

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET) CERTIFICATES and SCHOOL BASED NEW APPRENTICESHIPS (SBNA)

Not all students intend on going on to universities and other tertiary colleges. Some students aim to pursue a career in areas such as automotive, retail, hospitality, agriculture, office and clerical administration, etc.

To cater for these students, both the VCE and VCAL Certificates offer arrangements that allow students to complete **Vocational Education and Training (VET)** qualification within a two year VCE program. They allow the student to complete a **School Based New Apprenticeship (SBNA)** or **VET Certificate** that also count towards both the VCE and VCAL Certificate. The end result is that students not only get their VCE or VCAL Certificate at the end of Year 12, they also receive a VET Certificate.

So far, we have had students participate in **VET** Certificates in Retail, Automotive, Building Construction, Information Technology, Horse Studies, Multimedia, Hairdressing and Engineering. The full list of VET Certificates available to students is on page 6 of “**Where to Now?**” Not all of these Certificates are available at our local TAFE Institutes.

We have had students participate in **SBNA** Certificates in Agriculture, Hospitality and Business (Office Administration), Community Services, Transport and Retail. The list of SBNA available to students is on page 7 of “**Where to Now?**” This list is not complete. There are many more SBNA available.

The advantages of doing a VET Certificate or SBNA Certificate:

1. Students who have a VET Certificate or School Based New Apprenticeship Certificate may be more attractive to potential employers. This is because students have an Industry Recognised Certificate. Students have to demonstrate **competency** in a range of tasks specified by the industry. As part of their certificate, students also have to undertake work experience in the area of their certificate. These two factors can help students gain employment.
2. Students who have a VET Certificate or School Based New Apprenticeship Certificate can reduce the amount of time that they have to spend at TAFE (Technical and Further Education) Colleges if they happen to gain a full-time apprenticeship or trainee-ship. This is because they have already completed some of the TAFE modules of study as part of their VET or SBNA certificate.
3. Students who cannot get all of their chosen VCE subjects at Mortlake College may find doing a VET Certificate or SBNA a more attractive proposition.

The major obstacles for VET are cost and transport.

1. Cost: Depending on the **VET Certificate** chosen by the students, there may be some costs incurred. Each VET course has its own fee structure and other expenses which may include uniform and books. The cost to do a VET Certificate can vary from \$200 to \$1600 per year depending on the course and level of government funding. In 2005, no student was asked to pay more than \$500 for their VET Certificate.

2. Travel: All work placement and training occurs outside of Mortlake College (with the exception of Information Technology and Equine Studies). For example, the SBNA Agriculture students have to travel to their work placements and occasionally to Glenormiston College or South West TAFE. Students will have to organise their own travel to and from their workplace training and TAFE/ College. Any transport and accommodation (if required) would have to be organised and paid for by the student.

What is the difference between a School Based New Apprenticeship and VET?

School Based New Apprenticeships (SBNA)

- Students sign a training agreement and are paid a wage of about \$60 per day.
- Usually involves working one school day a week. This means students have to catch up on any school work they miss out on the day they are at work.
- Usually takes two years to complete but it can be done in more or less time.
- Students who complete a SBNA gain 4 units of VCE credit and it will count towards their ENTER score.
- Most of the training takes place in the workplace. Some training may take place at a TAFE College which can attract a small charge.
- The most difficult part of a SBNA is finding an employer. Mortlake College cannot guarantee to find you an employer. All we can do is get help from professionals such as the Jobs Pathway Program to try and help you get an employer. If the student can find their own employer, then a SBNA is almost guaranteed. You can be employed by your immediate family. Students must be prepared to write resume, door-knock or send letters to try and find an employer.

So far, we have had students participate in SBNA certificates in Agriculture, Hospitality and Business (Office Administration), Community Services, Transport and Retail.

VET (Vocational Education and Training)

- Students are not paid a training wage.
- May involve attending TAFE one school day a week. This means students have to catch up on any schoolwork they miss out on the day they are at work. Some VET courses are run on weekends or during the school holidays.
- Usually takes two years to complete but it can be done in more or less time.
- Students who complete a VET certificate gain either 2 or 4 units of VCE credit depending on the length of the course and it may count towards their ENTER score.
- No need to find an employer as the program is usually conducted entirely at a TAFE institution. Relevant work experience is also highly recommended to match the VET Certificate.
- TAFE Colleges charge a training fee for the course students do. The cost to do a VET Certificate can vary from \$200 to \$1600 per year depending on the course and level of government funding. In 2005, no student was charged more than \$500 to undertake a VET Certificate.

So far, we have had students participate in VET certificates in Retail, Automotive, Building Construction, Information Technology, Horse Studies, Multimedia, Hairdressing and Engineering.

The planning for next year's VET programs must start **now**. Students interested in undertaking a **School Based New Apprenticeship (SBNA)** or **VET Certificate** are asked to respond by Friday 9th of September. A Year 10 student who does not respond by Friday 9th of September will be assumed **not interested** in undertaking a SBNA or VET Course and content to do the regular VCE Certificate or VCAL Foundation Certificate. By completing the attached sheet, students are not compelled to undertake a SBNA certificate nor is Mortlake College guaranteeing to obtain a SBNA for that student. It merely gives us the chance to approach the relevant departments to try and secure a SBNA or VET Certificate for next year. Parents who would like further information are most welcome to contact the school for further details.