



Department of **Education**

Pathways and Transition

Seamless Transition Program

***Department of Education Western Australia
Directions Family Support Association***

AASE Conference 2011



Final Year of School

- Exciting and challenging but also highly anxious time
- Knowledge of the student – parents/carers
- School information – choice and delivery of program
- Positive post school outcomes when links between school and the service provider are in place before the student leaves school.



The Seamless Transition Program:

- Reflects the needs of the student, parent/carer, school and ATE service provider.
- Builds strong relationships between student, parent/carer, school and ATE service provider.
- Uses appropriate resources to assist with the transition between school and the ATE service provider.



The Seamless Transition Program:

- Ensures the ATE service provider has access to quality information about the individual student.
- Acknowledges that parent/carers, schools and the ATE service provider are best placed to collaboratively determine the schedule of ATE service provider visits to the school and student visits to the ATE service provider.



“ Not only did the staff from the ATE get to familiarise themselves with our daughter for four days at school but our daughter, supported by school staff, was able to familiarise herself with the ATE setting.

It gave our family a tangible idea of what the future held. This was an incredible improvement to fronting up at ATE for the first time in February not knowing any of the routines, and the staff not knowing our daughter at all. The transition reduced the stress levels of our family considerably.”



“ It gave the student the opportunity to meet and spend time with new staff and step back from school supports. Also it introduced them to different routines and forms of transport, again stepping back from a school routine which some have done for many years.”

“ Student left school with clear understanding of his pathways. He had clear expectations of what his program would be like, as did his mother. Staff was able to better prepare students because they also know where he was going. Significant reduction in anxiety all round.”

Pathways and Transition Planning

- Website

<http://www.det.wa.edu.au/inclusiveeducation/detcms/portal/>

- Click on the banner in the top right hand corner.

- **Jacqueline Burns**

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Where you want to go...

*THE SEAMLESS TRANSITION PROGRAM
an ATE agency perspective....*

What we typically heard from parents who have a child with a disability leaving school when meeting at the ATE Expo !!!

My child has been in a safe secure school environment for the last 12 / 13 years...

My child cannot conceptualize the change that is going to take place....

My child doesn't understand that they will not be going back to the familiar environment of their school and particularly catching up with their friends...

*What we were seeing was parents with a **FEAR** factor associated with the inevitable change that is about to occur - that will not only affect their child but their whole family...*

This Transition from School to ATE is in many ways one of the greatest changes to happen in the young person's life and also comes at a time when there is the change from child to young adult— this is sometimes forgotten when the focus is so much on the disability....

√ Ticking the right boxes

The Seamless Transition Program has provided an opportunity:

- for us to meet with the student, parent and teachers at a time that suits all in a casual and informal but productive environment.
- for us to alleviate the FEAR associated with change for the parent by welcoming and appreciating their involvement in the transition process.

The Seamless Transition Program has provided an opportunity:

- for Directions staff to get to know the students in their own environment and to make observations such as where this student sits in the order of their own peer group.
- for our ATE staff to gather valuable information on the things that motivate this student.
- for the student to showcase to our staff what they *can do* and what they are proud of. It gives us something to appreciate about them.

The Seamless Transition Program has only enhanced and positively progressed the transition of school leavers to venture out into their new ATE world at Directions.

It's definitely more workable for us, and I think has greatly improved our relationship with new ATE parents because it has created an opening for a more valued parental role in the changing world for their child.

Seamless Transition has also given Directions the opportunity to be part of the final term in the final year of a student's schooling and for us to hopefully provide the student with a feeling of excitement for the coming year.