

PEEL PROTAL PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Written response – Linked to Career and Industry Awareness work investigation.
- Form filling – Data entry to various web projects (sports results, online directory database etc).
- Letter writing – Clients, funding, invitations, information requests, weekly reports.
- Oral – Work presentations to clients and to supervisor.
- Job interview – To participate in project.
- Comprehension – Interpretation and application from verbal and written instruction.

- Finance – Personal timesheets, accounts handling - money in and out, invoice sending and receiving.
- Measurement – Web design layout (image, tables, frames sizing, time sheets and time lines).
- Networks – Planning web projects timelines, critical pathways etcetera.
- Tables & Graphs – Time sheets, job sheets, client tracking, fixtures ladders.
- Calculation skills – Estimating job costs, time frame.

- Workplace investigation – For web content.
- Job Application – To work in the portal team.
- Job Interview – To work in the portal team.
- Occupational Safety and Health – Workplace induction.
- Personal portfolio – Includes work done for the portal.

- ICAITB135A – Making Web Pages.
- ICAITU130A – Using Spreadsheets (accounts and jobs list).
- ICAITU131A – Using Databases (client list).
- ICAITU132A – Using PowerPoint (presentation of proposals to clients).
- ICAITU129A – Word processor (writing to clients and funding groups).
- ICAITU133A – Using e-mail (communication with clients and colleagues).
- ICPMM21CA – Capture digital cameras (images for web sites).
- ICPMM43CA – Use digital images in web pages
- ICAITS009B – Interact with clients.
- ICAITU128A – Operate a personal computer.

UNITS OF COMPETENCY

RETENTION & PARTICIPATION



**Mandurah Senior College Online –
The Class in the Shopping Centre**



TITLE:
Mandurah Senior College Online – MSC Online, The Class in the Shopping Centre
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MANDURAH SENIOR COLLEGE ONLINE – MSC ONLINE

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Mandurah Senior College is situated approximately 75 kilometres south west of Perth and commenced operations in February 2001. It is the sole provider of government schooling for Years 11 and 12 in Mandurah and currently has over 900 student enrolments. Mandurah Senior College is a joint shared facility with Challenger TAFE and Murdoch University.

Our College serves a rapidly expanding community that has one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation for a major population area. Median weekly incomes for Mandurah people are half the State average, a statistic that has remained constant over three census periods. As a consequence there are many young people in our community who are in circumstances of economic and social stress.



To address these issues, our College strives to ensure that all students develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to achieve their individual potential and contribute to society. To accomplish this, our current priorities are to:

- Increase re engagement, participation, retention and graduation rates
- Raise standards of performance for all students while narrowing the gaps in achievement that exist between student groups
- Provide learning environments that are conducive to improved student learning, interest and motivation

The MSC Online initiative is one program we use to focus on these priorities.

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

The MSC Online project opened for business in August 2002 with 9 students. By the end of 2003, over 100 students had discovered its benefits. Part of an overall strategy to encourage all of Mandurah's young people to complete Secondary Graduation or an equivalent

qualification, this initiative aims to re engage students in their education by:

- Promoting a positive atmosphere of student support and development
- Using information communications technologies as relevant and interesting learning tools
- Increasing and promoting vocational training

We do this by providing a non classroom based, technology focused, learning environment. With 21 networked computers available to students, we are located at the Centro Mandurah Shopping Centre, and open between the hours of 8.30am and 3.00pm. However, unlike traditional schooling, our lessons are available at any time of day from any internet connected computer. This means that those students who are unable to access the centre during its operating hours because of personal or work commitments, can still learn by becoming an MSC Online student and accessing our website at any time convenient to them!

All of our courses have an emphasis on individualised, flexible, self paced learning and we currently offer the following programs, some of which are preparation for senior school studies and others are part of the Western Australian Certificate of Education:

- A bridging and access program that equips students with the literacy and numeracy skills to successfully access post compulsory education and training options
- Some Year 11 Curriculum Council subjects including Vocational English, Vocational Mathematics, Career and Industry Awareness, Computer Fundamentals, Structured Workplace Learning and Senior Science
- Year 12 Vocational English
- Introduction to TEE Mathematics
- Introduction to TEE English
- Certificate II in Information Technology
- Certificate II in Retail Studies (School Based Traineeship)

A middle school bridging program is currently being developed for younger students needing to improve their literacy and numeracy levels. Further Year 12 Vocational courses are also being developed. The centre can also be accessed as an alternative study centre by full time, mainstream Mandurah Senior College students.

Most importantly, our students feel comfortable at the centre. They know that when they come here, there will always be someone to talk to and everyone, including other students, will help them with their work. They take pride in 'their place' and since opening there has not been one incident of theft, damage or fighting.

Unacceptable behaviour by young people in the shopping centre has greatly reduced since MSC Online opened. This has been important in breaking down some intolerance that can exist between young people and the rest of the community. It helps promote a positive image of Mandurah youth.



ABOUT OUR ENTERPRISE

In 2002 we also took over the management of the Peel Portal Enterprise Project, a website linking the webpages of local community groups and businesses. The project's office is co-located with our own and gives our Structured Workplace Learning students the opportunity to be involved in the design, development and maintenance of websites for organisations wishing to be included in the Portal. Involvement in the Portal also simultaneously provides students with the opportunity to meet outcomes for some Curriculum Council subjects, which have been embedded into Portal learning activities.

Most importantly, our online learning ensures that students can proceed with their studies in any order, and at the rate they determine. In short, they set their own timetable, are treated as adults and are responsible for fulfilling their own learning obligations.

OUR RESULTS

Over its short life our project has proven to be outstandingly popular and effective. Specifically, our results include:

• IMPROVED RETENTION RATES

Since 2000, the retention rates for Mandurah Senior College as a whole to Year 12 have increased from 46% to 64%. MSC Online is one of the most effective strategies leading to this pleasing result.

• STRONGER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Over 30 local organisations and companies who offer their support, resources and time to the program's success have embraced MSC Online. This multi entity public private partnership evidences a whole community determination to bridge the educational disadvantage, and make things better for all members of the community.

ROBERT'S STORY

Dropping out of school at the end of Year 10 sounded great to Robert, and it was - at first. He was able to pick up employment soon after leaving school and worked at a supermarket, an upholster and a trolley collection company. However, after being involved in a serious car accident and finding himself unable to work for six months, Robert found getting back into employment tricky. Now, four years later, he concedes that life is harder than he thought it would be. 'I found it difficult getting a good job after the accident,' he said, 'and starting a career in my field of interest - computers - is basically impossible without an educational qualification.'

Robert knew that to get where he wanted he needed to return to study but the idea of returning to a school and having to compete 'with 15 year olds in class was just too daunting.' Luckily, through a friend who was already enrolled, Robert found out about MSC Online. He is now one of over 100 students studying online through the centre.

Initially, Robert attended the centre to complete his work, accessing their computers and the much needed support the centre provides to help him out. However, since getting part time employment he now completes all his studies from his home computer at times that do not compete with his working hours and finds his 'virtual teachers' fantastic!

Robert will be 20 next month and is currently completing Year 11 studies in Vocational English, Vocational Maths, Computer Fundamentals, Career and Industry Awareness and Structured Workplace Learning. He is also working towards his Certificate II in Information Technology. 'If I had had to go back to classes, I wouldn't have done it - it wouldn't have felt right,' he said.

'This is less intrusive.'