Subject Outline
Functional English results do not contribute to the QCE. This is not an elective subject. Students will be identified to participate in this course as part of their Individual Curriculum Plan. This course does not contain nationally recognised units of competency in literacy and numeracy.

Contributes to OP  No

Potential Activities
In focusing on work related activities, students will have the opportunity to:
* observe/gather, record and report a variety of information ranging from simple and routine tasks to situations requiring evaluation and complex interaction.
* give and follow instructions using forms appropriate to the work environment.
* work with others in groups and teams.
* prepare and write a variety of work related documents.
* investigate career opportunities within defined employment fields.
* use appropriate workplace communication technology including computers, fax machines, photocopiers, telephones etc.

Costs  No

Student Requirements
Learning experiences in this strand may include:
* study of the news media and current affairs programs
* debating
* seeking information from the three levels of government
* participating in action to address community problems
* use of communication technology (video recording, cameras, computers)
* assessing the impact of advertising on the community

Vocational Relevance:
Students undertaking Functional English will have particular language needs. This course is designed to support those students in further development of their basic literacy skills. They require these skills to participate confidently and constructively when interacting with others, and to use language clearly and effectively to achieve purposes and convey meanings.

The Functional English course aims to foster success for students by further developing and reinforcing their functional language skills to help them critically evaluate the world around them. Students will have access to a significant level of support. The emphasis is on practical real-life learning experiences, where students use language to think, interpret and communicate effectively. Examples include activities related to work, to personal and community life and to leisure and recreation.

STATUS:  VOCATIONAL LEARNING STRAND

AIMS:

LEARNING EXPERIENCES:
The Functional English course will follow the same study plan as the English Communication course and addresses three strands of study over two years: WORK, COMMUNITY and LEISURE.
Learning experiences and assessment pieces will be modified, if necessary, to cater to the needs of the student. Students will be encouraged to develop and enhance communication skills through a variety of learning experiences across the three strands of study.

**Leisure**

Learning experiences in this strand may involve:
* reading fiction and non-fiction works
* viewing and comparing a range of entertainment on television
* discussing the language and impact of poetry and song
* sharing opinions on material read, heard or viewed

**UNIT TOPICS**

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<th>Leisure</th>
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<td>CURRENT AFFAIRS</td>
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**ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Students undertaking Functional English will be assessed using both written and spoken tasks. (Between 50% and 70% spoken and 30% and 50% written). Assessment tasks will correspond to those being undertaken in Communication English but will be modified to cater to the needs of the student.

**WORKLOAD EXPECTATIONS**

The majority of the course is assignment based and much class time is devoted to individual or group assignment work.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

This course has specifically been offered for students who have special language needs and require significant support in completing literacy tasks. Eligibility for the course will be negotiated between teachers, parents and the students themselves, based on teacher recommendations and units being studied.

**COSTS**

Texts and Class sets are provided through the Textbook Hire Scheme. Occasional excursions will incur some costs.

**FUTURE DIRECTION**

Functional English is aimed at students who wish to move directly into the workforce on completion of Year 12 or those who have the desire to continue their education at TAFE rather than continuing their education at university. The course will provide students with the communication knowledge and skills to enter the workforce in any field.