



**Winner of the Miles Morgan Australia  
Excellence in Career Development in VET Award 2009**

**Katherine Voola**

In 2004 Katherine Voola and Freda Goudie embarked on a project to further enhance the learning environment for business students at Lumen Christi College, by setting up a practice firm to deliver Certificate II and III in Business. As a result of the simulation, which provides students with 'real life' work situations, many Year 12 students secured full-time positions immediately after graduation.

Seeing the impact of this career learning opportunity on young people, Katherine decided that students would benefit from earlier experiences that prepared them for work, so she next developed and implemented the Year 8 Career Awareness program.

Using *Australian Blueprint for Career Development* competencies as a benchmark, a developmental program was embedded in the core curriculum of Lumen Christi College. This included:

- The Year 8 Career Awareness program – which also allowed Year 8s to qualify for the Certificate I in Work Preparation
- The Year 9 Learning Pathway program – also providing the opportunity for students to be certified for the Certificate I in Introductory to Vocational Education
- The Year 10 Career Transition program - offering Certificate I in Business, IT and Retail Operations with a focus to induct students into the industry
- The Pathway Exit for upper school students - offering students a variety of choices. For example Career and Enterprise is embedded with Certificate II in Tourism.

The Career Education programs inspired students to manage their own careers. Students felt they gained many valuable skills from the program, and gained a better sense of direction for their future career and parents were notably appreciative of the specially designed career booklets, and that the program resulted in TAFE certification.

"The Career Education program, embedded with multiple competencies, across many courses, has raised the performance/skills level of all students. At the same time it has served to inspire and build confidence of those less academically inclined. Students are recognised as having a 'focus' for their career direction when they complete their secondary education," said Ms Voola.



Katherine's contribution to the development of an integrated Career Education program within Lumen Christi College has brought many rewards and successes to students, parents, staff and the local community. Lumen Christi College is widely recognised in the community as a provider of multi-skilled employees for the local workforce.