

**LEAP Action Learning Report 2012**

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| Topic area(The What) | The similarities and differences between NSW and Ontario with regard to programs supporting students not wanting to be at school but having to stay on because of their increased leaving age. |
| Context(The Where and When) | My placement was a K-8 however I was able to visit 2 secondary 7-12 comprehensive schools. In one, the opportunity to speak with the Principal and key executive staff was unavailable due to an emergency meeting that had to be attended with senior educational bureaucrats. |
| Research methods(The How) | Visitations to comprehensive secondary schools to speak with Principals, executive and teaching staff of the programs offered, success rates achieved and issues being managed. |
| Initial findings | 1. Ontario raised its leaving age to 17 almost twelve months ahead of Australia.
2. Similar issues of student disengagement, quick implementation without adequate resourcing or time for schools to fully interrogate implementation strategies and increased student welfare requirements with programs being quickly developed to prop up student issues.
3. Ontario VET teachers have to have a direct link to industry: many are employed in their industry during the summer break and a number own their own business.
4. The students undertaking VET courses in the one school where I could talk with teachers, developed students to a level where they were sought by businesses for apprenticeships.
5. A wider range of VET subjects were offered in the secondary schools than those in comparable NSW schools.
6. Courses were aligned with Industry standards.
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