



ONE STOP SHOP FOR DATA ANALYSIS

Transcript

Secretary Mark Scott, Deputy-Secretary Murat Dizdar and Principal Robyn Matthews discuss how Scout can assist our teaching staff with evidence-based decision making and planning.

Mark Scott- One of the challenges I think we've got is to ensure every student in our school is known and valued and cared for. And that every student is improving. That no one is lost and that no one is overlooked. And that's what the Scout tool is all about.

Adam Lane- Scout is a way of presenting data to schools and to teachers, to give them the information they need to do their jobs.

Robyn Matthews It's a one stop shop.

Murat Dizdar - It's an enabling device and allows us to examine the impact that we're having on the young people that we serve.

Robyn Matthews- So, when I first got onto Scout, it was a bit of a surprise to see there were so many aspects of school life in the one place. So you always think about data, you think about NAPLAN, you think about HSC results.

There are so many more areas of Scout that you could actually find out about your school. Scout can give you a community profile, to give you an idea about what's actually happening in the wider communities. Find a bit more information about your staff, in terms of what they can actually teach. Track where money's been spent; utilities, power usage.

You're better informed about providing the best opportunities for the kids.

Mark Scott- I think there are two things that professionals need. They need good data, and then they need to be able to access that in an easy and readily understood way.

So what we're trying to do is to put information in the hands of teachers and leaders, so they can exercise their professional judgement.

Murat Dizdar- Scout provides the information around student performance, around cultural composition and backgrounds of our students, and gives us that information as classroom practitioners, as school leaders, and allows us to go as granular as we want.

Robyn Matthews - What you can do is actually track what's happened. If there is a particular trend that we see, then we need to be responsive to that.



Adam Lane- We've taken what we've learnt from SMARTs, developed that further, so the schools get the whole picture. SMART was very much one piece of data. It was student performance.

Whereas with Scout there's a story there for teachers.

They know their student is progressing, he's just not processing at the pace we would expect, and so they can better focus their attentions on supporting what's working for that student and helping them make that leap to where we expect they should be growing between time points.

Robyn Matthews - All that data is at your fingertips. It's really easy to use. For someone that perhaps isn't a great user of technology, it wouldn't take them very long to be quite confident in using the different features.

Adam Lane - We've set it up in such a way that teachers can access it the same way they would formally access SMART. Through the staff portal. Just click on the icon for Scout and they're there. It's very simple.

Robyn Matthews - I think the face-to-face professional learning has been fantastic. It's been very professional.

Murat Dizdar - I'd encourage our school communities to take up the face-to-face training opportunities, as well as the online platform. We're ready and willing to support your endeavours.

Mark Scott - And so we'll value the feedback from teachers and school leaders, as they get their hands on it, as they begin to use it. How we can continue to refine and develop it to make it as appropriate as possible.

Robyn Matthews – Schools don't operate in isolation. You need to know the context of where that student has come from. So the more knowledge we have about the school, that's going to help that teacher, get to know that child, to really offer that personalised learning.

Mark Scott - I want Scout to be a really powerful tool. A really strong ally for teachers in the classroom and for school leadership teams, and for school principals. I want it to be user-friendly. I want it to be readily accessible. I think as educators we should be excited about data.

Murat Dizdar - The existence of data within teaching is not new. And our teachers, 60,000 right across the state in 60,000 classrooms, have always used data to inform their practise. And Scout does that heavy lifting of groundwork around the data, to provide it in a purposeful and meaningful way.



Mark Scott - The richness of data that will come through Scout will just help teachers with their insights. They can ensure that every student is on the appropriate learning journey and every student is making improvement.