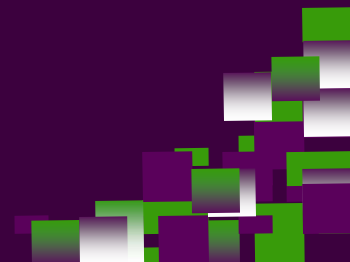


# Learning Choices: DSF research & development

Learning Choices Expo 2006

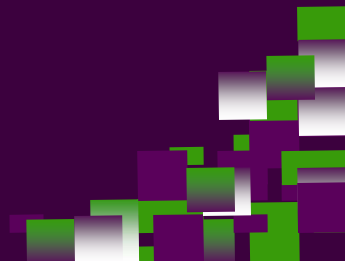
John Spierings, DSF

May 2006



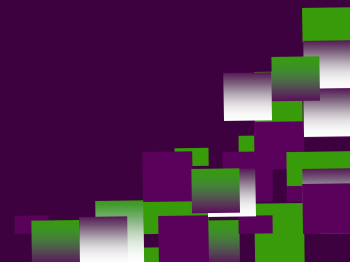
# Dusseldorf Skills Forum

- Created in 1988 by Lend Lease shareholders
- Independent
- Individual, community & policy change
- Youth, skills, participation & productivity, citizenship
- Tools: common facts, benchmarking & good practice, leverage & brokerage, partnership
- Points of difference: operating foundation & policy solutions



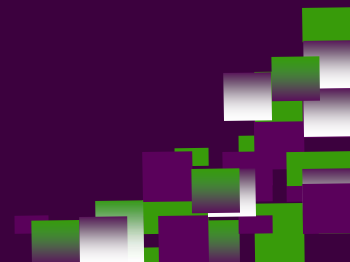
# Learning Choices agenda

- Social contract with young people
- Obligation of new school leaving ages
- Last chance / real choice paradigm
- Conventional & unconventional learning
- Potential sources of innovation



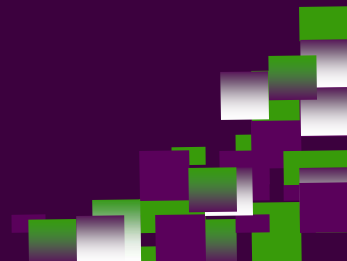
# Important developments ...

- Reviewed post-compulsory education
- Raised the school leaving age
- Reviewed senior certificates
- Revived technical schools
- Fostered school-community partnerships
- Customised support for ‘at risk’ students
- Tracked school leavers



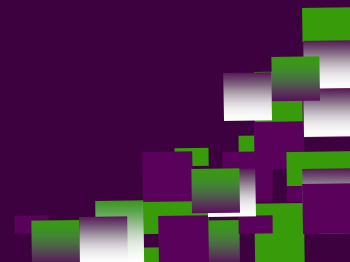
## Some tasks ahead ...

- Absence rates
- 80 percent Year 12 completion rate
- 50,000 pa without Year 12 or equivalent
- Organising principle of ENTER: governs 100 percent, relates to 25-50 percent
- Drop-out:push-out phenomenon
- Matching achievement with inclusion
- Consistent insiders & outsiders



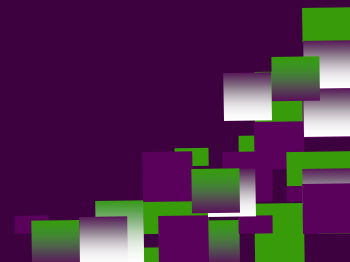
# Our R&D agenda

- Informed & robust practitioners
- Public awareness of student engagement
- Develop insights & lessons from the unconventional
- Involve students: challenge drop out - push out dynamics
- A new paradigm of schooling



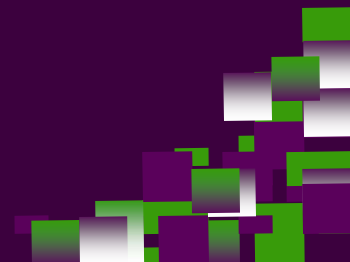
## R&D projects

- Right to education
- Indigenous education workers
- Review of senior certificates
- Next Generation
- Database survey
- Improving practice & case studies
- *What's mainstream?*



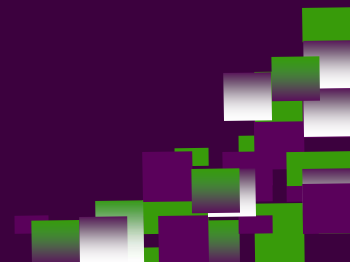
# Indigenous education workers

- 3000 IEWs around Australia
- Experience, wisdom, knowledge
- Partnership with Dare To Lead
- Relationships with principals
- Networking, support, insights & lessons



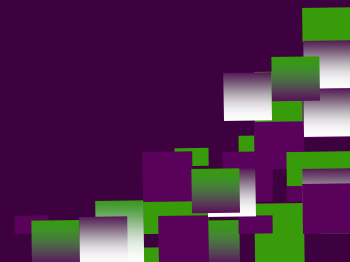
# Review of senior certificates

- Threshold qualification
- Catering for all students
- From constraints to options
- Diverse responses to recognising vocational learning
- Equivalence & employability



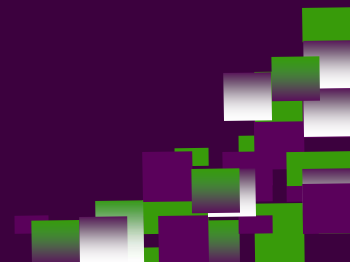
# Next Generation

- Student teacher program at UWS
- 50 unconventional settings
- 22 students
- Creative projects & engagement
- Positive impacts for student-teachers, settings & UWS
- Partnership with UWS & USC



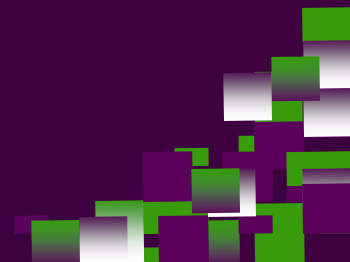
# Who are you?

- 90 programs, 9,000 students, all states
- Strong links to conventional schools & TAFE
- 42% commenced since 2003
- 3:4 students from low SES families
- Funding, staff partnership priorities
- Work readiness, self-esteem, L&N
- Destinations: mainstream schooling, TAFE, apprenticeships



# Improving practice

- Online self-assessment tool (OSAT) for practitioners
- Health check
- Program design, organisational health, measurables
- Strengths & weaknesses, compare to other programs, hints & links
- Private & confidential

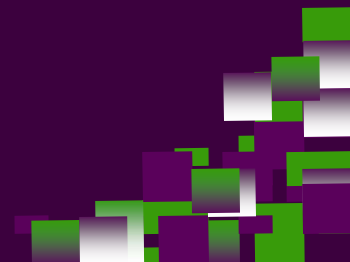


# OSAT chart

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

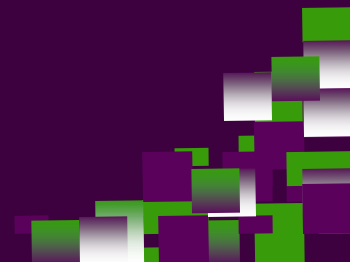
# Case studies

- Tasmanian media studies project
- Studentworks, Tasmania
- Café Horizons, NSW
- Changing Lanes VCAL, Vic
- Centre Education Program, Qld
- Brooks High School, Tas
- The Island, Vic
- Key College, NSW
- Real Learning, Real Futures, Tas
- [whatkidscando.org](http://whatkidscando.org)



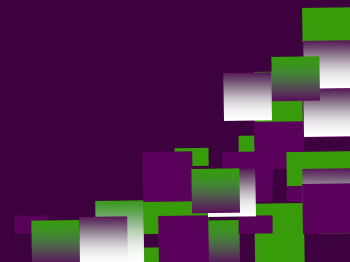
# What's mainstream?

- Ethnography of learning in Logan
- Student & educator interviews & forums
- Conventional & unconventional schooling
- Reliance on VET
- Safety nets and pathfinders



# Some critical issues

- Rigor, benchmarking & evaluation
- Scaling good practice
- Concentrating disadvantage?
- Connections to further learning/work
- Beyond ENTER
- Responsibility of all schooling sectors
- Recognition & sustainability
- Networking & organising



Next steps

[www.dsf.org.au/learningchoices](http://www.dsf.org.au/learningchoices)

