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Support for fashion industry study welcomed: Crisp

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The Nationals Member for Mildura, Peter Crisp has supported local designer Peta Collett on her efforts to support local youth with a "Passion for Fashion".

Ms Collett said that the 2009 Young Designers Encouragement Award Program has attracted some interesting connections.

"Founded in Sydney over 20 years ago and in its second year in Melbourne, the Whitehouse Institute in Melbourne has agreed to give winning students short courses in fashion illustration and design.

"This will connect our students to one of the most prestigious fashion design colleges in Australia.

"The Whitehouse Institute has hosted the reality television show Project Runway and has extensive connections with the fashion industry," Ms Collett said.

"This means that our students will be exempted from the usual process of folio entry and are privileged to be amongst a very small group of talented students from all over Australia.

"We've been supported by the Suzanne Johnston Modelling College in Melbourne, a casting agency and a department school has also given us hundreds of dollars of short courses for students who win the Award, but we are still negotiating this offer," Ms Collett said.

This type of school is also idea for students who just need finishing for any career move to specialised administration such as banking, finance or law or any position that requires polish.

Sunraysia Murray Group Training and Maria Demasi of Pink Peppa are currently negotiating the first workplace school based apprenticeships in Sunraysia.

"Essentially this means that we can offer local students knowledge in retail and fashion with our own local retailers, which includes things as an understanding about why retailers buy what they do, when and how, industry standards, Australian labelling and being a part of buying trips," Ms Collett said.

Ms Collett stressed that this is still very much in the formulation stages.

"I am currently working on the next Young Designers poster. We are looking for students to take part in this to be part of the creative process which gives young people practical experience, and I add that this project is being given support by local industry.

"The establishment of a work ethic within the industry and the creation of a real piece of industry folio work can work to give our country students an advantage in getting into college and then later the workforce," Ms Collett said.

Mr Crisp said what was needed was larger local corporation sponsors to help in the funding of such an industry as encouragement was given to young people to have creative focus before going to race days.

"We want to encourage young people to stay at school longer and to take part in further education and training, and for these reasons, plus the appeal of offering a program such as this not usually seen outside a capital city, it has my full support," Mr Crisp concluded.