

# Genuine Transformation in K-12



Victoria's largest educational change management project took 17 schools from last place to second.

When this project began in 2004, Broadmeadows as a part of the Northern Metropolitan Region (NMR) was rated as the third most disadvantaged community in Victoria. The 17 schools in Broadmeadows were rated last in the State on measures of literacy and numeracy. With an estimated 1,000 students migrating out of the schools annually and a completion rate of barely 20%, the future for the students of Broadmeadows was distinctly lacking in opportunity.

But this is a story of changing opportunity. Of how Broadmeadows

with the support of the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD), the local community and partners like Cisco has become the second highest rated out of nine regions in the state on those very same measurements. **It's a story of how any student can improve, even excel given the right educational environment and resources.**

## The Aim

The project, the Broadmeadows School Regeneration Project, established by the DEECD had as its primary aim:

To improve the literacy and numeracy outcomes of students attending schools in the Broadmeadows area and in the process increase student retention through to year 12.

## Background

The project itself was vast in scope and **involved merging 17 schools into 10 new campus'**. This first phase modernised the physical space, transforming the way teachers taught and students learned, but this project was about much more than just a building program, it was about system-wide change.

For Wayne Craig, the Regional Director of the Northern Metropolitan Region DEECD there was another vital component. *"We viewed technology as a key element in achieving the overall objectives of educational change in Broadmeadows. It's about future-proofing the schools and creating a 21st century teaching and learning environment."*

To this end, DEECD established a specialist working group, the

# Genuine Transformation in K-12

Broadmeadows Case Study



'ideasLAB', who's mandate was to **challenge the current thinking about teaching and learning** and find new ways to take technology into the classroom. Cisco, as one of the global leaders in the use of technology in education was invited to be one of the founding members along with Microsoft and Intel.

## Laying the Foundations

Cisco has significant experience in innovation on community-wide projects around the world. Indeed, at the same time as this early work with Broadmeadows was occurring, Cisco was also working closely with DEECD on the development and deployment of their state-wide IP eduSTAR network, to be rolled out to more than 1,000 of the 1,600 government schools, connecting teachers and students across a standard networking platform.

*"One of the key things Cisco brought to the table was incredible high-level expertise, a sophisticated understanding of what innovation is and what it looks like, and a willingness to be involved",* said Wayne Craig of DEECD.

Cisco's initial work with the 'ideasLAB' was to develop a blueprint for the Broadmeadows School Regeneration Project Digital Campus. The blueprint was to design a scalable IP-based network to not only provide connectivity and bandwidth, but a services and solutions delivery platform. **The resulting network was to be the foundation or the enabler for next generation teaching and learning...in essence, the technological future of the Broadmeadows and DEECD schools.**

In forming a service-ready architectural framework for K-12 Education, three core services are considered for leveraging the network as a strategic asset, providing immediate benefits at scale across the system, and addressing key concerns of the state departments:

- **Greener Schools:** Intelligent and energy efficient buildings are high on the priority list for schools as energy costs rise and administrative budgets are reduced. Converging disparate building and infrastructure networks into a common IP backbone is the vital first step.

- **Safer Schools:** Student safety is absolutely top-of-mind for schools. Traditional risk factors within the school system regarding physical violence, theft and vandalism need to be mitigated and emergency responsiveness is critical. The IP network is a key to providing this outcome as can be seen in other DEECD schools with a Cisco network in place.
- **Smarter and More Efficient Schools:** Schools strive to improve operational efficiencies in an environment where school budgets and funding sources are tightly monitored and regulated. Using the network and technological solutions to improve communications, automate routine tasks, streamline management and operations increases productivity, responsiveness and flexibility while reducing costs. This network also provides the foundation for the new collaborative, blended, and personalized learning environments that are critical to 21C learning.

Another critical consideration was to ensure that **the network would enable interoperable technologies, thus protecting the current investments**

# Genuine Transformation in K-12

of the Broadmeadows schools and Government programs such as those provided through the Digital Education Revolution and the NetBook rollout.

The blueprint once finalised, was then used in the deployment of Cisco's Borderless Network architecture across the Broadmeadows schools. For the administrators and teachers of Broadmeadows the foundation or platform is now in place for safer, greener, smarter and more efficient schools. And **the students are beginning to work in the way they want – anywhere, anytime and on a number of devices** with wireless networks across all the schools.

The Broadmeadows community will also benefit from this platform. Cisco worked with the community during its design to ensure the wireless network would see the broader community use the same resource that was created for the students. It can't be overstated that **the community's involvement in helping drive the overall project has been integral to its success.**

## Partnering for the Future

Bringing about change has been a hugely collective and collaborative effort and Cisco's involvement was to also introduce other partners. For Wayne Craig of DEECD that has been invaluable.

*"Cisco bought Victoria University into the mix and they now have a deep involvement that's likely to be sustained into the future, including a Centre for Teaching Excellence at one of the Broadmeadows campus."*

*So Cisco went way beyond the boxes with flashing lights and technology, it was about bringing together people they already have relationships with to contribute to the project."*

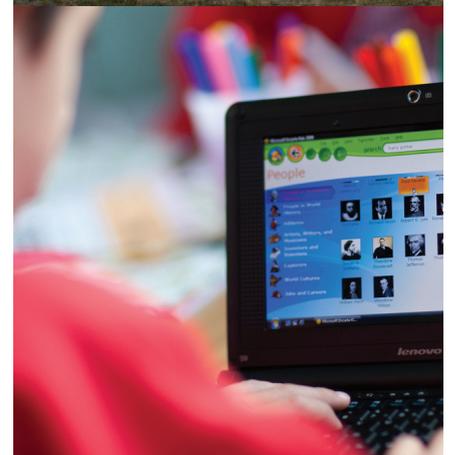
The Victoria University relationship is planned to be long-term and multi-faceted. It's likely that pre-service teachers will be based at one of the Broadmeadows campus' while still attending university lectures and tutorials using Cisco's high definition video conferencing system, Cisco TelePresence.

Certainly when building the network for Broadmeadows one of the critical considerations was to ensure it would enable the use of rich media, particularly video.

## Video and Broadmeadows

Cisco's other key initiative as a part of the 'ideasLAB' was to draw on their experience as global leaders of video in education and formulate a video-enabled pedagogy for Broadmeadows. The use of video – whether recorded video, streamed or video conferencing – within education is growing rapidly and the research is formative but **shows it to be a valuable and transformational technology in K-12.** This initiative was aimed at helping all of the Broadmeadows schools examine the 'how' and 'why' of video as a part of their education and professional development programs.

Wayne Craig has always been ambitious for video's inclusion in the future of the schools. *"The student's love video, we just have to work out*



# Genuine Transformation in K-12

## Broadmeadows Case Study

*how to use it effectively. I've no doubt it will be one of the critical components of 21st century teaching and learning."*

Today, with the network in-place across Broadmeadows, **services are coming online to allow video to become a rich part of the teaching, learning and professional development landscape.** Video is now being used in every Broadmeadows campus and its use will only continue to grow.

### Video is opening the doors to many opportunities including:

- leveraging internet-based digital video to enhance self-directed learning
- leveraging educational learning to support multimodal learning
- connecting with experts worldwide
- encouraging cross-curricular projects
- using pre-recorded classes to overcome teacher shortages
- connecting remote students to teachers
- leveraging internet based video for in situ professional development
- attending professional development classes remotely
- broadcasting school announcements

### The Results

The Broadmeadows School Reneneration Project is seeing results. The technology, when combined with other project initiatives is helping the project achieve its aims. Most importantly, the students in Broadmeadows are now meeting expected literacy and numeracy standards. **By 2010 there had been a 15% increase in literacy** – and results continue to improve. Broadmeadows are now second in the state on these measures and the transformation is not only in terms of outcomes, but student and teacher attitudes.

*"We know how the student's staff and teacher feel about it because we survey them regularly," says Wayne Craig. "We've seen a massive shift in perception across the board. From the student's perspective teacher effectiveness has gone up significantly. From a staff perspective two of the key drivers are around student motivation and classroom behaviour and both of those have improved dramatically."*

This project began with the understanding that every child can achieve and even excel given the right support. Importantly, money alone was never seen as the answer. This is a story of a community who wanted their children to be given the

chance to do better; of government and how they can work hand-in-hand with community to find a solution that benefits all; and of private partners who bring far more than products to sell.

Cisco is proud to be a part of the Broadmeadows School Regeneration Project and the success they have seen in helping the schools and community create a better future. In so doing, Cisco has built blueprints to capture the change process and develop a platform that has helped transform Braodmeadows into an exemplar of how other schools, communities and government agencies can create transformative 21st century education.



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