



BAILEY Vermolen, 15, and Jesse Hinkly, 15, learnt to make some healthy pizzas during the week three program.
Picture: ELLY HATELEY 160803eh11



GLENELG and Southern Grampians Local Learning and Employment Network partnership broker Cathryn Walder and students Taylor Hill, 16, and Delaney Brown, 16, whip up a healthy meal as part of the Passport to Employment program.
Picture: ELLY HATELEY 160803eh10

Students gain passport to employment

TWELVE young people from local secondary schools took a step towards gaining employment when the Passport 2 Employment program was launched last month.

The students are now up to week three of the eight week transition support program which helps develop their communication, presentation, employability and life skills, whilst also exploring pathways available to them after they complete their secondary education.

The aim is for participants to graduate with confidence, positive aspirations and attitudes towards life after school

The specifically designed transition support program was created in 2014 by the Glenelg

Transition Action Network (GTAN), an initiative of the Glenelg and Southern Grampians Local Learning and Employment Network and is now in its third year in Portland, and has been offered in other locations throughout Victoria including Warrnambool, Hamilton and Horsham.

“The first week of the program can be a nerve-racking experience for the young people, they come from all different schools and are not sure what to expect. What amazes me is that within 15 minutes of being in the room together they have already established relationships with one and other. They just hit the ground running,” GSGLLEN partnership broker Cathryn Walder

said.

This week the students worked closely together when they attend the Healthy and Wealthy session.

The students not only investigated what healthy lifestyles involve, they also got to experience it first-hand when they attended the Portland Boxing Club for an exercise session and then moved onto the Discovery Hospitality Centre for a healthy cooking class.

The program has been highly successful in building pre-employment skills with many of the students that have graduated now either placed in work experience, school-based traineeship or casual employment since the program completed.

Since 2014, 68 young people from Western Victoria have graduated from the program and 20 schools have partnered with agencies, support services and organisations to implement the program.

This year the Port of Portland has partnered with the GSGLLEN to deliver the program.

Executive officer of the GSGLLEN Anne Murphy said, “The Passport 2 Employment program is a perfect example of how innovative collaborative work within our region can improve young people’s lives. It is fantastic to see education, industry and community providers working together to increase opportunities for local young people”.