Wirreanda Adaptive Vocational Education (WAVE)
Wirreanda High School
DECD TV Webisodes 2013
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**Student**
*Wirreanda. 2013. Check it out.*

**Student**
*What I believe in. What I want to be. What I dream of.*

**Paul Sherman. Senior Leader, WAVE**
Wirreanda Adaptive Vocational Education. Wave was established 10 to 12 years ago. It was first established as a program that would support young people finding employment, but over time and the journey is has actually turned into a centre that supports students who are disengaged.

**Belinda Hammond. Youth worker, Bedford**
Very adaptive. Very, very, very adaptive.

**Student**
*This is going to be a mobile café and training facility for baristas. The coffee machines, we’re going to have here.*

**Student**
*I have been doing a lot.*

**Student**
*This is going to be the window where we’re going to have customers walk up, so it is a big job, yes.*

**Paul Sherman. Senior Leader, WAVE**
We work with a group of wonderful staff who have a whole pile of different skill sets. We have youth workers in the program, we have hourly paid instructors, we have tutors and we’ve had people work with the job networks before.

**Siobahn Connery. Community Learning Officer, WAVE**
We’ve got a bus project and we’re up to week sixteen. Re-Engage owns the bus and WAVE was coming up with this idea of creating a mobile training facility for young people. So, it was ICAN that brought us together. We got the bus in a pretty bad shape.

**Student**
*We started off on the outside of the bus. We took out all the seats and we’re working on the electricity, the plumbing side of things, the gas.*

**Siobahn Connery. Community Learning Officer, WAVE**
Here they can try a little bit of plumbing, try a little bit of gas fitting, a little bit of graphic design, small business management, customer service and a bit of hospitality. At the end of each session we do a reflective conversations and there’s a weekly journal.

**Student**
*We sealed it up and we tested the water pump.*

**Siobahn Connery. Community Learning Officer, WAVE**
That’s what’s really great about this program, they’re being exposed to different careers but they’re also getting through their SACE, so it’s an integrated learning subject worth ten credits.

**Student**
The fact that we’ve been getting to do some hands-on skills that not much students have the opportunity of actually doing, and converting this is actually quite fun.

**Paul Sherman. Senior Leader, WAVE**
I think probably the most important thing we’ve implemented is providing a whole pile of different courses that focus on their strengths. We send students to do Certificate IV in photography, automotive, so we can send them off site. But we also offer a whole pile of courses on site as well, such as children’s services, disability, so these are Certificate III level courses.

**Belinda Hammond. Youth worker, Bedford**
I think the thing that makes WAVE super different is that it takes a holistic approach to young people.

**Belinda**
Hi Jess. How are you?

**Student**
I’m good, thanks.

**Belinda**
Right. What are we going to do today? We’re going to look at what you’re going to do next year.

**Belinda Hammond. Youth worker, Bedford**
My role in being the youth worker, I look after absolutely everything.

**Belinda**
How many days a week are you going to do? You’re going to do three? Really?

**Student**
Yes.

**Belinda**
So, you’re going to do your research project and your community studies...

**Belinda Hammond. Youth worker, Bedford**
I look after the well-being, family circumstances, homelessness, hospital appointments, absolutely everything. If we can get the home life and the personal life to be on a balance, it means they’ve got more opportunity to come in to school.

**Belinda**
So we’ll set your JET up, and we’ll get back in touch with Centrelink.

**Paul Sherman. Senior Leader, WAVE**
We’ve got Shine that comes in, Second Story. We’ve had Headspace, Headstrong. Relationships with organisations out there is really powerful for young people, because then they get a whole pile of networks and they can actually access as well. We have a space and that’s the mad Room, and that stands for Mums and Dads Room.

**Carina Brown. Community midwife, Southern Primary Health**
Do you remember which way the baby comes in?
**Student**
Yes. It comes in sideways.

**Carina**
On the side? That’s right.

**Belinda Hammond. Youth worker, Bedford**
When we all working just in the two rooms in WAVE, the children were around and the mums were around, and sometimes the dads were around, but it was quite disturbing for lots of the other students.
Now the young people can come in there, they’ve got a whiteboard in there so they can do classes.

**Student**
You get all the teachers that come in and check up on you and help you if you need it, and if you need a break to do your schoolwork the teachers will come in and help out with the kids and take them down the other end. *(Son walks into frame)* Hi! Mummy’s talking! Yes, they come and help out with the kids and take the kids if you need it to do whenever you need to do. It’s just easy.

**Belinda Hammond. Youth worker, Bedford**
Since we’ve had that open we’ve had more students with children coming in and it’s growing.

**Student**
I came back to finish off my Year 12 and that didn’t quite exactly happen because everything I was going through. I managed to pull myself out with the help of the teachers and then I came back this year to come to the parents group.

**Paul Sherman. Senior Leader, WAVE**
A lot of the young people that come to the program just don’t believe in themselves. They don’t have the motivation. I think what we do we provide the students the opportunity and thought that they can achieve as well, not giving up on them, and I think that’s the thing. We have a lot of times where there are disappointments, but will never give up on the students and we just say, ‘All right. That was a step backwards. Let’s move forwards now.” I think that’s the greatest thing is that we’ll never give up on the young person.

**Ben Scudds – ‘Delta’. Delta and Motion Hip Hop Program**
Here we go. Make us proud, as you always do.

**Student rapping**
As seen from a distance, that things will eventually change. Things that are running past, about the struggle and pain. I’m at it again, for days just stuck on the same page, the same wage. I bet a hundred brothers could even relate, try to escape...

**Paul Sherman. Senior Leader, WAVE**
As an individual, as the staff, we look at what the interests of the students are and then we will actually go out there and find programs. One of them as such is the ‘Delta and Motion’ program, which is our hip-hop music program.

**Student**
You look up words in here that you don’t know and try and use them in a freestyle and if you stuff up you pass it on to the other one and that they will choose a word out and try, and do it like that. It’s really good to expand the vocabulary

**Ben Scudds – ‘Delta’. Delta and Motion Hip Hop Program**
Everybody does their part. Everybody contributes constructively and respectfully.
**Student**

It’s got the meaning, obviously. ‘Reticulate’. I wouldn't know how to put it into a sentence.

**Ben Scudds – ‘Delta’. Delta and Motion Hip Hop Program**

Children have increased literacy. Their behavioural dispositions are clearly improved.

**Student**

I’m just going to be me, and they can get over it.

**Ben Scudds – ‘Delta’. Delta and Motion Hip Hop Program**

It’s good to see them have an opportunity to develop their character.

**Student**

It’s an unbelievable thing, being able to write lyrics, having a dictionary in front of you, searching for words. Being word hungry is a great thing.

**Student rapping**

What is petrified, certified to turn the tide, in a rage? It might explain why I've been acting this way. Apologise for the times I start smashing your face. You're just a musketeer, who masters tears, when the dark is near, clear and fear, impervious minds, serving this harsh rhyme. It’s tough to make a year feel like a half week. Watch this year pass as fast as a heartbeat. That’s it. I’m out.