

HoME: Housing and Meaningful Education

The Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS) has established a Working Group, lead by Dr Bronte Nicholls and with members from schools in country and metropolitan locations. In leading up to the return visit by Rosanne Haggerty, they have developed a discussion paper to generate dialogue and thinking about the issues for school communities.

In 2004 DECS Senior Years Curriculum Group worked with a group of schools to develop the Housing and Meaningful Education (HoME) project. The project was designed in association with young people from a range of backgrounds who were experiencing a range of issues around their own accommodation. The aim of this project was to enable schools to explore structures and curriculum interventions that would support young people experiencing issues with housing and accommodation in continuing their connection to school. Dr Nicholls presented a paper at the Australian Curriculum Studies Association conference in September: *HoME: Housing and Meaningful Education: Designing Senior Secondary Curriculum for engagement, inclusion and retention* which is a summary of the findings of the 2004 HoME project. This work is continuing in 2005 and, along with other work is informing the Working Group's activities.

Copies of the paper, information about the Working Group's activities or the HoME project can be obtained by contacting:

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A paper titled, *Engaging with Homeless Youth and Schooling*, written by Mr Nigel Howard, Enfield High School, has also contributed to the ideas being developed.

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