The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) provides VET in Schools funds to schools to support the achievement of the National Goals for Schooling that relate to vocational and technical education.

Vocational and technical education programs are defined as “VET in Schools programs” if they are undertaken as part of the Senior Secondary Certificate and provide credit towards a recognised VET qualification within the Australian Qualifications Framework.

The priority areas for action and for reporting in 2009 include, at least, a mix of:

- increasing the focus on pathways that lead to Australian School-based Apprenticeships (ASBA) in trades, particularly those in skill shortage areas;
- establishing VET in Schools programs in schools not previously involved in the delivery of VET;
- expanding the range and spread of VET in Schools courses offered across industry sectors;
- establishing VET in Schools courses in new industry areas and in industry areas currently not well subscribed in VET in Schools;
- increasing participation in VET in Schools by particular student groups. For example, improving access for students in rural and remote areas and for educationally disadvantaged students including Indigenous students and students with a disability;
- developing strategies to maintain quality standards in VET in Schools including professional learning;
- addressing areas of skills shortage.

A limited number of one-off grants of up to $10 000 for the establishment of VET Centres of Excellence will again be offered in 2009. These grants are available to schools committed to delivering industry specific programs that lead to Certificate completion.
All schools delivering VET programs are eligible to receive a VET grant that includes a contribution towards release time for the VET Coordinator to attend one meeting per Term; an allocation for maintenance of quality standards, data collection and resulting; professional learning for new VET staff (or updating skills of existing VET teachers); limited resources for establishing new VET courses; and meeting the needs of targeted students.

The amount of funds provided to the sector is insufficient to cover the costs of students attending external vocational education programs. Therefore, the cost of external courses needs to be met from other sources. This could include a combination of school contribution and student contribution, or other sources of funding.

- Attached is a Funding Submission Form for 2009. The form should be returned to AISSA no later than Friday 3 April 2009.
- A 2008 Educational Accountability Report form is also enclosed. If this has not been submitted can you please attend to this as soon as possible.
- All 2009 grants will be allocated subject to the return of the 2008 Educational Accountability Report.

Please contact Mrs Marilyn Wall on Tel: 8179 1428 if you require any further information regarding vocational and technical education grants and programs.

Helen Lambert
Assistant Director Educational Services