

'SVA has been a key ingredient in Beacon's national success. The partnership has provided honest and constructive feedback, tremendous consulting services that have supported our growth and introduction to networks that have led to pivotal financial support.'

Scott Harris Chief Executive  
Beacon Foundation



Hobart, TAS

Focus Area Supporting Young People  
Transition to Employment

Web [www.beaconfoundation.net](http://www.beaconfoundation.net)

### Mission

To influence the attitudes and culture of Australians so that each young person develops an independent will to achieve personal success for themselves and their community.

### Model

The Beacon Foundation (Beacon) aims to address youth employment by working with young people before they leave school to help them develop the skills and confidence needed to achieve personal success for themselves and their community. Beacon's strength is the industry links it has forged that provide students with mentor role models and opportunities for employment.

### Growth

- Since its first program in 1995 in Launceston, Beacon has experienced rapid growth, touching the lives of more than 45,000 young people since inception. By the end of FY08, there were 90 schools using Beacon's flagship *No Dole* program with 10,300 participants, compared to 62 schools in 2005 with approximately 6500 participants and eight schools in 2001 with approximately 1500 participants.

# Beacon Foundation

- *Polish*, a program that prepares young people for their careers through personal presentation and communication training, was trialled in 1999, went national in 2003, and is now run in conjunction with *No Dole* in 75 per cent of *No Dole* schools.
- Beacon has helped schools initiate and further develop relationships with over 800 local businesses and 30 local councils. Beacon also has 23 major corporate partners, who support its work either financially or in kind.
- Beacon's *Real Jobs*, a job creation program for young people in their local community, has created three businesses, *Beacon Seafoods/Salty Seas* (St.Helens, TAS), *Something Concrete* (Kununurra, WA) and *Stone Worx* (New Norfolk, TAS), which have employed over 30 young people for a sustained period of time.
- The school retention rate for Beacon *No Dole* Schools is 92 per cent, compared to the national average of 79 per cent. Of those young people who leave school seeking work, the employment rate for *No Dole* schools is 90 per cent compared to the national average of 86 per cent.
- A Social Return on Investment (SROI) completed for *Beacon Seafoods* (a Beacon inspired aquaculture youth social enterprise) found that real commercially sustainable jobs can be created for \$5,000 per job. This is equivalent to the dole for about six months.

### Looking Ahead

Beacon are developing and piloting a range of models to grow the investor base for *No Dole* and subsequently increase the number of *No Dole* schools nationally. This will include the introduction of 'Platinum Schools' for *No Dole* schools that graduate from *No Dole*, continue to demonstrate best practice standards and are invited to mentor and visit new *No Dole* schools. Beacon would also like to see students run *No Dole* in their schools, rather than teachers, to give the students management experience and ownership of the success of the program. Other initiatives include a mentoring partnership between principals and business leaders and working with local industry to encourage stronger engagement from business to help address local employment opportunities.

### Impact

- In the first year of *No Dole* at Brooks High School in Launceston, the number of students going on to the dole halved. Within three years that figure was down to one per cent. Of 6,284 students who participated in the *No Dole* program during 2007, 99 per cent have continued on positive pathways, with 92 per cent continuing with further education and 7 per cent gaining employment.

Initial SVA distribution			<b>2002</b>
Total distributions from SVA to date			\$324,000
SVA in-kind support			\$300,000
SVA brokered support			
– leveraged funding			\$2,385,058
– cash and in-kind, SVA Future Builders Program evaluation framework & resource funding (2007-08)			\$135,000
– Matrix on Board financial systems assessment (2006)			\$10,000
– Consulting - <i>No Dole</i> best practice model (2004)			\$25,000
– Social Return on Investment for <i>Beacon Seafoods</i> (2003)			\$15,000
	<b>FY02</b>	<b>FY08</b>	<b>CAGR</b>
Revenue	\$143,695	\$1,691,863	50.8%
Participants	990	10,300	47.8%



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