

Youth Support in Secondary Schools

Education has benefits to individuals and society. A fundamental goal of education is to equip individuals to reach their potential as members of a just democratic society.

Young people who leave school early risk unemployment and social disadvantage. They're likely to experience long periods out of work and when they are employed their jobs are likely to be low-paid and low-skilled - often casual and part time.

Of those who leave school early, up to a third are unemployed in the following year and continue to have difficulties over the next six years²⁸. Young people most at risk of current and future social and long-term economic disadvantage are those 15-19 year olds who are unemployed or not looking for work and are not in any form of education and training.

Early intervention and prevention approaches to early school leaving requires additional resources and responsibilities, which cannot be simply added to existing teaching responsibilities. Youth workers are well placed to support young people to remain engaged in education. There is a range of support mechanisms in schools where youth workers can partner to ensure young people's social, emotional and educational needs are being met.

In this section you will find:

- Strategies for building effective partnerships within the school community;
- Contact information for youth support in schools services; and
- Resources including more services and information.

The following sections also contain relevant resources: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Alcohol and Other Drug, Alternative Education, Employment and Training, Family, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer and/or Questioning, Legal, Mental Health, Multicultural, Peak Body, Young Carers and Youth Support.

Ways of Working

Tips For Working with School Communities

This information is provided to help community organisations promote their programs by developing better links and partnerships with schools.

The first step is to work out what your service wants to achieve by working with schools and whether it can cope with the extra demands on the service that may result. For example, if you're aiming to encourage young people in your area to access your service, will your service be able to cater for the extra numbers (*consider existing programs, volunteers, administration, resources*)?

²⁸ Government of Western Australia. 2005 *Creating The Future For Our Young People: Raising The School Leaving Age*. www.det.wa.edu.au/schoolleavingage/docs/LeavingAgeConsultationReport.pdf

Some Tips for Working Within the School Community

- All schools are different. Schools may have different interests, priorities and resources in respect to your service.
- Get to know those closest to your service.
- Decide what sort of support you can offer schools (*ie. running groups, health promotion, alternative education, recreation*) **before** approaching them to find out whether they would be interested in your service.
- Schools are bound by policy, curriculum, reporting and learning outcomes. Find out about these and consider whether what you offer can support these in any way. If you can demonstrate support for these you're more attractive to schools.
- All high schools have a Pastoral Care Coordinator and a Youth Support Worker in School who could be your nominated contact person for that school. This may be your best contact point, particularly if you can address him or her by name.
- It's important to remember schools are busy places and teachers are stretched to fit everything into the school day.
- Teachers generally plan their programs ahead. Term 4 is usually a good time to discuss opportunities for the following year.
- Schools receive a great deal of information to distribute to families. Find out how each school prefers information to be presented, and keep it simple.
- Schools are required to ensure visitors/volunteers working with students meet certain requirements. For example, appropriate accreditation/experience for the role, and possibly police checks. Find out what the requirements are for your involvement in the school.

Successful Links with Schools

Better links between schools and services result when:

- Schools have evidence the service is a 'student / young person safe' environment.
- Face-to-face discussions are held between school and service staff.
- Service proposals are flexible and cater for school needs.
- Teachers can see the benefits for their students.
- The service link adds value to the school program, e.g. teacher training, resources and ongoing service-school links.
- Any additional workload is rewarded by the benefits to the service and the school.
- The service provides quality programs.

Adapted from *A Guide for Clubs Working with Schools*. 2007. Australian Sports Commission.

Services

Young people are able to access and are encouraged to seek support through anyone they have a connection with at their school. All schools have student welfare services, although what constitutes these services may differ from school to school. You may need to contact individual schools for information on the specific services provided.

Below is an overview of some of the student support services delivered in ACT public schools. Some of the services are delivered through the Department of Education and Training (www.decs.act.gov.au/services/services.htm) and other services are provided by the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (www.dhcs.act.gov.au). Non-government schools, including Catholic schools, have their own support systems and processes. Contact individual schools for further information.

ACT Government		Australian Government
Department of Education and Training (DET)	Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS)	Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •☐ Guidance and Counselling Service •☐ Pastoral Care Coordinators •☐ Youth Education Support (YES) •☐ Youth Support Workers in Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •☐ Schools as Communities •☐ Youth Connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •☐ National Chaplaincy Program

Department of Education and Training, ACT Government

Guidance and Counselling Service

All students in ACT Government schools have access to a school counsellor. School counsellors aim to assist students with educational, social, emotional or behavioural needs, either individually or in groups and can work collaboratively with families, school communities and external agencies. School counsellors are required to be registered or be eligible for registration with the ACT Psychology Board, and have completed teaching qualifications.

School counsellors may assist students through:

- ☐ Psycho educational assessment and recommendations for support;
- ☐ Counselling (individual and group);
- ☐ Referrals to and liaison with community agencies and other professionals;
- ☐ In-servicing and consulting with school staff;
- ☐ Parent liaison;

- ☐ Parent education and discussion groups;
- ☐ Curriculum development;
- ☐ Mediation and negotiation; and
- ☐ Confidential discussions.

School counsellors can be contacted directly through ACT Government schools. The assistant manager and senior counsellors can be contacted through Student Support Services.

Phone: (02) 6205 6925

Fax: (02) 6205 7623

Pastoral Care Coordinators

All ACT Government high schools have a pastoral care coordinator who coordinates school student welfare and pastoral care programs; and works with the Youth Support Worker. Individual schools should be contacted in regard to how these positions are being rolled out.

Youth Education Support (YES)

Aims to re-engage young people in education and support their participation in school and community life. Works with young people, aged 11 – 15 years, their families and other agencies to support skills building and a return to education. Participation is voluntary. Referrals required.

Phone: (02) 6205 6075 (Northside)

(02) 6205 6074 (Southside)

Web: www.det.act.gov.au/services/pdf/YES_Program.pdf

Youth Support Workers in Schools

Youth Support Workers in Schools represent a contact person that is accessible to young people, youth and community services during school hours.

Youth Support Workers in Schools can be excellent gateways into schools, facilitating partnerships with youth and community services and greatly enhancing the access of young people to a range of resources available to them. Increasingly, schools are not being seen as merely sites for education, but as venues that facilitate the health and wellbeing of young people.

All Youth Support Workers in Schools provide information, referrals and personal support. Some youth support workers can provide drop in space, emergency relief, peer education, advocacy, personal and crisis support, outreach to youth services, groups and recreational activities.

To contact a Youth Support Worker directly, contact the individual school and ask for the Youth Support Worker. For more information about the program, contact the Youth Support Workers in Schools Coordinator at the Gambarri Centre.

Phone: (02) 6205 8347

Disability, Housing and Community Services, ACT Government

Schools as Communities Program

A voluntary program that aims to improve social and educational outcomes for young people by creating working relationships between families, communities and schools. There are currently seven Community Outreach Workers based in eight primary schools and two high schools (Kaleen and Calwell) across Canberra.

The program conducts community development initiatives and provides family support including crisis intervention, mediation, advocacy, referral, transportation to community services for appointments and provide individual support.

Students and families are referred to the program by teachers, counsellors, community organisations or through self-referral. Students and parents can arrange to see a worker by dropping in at the school, phoning for an appointment or requesting a home visit.

Phone: (02) 6205 5681 (Schools as Communities Team Leader)

Web: www.dhcs.act.gov.au/ocyfs/services/schools_as_communities

Youth Connection

Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services

A short to medium term non-crisis outreach service that aim to support young people aged 12 - 16 experiencing problematic attendance.

Phone: (02) 6207 4528

Web: www.dhcs.act.gov.au/ocyfs/services/young_people#YConnection

Department of Education, Science and Training, Australian Government

National Chaplaincy Programme

The chaplain's role is to increase the provision of pastoral care for students, supporting their wellbeing, and their ability to deal with personal issues. The program aims to assist schools and their communities to support the spiritual wellbeing of their students.

Each school and its community will decide on the religious affiliation of the school chaplain and the nature of services provided. However, students are not obliged to participate, and parents and students are to be informed about the availability and the voluntary nature of chaplaincy services.

Thirty-three Government and Non-Government schools in the ACT are now providing chaplaincy services through the program. Chaplains can be contacted through individual schools. The website contains details of these schools and more information about the program.

Web:

www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school_education/policy_initiatives_reviews/key_issues/school_chaplaincy_programme/

ACT Government High Schools

Alfred Deakin High School

Phone	(02) 6205 5566
Web	www.adhs.act.edu.au
Location	Denison St, Deakin

Amaroo School

Phone	(02) 6205 2808
Web	www.amaroos.act.edu.au
Location	Katherine Ave, Amaroo

Belconnen High School

Phone (02) 6205 6844
Web www.blch.act.edu.au
Location Murrnaji St, Hawker

Black Mountain School

Phone (02) 6205 6377
Web www.bms.act.edu.au
Location Dryanda St, O'Connor

Calwell High School

Phone (02) 6205 6833
Web www.calwellhs.act.edu.au/
Location Casey Drive, Calwell

Campbell High School

Phone (02) 6205 6344
Web www.campbellhs.act.edu.au
Location Treloar Cres, Campbell

Canberra High School

Phone (02) 6205 7000
Web www.canberraahs.act.edu.au
Location Bindubi St, Macquarie

Caroline Chisholm High School

Phone (02) 6205 7277
Web www.cchs.act.edu.au
Location Hambridge St, Chisholm

Gold Creek School

Phone (02) 6205 1814
Web www.goldcreek.act.edu.au
Location Kelleway Ave, Nicholls

Kaleen High School

Phone	(02) 6205 5811
Web	www.kaleenhs.act.edu.au
Location	Baldwin Dr, Kaleen

Kambah High School

Phone	(02) 6205 6933
Web	www.kambahs.act.edu.au
Location	O'Hallora Crt, Kambah

Lanyon High School

Phone	(02) 6205 7676
Web	www.lanyonhs.act.edu.au
Location	Heidelber St, Condor

Lyneham High School

Phone	(02) 6205 6399
Web	www.lynehamhs.act.edu.au
Location	Goodwin St, Lyneham

Melba High School

Phone	(02) 6205 6711
Web	www.melbahs.act.edu.au
Location	Conley Drive, Melba

Melrose High School

Phone	(02) 6205 7588
Website	www.melrosehs.act.edu.au
Location	Marrs St, Pearce

Stromlo High School

Phone	(02) 6205 6166
Website	www.stromlohs.act.edu.au
Location	Badimara St, Warramanga

Telopea Park School

Phone	(02) 6205 5599
Website	www.telopea.act.edu.au
Location	New South Wales Cres, Barton

Wanniassa School

Phone	(02) 6205 6200
Website	www.wans.act.edu.au
Location	Wheeler Cres, Wanniassa

Woden School

Phone	(02) 6205 5966
Website	www.thewodens.act.edu.au/
Location	Denison St, Deakin

ACT Government Colleges (Year 11 – 12)

Canberra College – Weston

Phone	(02) 6205 5777
Website	www.canberrac.act.edu.au/
Location	Fremantle Dr, Stirling

Canberra College – Woden

Phone	(02) 6205 5777
Website	www.canberrac.act.edu.au/
Location	Launceston St, Phillip

Copland College

Phone	(02) 6205 7622
Website	www.coplandc.act.edu.au/
Location	Copland Dr, Melba

Dickson College

Phone	(02) 6205 6455
Website	www.dicksonc.act.edu.au/
Location	Phillip Ave, Dickson

Erindale College

Phone	(02) 6205 8111
Website	www.erindalec.act.edu.au/
Location	McBryde Cres, Wanniasa

Hawker College

Phone	(02) 6205 7744
Website	www.hawkerc.act.edu.au/
Location	Murrnaji St, Hawker

Lake Ginninderra College

Phone	(02) 6205 7099
Website	www.lakeonline.act.edu.au/
Location	Emu Bank, Belconnen

Lake Tuggeranong College

Phone	(02) 6205 6222
Website	www.ltc.act.edu.au
Location	Cowlishaw St, Tuggeranong

Narrabundah College

Phone	(02) 6205 6999
Website	www.narrabundahc.act.edu.au/
Location	Jerrabomberra Ave, Narrabundah

The following services also provide relevant programs:

- Access Education (Alternative Education)
- Bungee (Mental Health)
- CCCares (Alternative Education)
- Children and Young People Focus Worker – DVCS (Youth Support)
- Children and Young People’s Workers – CRCC (Youth Support)
- CYCLOPS (Young Carers)
- Galilee Education Service (Alternative Education)
- Learning For Life Program (Youth Support)
- LYNX (Youth Support)
- Menslink (Youth Support)
- Messengers Program (Art and Recreation)
- Mental Illness Education ACT (Mental Health)
- Multicultural Youth Services (Multicultural)
- Northside Community Services (Youth Support)
- Northside High School Student Support Centre (Alternative Education)
- Open Family Australia (Youth Support)
- PASS Homework Program (Multicultural)

- Reclink – PCYC (Art and Recreation)
- SITE (Alternative Education)
- South Side High School Student Support Centre (Alternative Education)
- Urayarra Indigenous Youth Skills and Education Program (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander)
- YARDS (Alternative Education)
- Young Carers Program (Young Carers)
- Youth Education Program (Alternative Education)
- Youth Law ACT (Legal)
- See also the Youth Centres section

Resources

More Services

Individual Learning Program (ILP)

Department of Education and Training

If a young person is experiencing difficulties in maintaining progress, attendance or engagement at school due to caring responsibilities or associated issues, the school support personnel and teachers can work with the young person and family / carers to develop an ILP. An ILP can be a short or long-term strategy that identifies goals, actions and outcomes for students and establishes key people with responsibility for implementing actions.

Web: www.det.act.gov.au/services/pdf/final_ilp_book7.pdf

Schools Directorate

If a young person, their parent, carer, or support worker is having difficulties resolving educational support issues, and unsuccessful attempts have been made to address this with the school, the Schools Directorate can assist. The Directorate can be contacted if you are unsure of how to navigate the school system, or there has been an incident with the school that you are unhappy with. The Directorate would listen, synthesize the issues and assist in resolving the problem.

Phone: (02) 6205 5429 (Northside)
 (02) 6205 5428 (Southside)
 (02) 6205 3313 (Central)

Special Education Section

Department of Education & Training

Manages the provision of educational services to students with disabilities in ACT government schools.

Phone: (02) 6205 6925

Web: www.decs.act.gov.au/services/SpecEd.htm

Student Transport Program

Territory and Municipal Services

Provides free bus travel to students to and from school under certain conditions.

Phone: (02) 6207 7036

Web: www.tams.act.gov.au/move/public_transport/stp

More Information

12 Points to Consider When Working With Schools

Australian Sports Commission

Aimed at sports clubs; however, tips and resources can be adapted for other services and initiatives.

Web: www.ausport.gov.au/junior/nso_club/12Points.asp

ACT Government Schools Administration

Department of Education and Training

Provides an overview of school policies and procedures such as forms, legislation, legal issues and health policies.

Web: www.det.act.gov.au/schools/schools.htm

Bullying. No way!

Australian Education Communities

Aims to provide support for school community members to be safe, supported, respected, valued — and free from bullying, violence, harassment and discrimination.

Web: www.bullyingnoway.com.au

Census ACT Government and Non-Government Schools

Department of Education and Training

Every six months a census is conducted of ACT Government and non-Government schools. This website provides the results of the census.

Web: www.det.act.gov.au/publicat/publicat.htm

Developing Resilience at Every Stage of a Young Person's Life

Mission Australia

A snapshot of young people aged 6-16 years and their families. It outlines evidence about brain development and key points of effective intervention, and highlights the importance of developing resilience at every stage of a young person's life. Published 2004.

Web: www.missionaustralia.com.au/cm/resources/documents/snapshot_families.pdf

Mindmatters

A mental health promotion program for secondary schools.

Web: <http://cms.curriculum.edu.au/mindmatters>

Non-Government Schools Education Council

Aims to advise the Minister for Education and Training on any aspect of non-government schooling and to meet with the Government Schools Education Council to discuss matters of mutual interest. Members are drawn from organisations representing Catholic schools, non-Catholic independent schools, the non-government school union, and the parent associations of non-government schools.

Web: www.ngsec.act.edu.au

Racism. No way!

Australian Government

Aims to assist school communities and education systems to recognise and address racism in the learning environment.

Web: www.racismnoway.com.au

Visitors in Schools Framework

Department of Education and Training

For visitors providing services directly to and in support of students. Information for Visitors and their Employing or Sponsoring Organisations. To be read with Policy and Procedures. Published January 2006.

Web: www.det.act.gov.au/policies/pdf/4_Info_for_Visitors_19Jan06.pdf

Young adolescents displaying resilient and non-resilient behaviour: Insights from a qualitative study - can schools make a difference?

Sue Howard and Bruce Johnson (University of South Australia), Australian Association for Research in Education conference papers

Web: www.aare.edu.au/00pap/how00387.htm

Dates For Your Diary

ACT Government Term dates and public holidays

Web: www.det.act.gov.au/schools/termdates.htm

10 – 18 April 2010

National Youth Week

Join Australia's largest celebration of young people! Thousands of young people aged 12-25 years get involved in NYW each year by organising, running and attending NYW events. The Youth Coalition coordinates activities in the ACT. The dates change each year.

Web: www.makingcontact.net.au or www.youthweek.com