Career story

## Coffs Harbour Senior College

### Rural and Remote K-12 Career Education Initiative.

#### Describe your school’s project.

To improve the students transition from year 10 to year 11. We are a senior college only taking year 11 and 12 students.

#### What were the key objectives for your school’s project?

To improve community connections and understanding of the senior college through the enrolment procedure. This in turn should improve retention rates by helping students to successfully complete their HSC. This is done through improved subject selections and ensuring that appropriate adjustments and accommodations have been put into place before students start. The open day has allowed the school to specifically highlight the senior college and student led tours also helped to inform students and parents about the college.

#### How did the team monitor and measure the programs’ key objectives?

# Participation at the open day, enrolments, subject changes, learning, transition days and the evaluation of the mini lessons and support plans that have been developed, interviews have been held, and retention rates will be tracked next year. The evaluation of the transition days held showed that over 90 % of respondents felt more comfortable about transition to year 11. All enrolment placements for 2023 are full, which is much earlier than usual and last year we had vacancies.

#### How has the project strengthened links with parents and wider community?

Parents have a much greater understanding of how the senior college functions and the processes have allowed us to communicate that we want to have a connection with community. Over the course of the 286 interviews, we have had student and the parents/carers involved, therefore over 700 people from the community have participated in the individualised discussions that go for around 1 hour.

#### Describe any challenges the project faced and how they were managed.

It was quite smooth in post covid time**.**

**What measures did you use to ensure the project remains sustainable beyond 2022?**

Have established relationships with the feeder schools and there is a team of teachers who have visited the students at their schools. The open day has now run in the new form post covid which has enabled all interested to see what the college has to offer. The principal, LaST, deputy and careers teacher interviewing individual students has assisted students to understand what a HSC and ATAR pathway is and as a consequence, select appropriate subjects.

#### Which of the broad project objectives did you achieve successfully, and which objectives require further improvement?

**Success**: Greater connections with non-government institutions and non-mainstream schools to ensure that that students have an informed transition to the senior college. As such this should improve retention rates. There are much stronger connections to students with the site visits and the individualised orientation programs that have been established.

Students are well informed about pathways and what subjects could assist them with this.

**Further improvement:** N/A

### Participating Schools

* Local Feeder High Schools plus Allegra School

### Number of participating students

High School 7-12 = 286.