisational knowledge to provide an enhanced expertise as trainers working toward the implementation of the national training system.

7. Anticipated outcomes

for participating individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of knowledge and skills specific to delivery in rural and remote communities. • Gaining a practical knowledge base for best practices in delivery techniques and assessment tools. • A feeling of 'worth' within the organisation • Developing a model for the ITVR project in meeting AQTF requirements. • Identification of methods of engaging the local community, including industry, in training programs particularly in relation to cultural difference within these communities across rural Queensland. • Knowledge and skills associated with the use of Bulletin Boards as a tool for moderation and collaboration between staff.
for participating organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster a feeling of ownership within the organisation • Development of innovative approaches to delivery, and assessment strategies in these rural and remote areas • Better access to the 'clients' where delivery is undertaken • Increase the effectiveness and consistency in meeting AQTF standards • To provide a possible model for other areas of LNQ's operation

8. Evaluation

The COP will be formally and informally evaluated by LNQ. The informal evaluation will commence, as the network is formed utilising members' initial input and associated feedback. Informal evaluation will exist throughout the duration of the project via the reflective activities undertaken by community members.

The external facilitator in cooperation with the Convenor and the ITVR Manager will develop appropriate methods to assess the anticipated outcomes associated with the COP's operation and effectiveness.

This formal evaluation will:

- revisit this Action Plan in relation to the agreed goals first established;
- record all workshops and/or activities for review purposes;
- review/reflection of member journals used throughout the project;
- conduct formal survey of each member of the community, and
- conduct formal review with members of the community to form acceptance of project outcomes.

9. Project timeframe

Milestone	Key date
Submission of Action Plan	June 20
Launch of COP initiative to ITVR and LNQ networks	July 3
1 st forum. Goal setting according to action plan. Methodologies endorsed. Focus on delivery, assessment and associated issues	July 21
2 nd forum. Main knowledge collection and associated activities for analysis	Aug 18
3 rd forum. Evaluation of data/views in reference to goals.	Sep 15
Mid-term report	Oct 2
4 th forum. Linking achievements from above to formality of AQTF requirements	Oct 20
5 th forum. Formal Evaluation/Review	Nov 10
Final Report	Dec 1