

## Showcasing Our Projects –Flemington Reading and Writing

November 2007

Some of our best students are women who have young children.  
They miss some classes and fall behind, so they get discouraged and they don't come back to class.

What was your **research question**?

*Can we provide support to these students through blended education so that we may retain them?*

What, in three sentences, is your **answer** right now?

**Yes.** We have been able to retain our students beyond our expectations.

In fact student retention has improved across all computer classes, not just the targeted Multimedia 1 and Office Skills 1 classes. Importantly our waiting lists have increased, so that we have a waiting list for term 1 next year, which is completely new.

The project seems to have caused increased expectation on the part of our students that they should be continuing with classes and progressing on the course pathway, even if family or other circumstances force them to miss out during some periods.

Class	2007 Term	AccessACE target?	Full class size	Ave lesson size	Re-enrolling from last term	Women	Complete course
Multimedia 1	2	No	8	6	50%	100%	63%
Multimedia 2	2	No	6	6	50%	83%	83%
Office Skills 1	2	No	8	6	25%	62%	87%
Office Skills 2	2	No	10	7	50%	90%	60%
<b>Multimedia 1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>80%</b>
Multimedia 2	3	No	10	8	50%	100%	100%
<b>Office Skills 1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>80%</b>
Office Skills 2	3	No	10	9	80%	80%	90%
<b>Multimedia 1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>Office Skills 1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>80%</b>

### 3 achievements:

one for learners

Employment - achieved by some students, which they have attributed directly to courses

one for teachers

Full classes, high attention rate, good progress results, good participation in homework class

one for the organisation

Full classes, waiting list for classes, good reputation in the community

What will 'a clever use of ICT in ACE' mean for your organisation **in the future**? In other words, what, as a result of this project, will be **different** in your organisation **next year**?

Presuming funding is available:

More resources to develop tutorials on line, more reliance on tutorials and website support

Additional resources for server and network administration to fully implement VPN

Improved administration to manage waiting list

Additional emphasis on progress through computer pathway

Increased publicity regarding value of courses as employment training

What **e-tools** did you use? If possible, give a demonstration of one of your e-learning/blended learning **educational practices** using one of the tools or **your digital story**.

Tutorials - As handouts and on line to all Multimedia and Office Skills classes

ESL - Separate virtual network, to control and contain accidental damage to student work

Emails - Basic and standardised entry lesson for all students

Linux for Sale, Very cheap computers for students who can't afford them, built by our workshop class

Open Source - Free software for students who want to be proficient in office Skills and Multimedia

Logins - Administration system to manage different student levels and allow them some admin rights

VPN - Virtual Private Network. (Still in development) to allow students to retrieve their work from home

Moodle - Tested but finally not implemented. Our preference is now for Drupal as base PHP module

IT Projects Homework Class - Blended education, with students doing their work with teacher support