

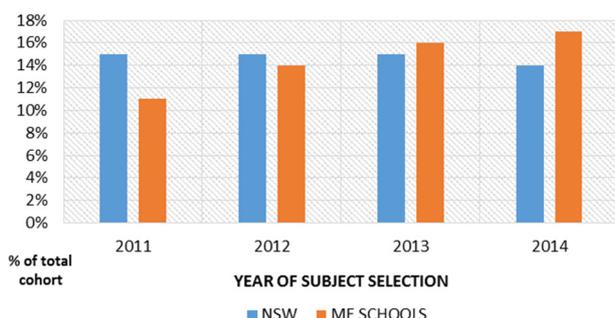
RDA Hunter's ME Program

Smart schools for the Hunter's future

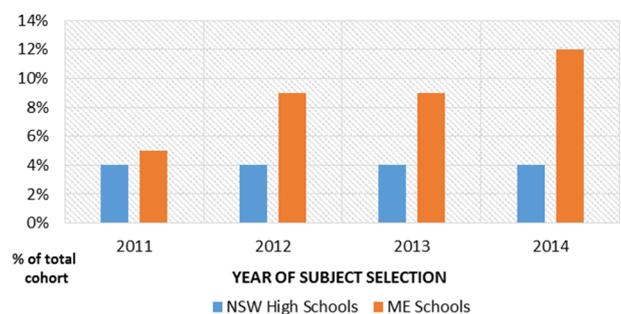
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – PHASE ONE OUTCOMES

- The ME Program has worked with over 7,500 young people since its inception in 2010 to educate them in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and ensure a future workforce supply of highly skilled employees
- 25 Hunter high schools engage with 32 Hunter based companies - up from four high schools and four industry partners when the ME Program commenced in 2010
- Over 4,000 students follow the ME Program on Facebook
- The ME Program's industry based learning and career videos on its YouTube channel have gathered over 74,000 views
- 17% of students at ME Program *smart schools* select HSC Physics compared with the NSW Average of 14%
- In NSW 12% of HSC Physics students will drop the subject before Year 12, the dropout rate is just 6% at ME *smart schools*
- 12% of ME Program students now select HSC Engineering Studies compared to the NSW average of 4%
- In 2012 West Wallsend High had enough interest to run its first HSC Mathematics Extension 1 class
- 14% of students ME Program *smart schools* will select Metals and Engineering Certificate II for their HSC compared with the state average of 3%
- The number of Schools running the ME Program's iSTEM initiative will double between 2014 and 2015 to 14 schools
- Industry partner Ampcontrol's apprenticeship intake between 2012 and 2013 increased by over 70%

**PHYSICS- YEAR 11
ME vs NSW HIGH SCHOOLS**



**ENGINEERING STUDIES- YEAR 11
ME vs NSW HIGH SCHOOLS**



EFFECTIVE SCHOOL AND INDUSTRY COLLABORATION

The strategic objective to update teacher awareness and understanding of advanced manufacturing skills helps to achieve the Program's goals. This outcome has been accomplished through the provision of professional development for teachers and career advisors as well as the supply of effective, low cost technologies that renew interest in traditional curriculums.

Teachers at ME Program smart schools now have an understanding of the tools and pedagogical principles that are used to deliver the skills required by industry.

Teachers spending time in the workplace of various advanced manufacturing companies to develop resource kits has assisted and informed other teaching staff within the Program.

IMPROVING THE TEACHING QUALITY

The ME Program's focus throughout has been on the frontline partnerships of schools and industry. These partnerships account for much of the creativity and vitality of the Program.

The outcomes have been significant with broad scale changes across subject selection in ME Schools. RDA Hunter is well prepared to continue and grow this innovative program to aid regional, state and national development.

INNOVATIVE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The ME Program has become Australia's most innovative workforce development initiative since introducing Phase One of the project in 2010. Its initial goal to increase the workforce capacity of the Defence Industry remains as important today as it did then. Through five years of management RDA Hunter has worked with the Defence Materiel Organisation to ensure that the Program achieves its strategic goals and in doing so, has generated unprecedented support from local industry and education bodies.

The driving objective of the ME Program is to increase the pool of students studying Mathematics, Science, Engineering Studies, and Physics. This outcome has been accomplished through the employment of the following outputs and related activities:

- Improving the understanding of manufacturing through the promotion of manufacturing careers;
- Providing hands-on learning experiences for students in advanced manufacturing education;
- Establishing student mentoring and networking opportunities with industry; and
- Establishing a consultative network of local industry and network of schools in the Independent, Catholic and Public education sectors.



For further information contact

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