



NDCO Western Metropolitan Region Excellence Awards 2011

Education Winner – Michael Moloney

Nominated by: Anthony Daborn, Careers Co-ordinator and VCAL teacher, Laverton P-12 College



Michael Moloney has been a student at Laverton P-12 College for the previous five years and now is an intermediate VCAL student. Prior to Michael's diagnosis in 2009 Michael and his parents were working with the school to improve his academic outcomes. Michael has worked closely with his careers counsellor, Anthony Daborn over the previous two years to ensure that he had a clear pathway towards employment after he completes senior VCAL in 2012.



Michael was enrolled in VET engineering course in year 10 through his school which enabled him to have a more hands on approach to a trade subject. This year he completed his second year at Victoria University in Sunshine which was a challenge for Michael since it was a tertiary institution with a different delivery method towards education and he had to find his own way there by public transport. He has not missed any classes at all and his engineering teacher is pleased with his progress. In this course he has made models with metal work which included a can crusher, parallel clamp, drill gauges and a vice.

In year ten Michael went to a company called Mc Elligotts in Laverton North for work experience which required him to paint trucks. He observed their work practices and completed some simple work tasks with this company receiving extremely positive feedback from his teacher who visited him during his work experience.

As part of his VCAL certificate, Michael was required to complete a work placement. Michael contacted Cummins Transport and as a result he spent two weeks working with a diesel Mechanic where he was given excellent feedback. He was looked upon as being extremely motivated, enthusiastic and prepared to get his hands dirty. As a result of such a positive feedback it was organised for him to continue his work placement at Cummins one day per week in the parts department where he works as a store person. Although it was hoped that Michael would be offered a school based apprenticeship at this firm in 2012 this can no longer occur due to the economic down turn and Michael has been assured that it has nothing to do with his work ethic.

Michael's teacher for work related skills found him enthusiastic in all of the tasks he undertakes, he has volunteered to work at Altona Green Primary school in the community garden and helps out with the P-4 students.