

Students look into eye of future at Showcase

Weighing up different career choices was a hands-on exercise for hundreds of students in the Hastings last week during a Business Industry Showcase in Port Macquarie.

The event, organised by Mid Coast Connect as part of the North Coast Innovation Festival, provided a unique opportunity for young people from Port Macquarie, Wauchope, Kempsey and the Camden Haven area to engage directly with potential future employers.

Independent MP for Lync Robert Oakeshott said, "Events like these continue to play an important role in the ongoing campaign to reduce unemployment on the Mid-North Coast and to give our school leavers the best possible chance of engaging in meaningful work or training.

"The evidence is clear that the longer we can keep a young person in training, the greater their own opportunities for prosperity and productivity in the community.

"At our recent Jobs Expo in Port Macquarie the focus was on getting people into work immediately. Today's event is more about the longer-term future of jobs growth and productivity in our region, with students considering their career options."

Mr Oakeshott said the job-ready training models on display at the showcase provided an insight into how flexible training options could help more young people into work in the future.



Lync MP Rob Oakeshott takes a health check courtesy of Year 11 aged care trainees Wiphaphorn Jiaoram from Wauchope High School (left), Meg Egan (Camden Haven High) and Hayley Cook (Port Macquarie High), under the watchful guidance of Mid Coast Group Training regional manager Matthew Giles and Cedar Place Aged Care Facility Manager Mary Henry.

"Today I've met three young women from Port Macquarie, Wauchope and Bonny Hills who are all studying in Year 11, going to TAFE on a Monday evening as part of an aged care traineeship

and getting practical experience in three local aged care facilities every Wednesday," Mr Oakeshott said.

"This is a great model and one that promises to play a major role in overcoming some of the historic

issues of unemployment and low wages in our region.

"They are the future of education delivery and the future of our region's prosperity. Well done to all involved."