



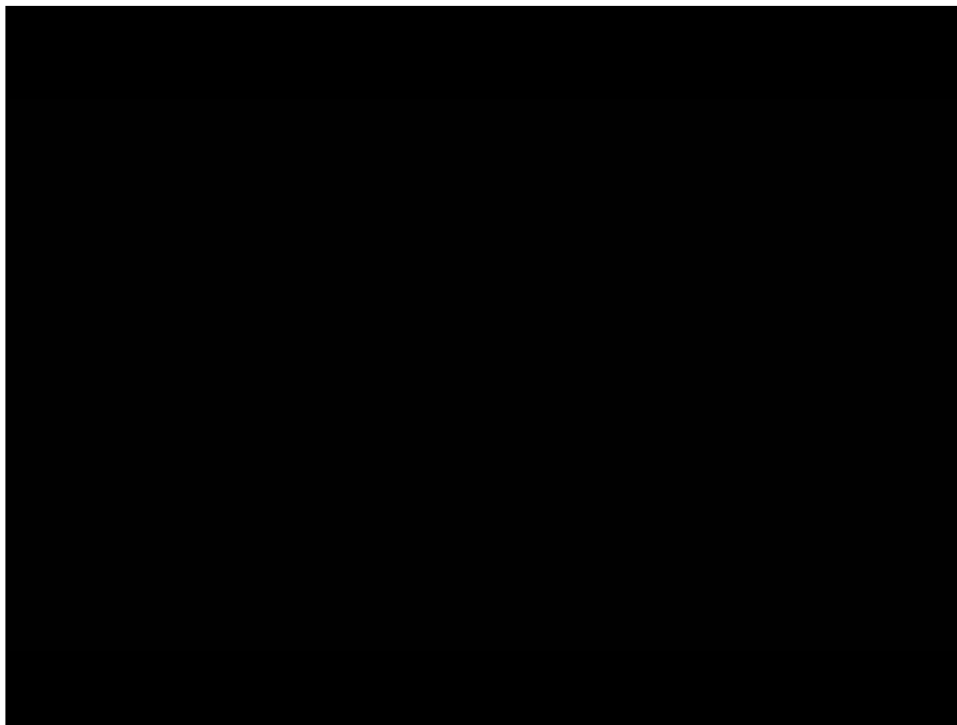
Ending of Youth Connections

- Individualised, flexible, youth focused case management service delivery
- 113 regions, 65 different providers, regional, remote, metro Australia
- 30,000 young people assisted annually.
- Young people aged 13-19 to reconnect to education, training or employment
- Ending of Federal Government Support 31 December 2014

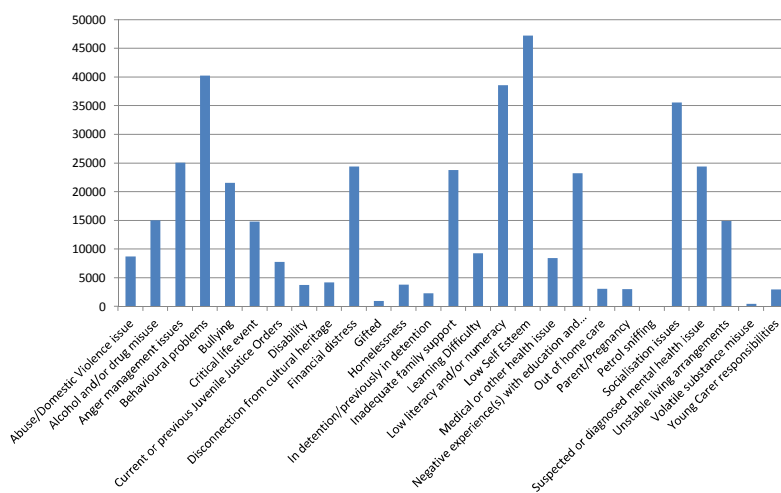


- Young people present with multiple complex barriers to engagement.
- Young people work with case worker to identify and address barriers and mark out a path for the future.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxQHggfL904&feature=youtu.be>





What Barriers???



National YAT Data - Recognised Barriers Youth Connections Clients
1 January 2010 to 30 June 2014



Youth Connections Success

- Approximately 30% of the young people each year are severely disengaged, out of education for more than 3 months (some years)
- 20% of caseload identify as Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islanders
- Nationally, 61% of young people record a 'final outcome' – sustained engagement in education, employment, further training
- YCNN conducted two separate Destination studies of young people on the program, both demonstrated young people had long term re-engagement success post the program.



Of the 835 young people surveyed who received a final outcome from Youth Connections in 2012, our results showed the following:

93.4% (780) were still engaged in education or employment six months after receiving a final outcome from Youth Connections. Of this total, 186 were engaged in full-time or part-time employment including 65 participants in either traineeships or apprenticeships.

86.7% (809) of Indigenous participants were still engaged in education or employment six months after receiving a final outcome from the Youth Connections.

Nearly 18 months after receiving a final outcome, 80.2% were still engaged in education or employment. The remaining 19.8% were either looking for employment or engaged in carer roles for children or other family members.

38% (318) were engaged in either part-time or full-time employment including traineeships and apprenticeships, even though Youth Connections is not an employment service.

Young People and the Federal Budget

- Proposed Budget will require unemployed young people (under 30) seeking Centrelink to complete to 6 months of job seeking activity prior to any payment.
- Six monthly rotations with requirements to complete *Work for the Dole* and employment services activity followed by no financial assistance each six months.
- Youth Allowance will not increase to the Newstart Rate of payment until aged 25. Previously occurred at age 22.
- Young people streamed Type 3 and 4 (may) be excluded from Youth Allowance payment quarantine. (future A,B,C)
- Young people are vulnerable to incorrect streaming:
 - Not adequately communicating their barriers/ personal situations



Disengaged Young People & Employment Service Providers

- First time in nearly 20 years, the Federal Government will not be in this policy space. Referrals to Youth Connections will no longer exist. School, Business and Community Partnerships will not longer be created by Partnerships Brokers.
- Federal Government has advised that State Governments will be responsible for education and engagement services for those under 17 and that Employment Services will provide support for young people over 17.
- In many regions, Youth Connections is the only program available (whether that be State or Federal Govt) that provided case management support for disengaged young people.
- How can Employment Service Providers give the level of assistance needed to successfully engage and transition a young person with complex multiple barriers into employment?
 - Recognise & Respect
 - Build the Relationship
 - Be Flexible
 - Connect with Community Organisations



Recognise and Respect

- **Recognise** young people's rights to participate in decisions that will directly impact upon them.
- Promote **respect** by listening to young people's views and taking them seriously.
- **Recognise** that young people are still developing cognitively. Young people are risk takers and rarely consider the consequences of their actions, ie missed appointments, breaches.
- **Recognise** young people's different situations and backgrounds, especially those who...
 - Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander backgrounds
 - Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds
 - Have disabilities
 - Are in Out-of-Home Care/ Guardianship of the Minister (or former Guardianship Order)
 - From vulnerable or marginalised groups



Build the Relationship

- **Realise that building a relationship** and trust from the young person **takes time.**
- Many 'Youth Connections' clients feel they have been 'let down' by most of the adults in their life. **How will you be different?**
- **Young people build relationships and connections in peer situations.**
- **Be Client focused, Client Driven** – ask the young person what they want to do?



Be Flexible & Connect

- **Flexibility – one of the keys to success in Youth Connections**
 - Youth Connections young people often experience critical situations that prevent them from following through with planned appointments/ events. Do not assume laziness cause.
- **Motivate and Encourage**
 - Use motivational interviewing which seeks to engage the young person to facilitate meaningful change.



Connect with local providers who specialise in delivery of youth engagement services.

Consider contracts/ fee for service delivery:

- Youth Engagement/ Peer Group Work
- Certificate attainment (many YC providers are also RTOs)
- Work experience and soft skills
- **Assistance to get young people job ready.**





More Information?



Search Facebook **"Youth Connections 2013"**
3124 'likes/followers' for stories and connections.

Youth Connections: Rebekha Sharkie, National Executive Officer 0411 982 191.
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Partnership Brokers: Carmen Auer, Chair Carmen.Auer@thesmithfamily.com.au

www.transitions.youth.gov.au - Find your local provider for Youth Connections or
Partnership Brokers (make the connection now!)

