

2.5 OUTCOME 5: TRANSITIONS AND YOUTH – YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ENGAGED AND SUPPORTED TO MAKE SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS TO ADULTHOOD AND ACTIVE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, INCLUDING THROUGH CAREER DEVELOPMENT SKILLS, FURTHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

The Australian Government requires agencies to measure their intended and actual performance in terms of outcomes. Government outcomes are the results, impacts or consequences of actions by the Government on the Australian community. Agencies are required to identify the output groups which demonstrate their contribution to Government outcomes over the coming year.

Each outcome is described below by output groups, specifying the performance indicators and targets used to assess and monitor the performance of the department in achieving government outcomes.

Outcome 5 Strategy

Australia's future depends on its citizens being highly skilled, participating productively in work, and contributing to society. Australians need to be equipped with the foundation skills, values and knowledge required to manage their own capabilities over the course of their lives, and to make informed choices for their ongoing effective participation in further education, employment and society.

Educational attainment is closely linked to workforce participation and productivity and is one of the best predictors of participation, productivity and a successful transition in later life. An additional year of education may raise productivity by between 3 and 6 per cent for a country. The knowledge, values, skills, attitudes and general experiences gained in compulsory schooling will influence young people well beyond the years they spend there. Low educational attainment has strong links with intergenerational poverty.

To adapt and thrive in a constantly changing environment and to find the opportunities where they can be most productive (in both economic and social terms), young people need career development and lifelong learning skills. The Government recognises the importance of partnerships with industry and community organisations in order to support young people's career development, and recognises that engagement in learning is the key to achieving retention and attainment. Varied, relevant, quality vocational learning opportunities are critical to engaging students.

Young people are a diverse group with different needs, concerns and aspirations. The Government will pursue a positive and integrated agenda for young Australians that recognises and values their strengths, contributions and resources now, as well as into the future. The Government, together with local communities, industry and State and Territory governments, plays a key role in supporting young people by providing

DEEWR Budget Statements – Outcomes & performance – Outcome 5

quality career and labour market information, facilitating vocational learning opportunities, and providing services that assist young people to make a successful and efficient transition through education into work and adulthood. Support provided to those who are disengaged (or at risk of disengaging) from mainstream systems is likely to lead to greater participation and productivity, and to promote social inclusion.

The Australian Government's Productivity and Participation Agenda and the Education Revolution have a major impact for this outcome. The Australian Government is committed to engaging and supporting young Australians to reach their full potential. The Government objectives include:

- lifting Year 12 or equivalent attainment rates to 90 per cent by 2020
- lifting participation and the level of attainment in vocational education.

A range of new initiative will support the achievement of these objectives, including:

- the Trade Training Centres in Schools program
- the Mentors for our Students pilot
- On-the Job Training program
- the Job Ready Certificate
- improved Schools-Business Linkages initiative
- the Australian Youth forum
- the Office of Youth.

The strategy for implementation of the Government's objectives specific to this outcome also includes a suite of existing programs, such as Career Advice Australia and the Enterprise and Career Education Program.

Effectiveness in achieving the Government's objectives is measured by indicators in Table 2.5A. Success of transitions from school to vocational education and training is shown by student participation in Vocational Education and Training and work placements, whereas success in responding to business needs is shown by trends in schools-business partnerships.

Outcome 5 Resource statement

Table 2.5 provides additional detail of Budget appropriations and the total resourcing for Outcome 5.

Table 2.5: Total resources for Outcome 5

| Outcome 5: Transitions and Youth – Young people are engaged and supported to make successful transitions to adulthood and active community participation, including through career development skills, further education, training and employment | 2007-08 Estimated actual (\$'000) | 2008-09 Total estimate of available resources (\$'000) |
|--|---|---|
| Administered Items: | | |
| Ordinary Annual Services | | |
| Careers, Transitions and Partnerships | 110,858 | 126,094 |
| Career Planning | 5,355 | 3,949 |
| Youth Engagement | 1,507 | 14,722 |
| Total Administered | 117,720 | 144,765 |
| Departmental Outputs: | | |
| Output 5.1 - Policy Services | 7,873 | 8,983 |
| Output 5.2 - Program Management | 17,567 | 20,044 |
| Output 5.3 - Service Delivery | 3,777 | 4,309 |
| Revenue from other sources | 930 | 633 |
| Total Departmental | 30,147 | 33,969 |
| Total resources for Outcome 5 | 147,867 | 178,734 |
| | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
| Average staffing level (number) | 190 | 228 |

Note: Departmental Appropriation splits and totals, by outcome and output, are indicative estimates and may change in the course of the budget year as government priorities change.

Contributions to Outcome 5

Overview of Outputs

The department administers a number of activities aimed at developing individuals' career development skills and supporting their transition from school to further education and work. These interact with and support other Government programs aimed at enhancing Australians' educational outcomes and work skills.

The department manages the Career Advice Australia (CAA) initiative, a network which focuses on bringing schools and industry together, creating effective community partnerships and infrastructure, industry advice, and improved provision for the students most at risk of poor transitions from school.

The department's administered outputs are measured by efficiency indicators at Table 2.5B. For example, by the number of students, young people and schools supported through the activities administered under the CAA initiative.

These indicators show the following priorities for the department:

- support 28,500 young people through Youth Pathways and Connections
- support up to 4,000 schools and 25,000 students through Adopt a School and Career and Transition Support
- deliver appropriate network services through 67 contracts with Regional Industry Career Advisors and National Industry Career Specialists
- engage 13,000 young people and 40,000 families in the YouthLinx program.

The department will progress two important initiatives to support a positive and integrated agenda for young Australians that recognises and values their strengths, contributions and resources now, as well as into the future:

- the establishment of an Office for Youth
- the development of the Australian Youth Forum.

Administered activities - Transitions

Careers, Transitions and Partnerships - the department administers the Australian Government's career development and transition support activities under this item. Much of this effort is delivered through the Career Advice Australia initiative which supports young Australians aged 13-19 to make successful transitions from school to further education, training and employment. The department also delivers initiatives through the Enterprise and Career Education Program.

The key elements of Career Advice Australia are:

- a national network of Local Community Partnerships
- industry leadership at a regional and national level
- support for young people disconnected, or at risk of disconnecting, from education
- quality career development services for schools, teachers and career advisers.

A national network of Local Community Partnerships

Local Community Partnerships assist young people at a local level in their transition through school. The Partnerships involve working with schools, professional career practitioners, parents, other youth service providers, and businesses to improve access to quality career information, career development and experiential learning opportunities for young people in their community.

Local Community Partnerships deliver three programs to facilitate industry involvement in school career education and support transitions:

- *Structured Workplace Learning* – gives students learning opportunities in real or simulated workplaces. In most cases, the skills they learn are assessed and the competencies they achieve are recognised nationally by industry and education institutions.
- *Adopt a School* – encourages businesses to 'adopt' a school(s) and give young people hands-on learning experiences in a specific industry sector – preferably an emerging sector or one where there is a skills need. Local Community Partnerships are supported by Regional Industry Career Advisers.
- *Career and Transition Support* – helps young people access a range of career development and transition support services in their local area. Local Community Partnerships work with schools, parents, local businesses and career associations to build on, and improve the quality of career education in their region.

Local Community Partnerships will also be involved in the following four programs as part of the Australian Government's Skilling Australia for the future initiative:

- *Mentors for Our Students pilot* – engages young people with recently retired tradespeople and professionals as mentors to encourage them to seek out careers in areas experiencing skill shortages and to enhance their industry knowledge. The pilot will be implemented by 25 Local Community Partnerships.
- *On-the-Job Training* – increases the number of students currently engaged in vocational education and training in schools (VETIS) who are involved in some form of on-the-job training. Training in real workplaces assists students to develop enhanced skills and to see the practical application of the industry knowledge they are developing in the classroom, and on-the-job training experiences make graduates more attractive to employers when they leave school or training. On-the-

job training will be implemented through secondary schools that offer VETiS programs and will provide students in years 9-12 participating in VETiS with on-the-job training for one day a week, for 20 weeks per year, or equivalent.

- *Job Ready Certificate* – responds to the need of business and industry for information on young people's employability. The Job Ready Certificate will be the first national certificate specifically recognising the achievement of employment related skills through senior secondary education. It will focus on employability skills and allow reporting on acquisition of these skills based on school and work-based learning.
- *Improved Schools-Business Linkages* – supports innovative work and training initiatives for Vocational Education and Training (VET) in schools to increase school retention rates and successful transitions to work and improve linkages between schools, industry and business.

Industry leadership at a regional and national level

Two national industry career advice networks support the Career Advice Australia initiative.

- *Regional Industry Career Advisers* – is a nation-wide network of Regional Industry Career Advisers that provide high quality, relevant, localised industry career information, advice and resources, particularly in skills needs areas. Fifty seven service regions have been established to ensure that young people, parents, schools, and local business have access to expert industry career advice.
- *National Industry Career Specialists* – support the work of Regional Industry Career Advisers by developing and providing targeted, industry sector-specific quality career advice and specialist information, including information on skills needs and labour markets.

Support for young people disconnected, or at risk of disconnecting, from education

- *Youth Pathways* – delivers customised support to those young people who are most at risk of not making a successful transition through school to the completion of year 12 or to further education, training or work. Youth Pathways includes assistance for young people with mental health problems to get the help they need to remain engaged in education.
- *Connections* – provides assistance to young people aged 13 to 19 years, who are disconnected from mainstream education by giving them another chance at learning through flexible education and training options. Connections operate in over 50 regions around Australia, with providers in all States and Territories, and will assist around 3,000 young people each year. The department is currently conducting tender processes to extend Connections coverage to 60 services nationally.

DEEWR Budget Statements – Outcomes & performance – Outcome 5

The Enterprise and Career Education Program (ECEP) is the umbrella program for a range of national initiatives that aim to build enterprise and employability skills and support career information and career development activities in schools by improving the availability of high quality career advice and information. It includes the myfuture and Year 12 What Next? websites, the Job Guide, Enterprise Learning for the 21st Century projects, the Australian Vocational Student Prize and the Prime Minister's Award for Skills Excellence.

- *Enterprise Learning for the 21st Century* – aims to promote a culture of enterprise and innovation among young people by developing capabilities, skills and values to assist them to achieve their full potential. Enterprise learning activities encourages the building of partnerships by schools, with business, industry and community organisations, to support the integration of what young people learn at school, with the skill requirements of the changing Australian workforce and with their lifelong learning needs.
- *Job Guide* – is a publication which is provided to all schools, free of charge, for all Year 10 students. It describes occupations, explains how to choose a job, plan a career and look for work. It includes a guide for parents and carers.
- *myfuture.edu.au* – a national career information system which was established, and is jointly funded, through MCEETYA. myfuture is aimed at Australians of all ages and contains a personal career decision making tool; facts about occupations, courses and salaries; and a section to help those who assist others to make career decisions.
- *Career Information Centres* – are managed through Centrelink and provide a free career information service to all Australians. There are 12 Centres across Australia.
- *Australian Vocational Students Prize and the PMs Award for Skills Excellence* – were introduced in 2005 to recognise 500 outstanding Year 12 students who have demonstrated excellence in vocational education and training.

Administered Activities - Youth

Youth Engagement - the department administers the following Australian Government programs and initiatives supporting young Australians to transition to independence and providing particular assistance to vulnerable young people:

- *The Australian Youth Forum* – will serve as a formal communication channel between the Australian Government and young people, youth policy specialists and the youth sector in general. It will ensure that young people have a framework for putting forward their ideas and concerns direct to the Australian Government. The Forum will work with young people, youth policy specialists and the youth sector to develop an integrated agenda for young people that will influence the Australian Government's policy and program development.

DEEWR Budget Statements – Outcomes & performance – Outcome 5

- *YouthLinx* – is a prevention and early intervention program that supports young people aged 11 to 16 and their families build self reliance, strengthen their family relationships and encourage community involvement. The long term interdependent goals of YouthLinx are to:
 - improve the capacity and resilience of young people
 - strengthen the resilience of their families
 - increase young people’s social and economic participation in the community.
- *Mentor Marketplace* – assists the growth of successful existing mentoring activities to improve life outcomes for young people, particularly those at greatest risk of disconnection from their families, community, education, training and the workplace. Mentor Marketplace targets young people aged 12 to 25 years, including, but not restricted to those in foster care, young carers, young people with disabilities, Indigenous young people, and those from disadvantaged groups and localities. The program aims to provide young people with practical support and guidance to help prevent them from developing patterns of behaviour, which will place them at risk of disconnection.
- *Transition to Independent Living Allowance* –helps the transition of young people from care to independent living arrangements. The allowance is available to young people aged between 15 and 25 years who are about to, or have exited, state-based care and/or informal care such as: juvenile justice; out-of-home care; or Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander kinship care arrangements.

Departmental activities – Youth

The Office for Youth will be established within the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. It will enable a greater focus on youth affairs through the identification of key issues impacting on young Australians. The Office will identify opportunities for better integration of policy and program settings across the Australian Government and monitor the impacts of these on young people. Through early engagement in the policy development process, it will ensure that the Government’s considerable investment in young people is evidence-based, strategic, coherent and effective.

Performance information for Outcome 5

Programs and initiatives delivered by the department which contribute to Outcome 5 form part of a wider set of factors that affect that Outcome. The indicators in Table 2.5A provide an indication of the overall trends under Outcome 5.

Table 2.5A: Effectiveness Indicators for outcome 5

| |
|---|
| <p>Transitions to Work and Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in student participation in vocational education and training (VET) in schools and work placements • Trends in schools-business partnerships |
| <p>Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in the number of youth assisted (Mentor Marketplace, transition to Independent Living Allowance, YouthLinx) |

Table 2.5B: Performance information for Administered Outputs

| Performance Indicator | 2007 Estimate | 2007 Est Actual | 2008 Estimate |
|---|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Careers, Transitions and Partnerships | | | |
| Number of young people supported through: | | | |
| • Youth Pathways | 25,500 | 30,383 | 25,500 |
| • Connections Program | 3,000 | 1,947 | 3,000 |
| • Structured Workplace Learning | 65,000 | 78,927 | 80,000 |
| Number of schools supported through: | | | |
| • Career and Transition Support | 3,128 | 2,548 | 2,600 |
| • Adopt a School | 1,000 | 1,209 | 1,400 |
| Number of students supported through Adopt a School | 16,000 | 22,694 | 25,000 |
| Regional Industry Career Advisers (RICA) Network: | 57 | 57 | 57 |
| • Number of contracts | 57 | 57 | 57 |
| • Number of service regions | | | |
| Number of industry sectors with contracts in place to deliver National Industry Career Specialist (NICS) Network services | 10 | 10 | 10 |

Table 2.5B: Performance information for Administered Outputs (cont)

| Performance Indicator | 2007 Estimate | 2007 Est Actual | 2008 Estimate |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Youth Engagement | | | |
| Mentor Marketplace • Number of young people assisted | 3,200 | 2,560 | 2,560 |
| Transition to Independent Living Allowance • Maximum number of young people able to be assisted within allocation • Number of young people accessing the Transition to Independent Living Allowance | 2,500 1,300 | 2,000 1,441 | 2,500 1,600 |
| YouthLinx • Number of contacts with young people through Youthlinx activities • Number of families engaged through Youthlinx family support activities • Number of young people engaged through Youthlinx family support activities | 250,000 10,000 20,000 | 298,441 13,359 39,891 | 300,000 13,500 40,000 |
| <i>Quality</i> • Percentage of young people and service providers reporting positive outcomes from participation in YouthLinx activities • Percentage of young people, their families and service providers reporting positive outcomes from contact with YouthLinx for family support activities | 85% 85% | 92% 88% | 92% 90% |

Table 2.5C: Performance information for Departmental Outputs

| Performance Indicator | 2008-09 Estimate |
|--|--|
| Program Management | |
| <i>Quality</i> | |
| Payments are made in accordance with approved timelines | All programs to meet relevant administrative targets set by quality assurance processes in DEEWR |
| Payments made are based on calculations which are accurate and in accordance with approved guidelines | All programs to meet relevant administrative targets set by quality assurance processes in DEEWR |
| Timeliness of Parliamentary reports (including interim responses where appropriate) provided to Parliament and its Committees | At least 90 per cent meet deadline |
| The Office for Youth is established by 1 July 2008 and officially launched. | Milestones are met |
| The Australian Youth Forum is established by October 2008 as a voice to government for young people and the youth sector. | Milestone is met |
| Consultations are undertaken in all States and Territories to support the development of the Australian Youth Forum. | Milestone is met |
| High quality Ministerial replies as measured by the level of satisfaction of Ministers with the quality and timeliness of the replies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative evaluation of satisfaction using feedback from the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary. • Analysis of trends over time to monitor percentage delivered within agreed timeframes. |
| Policy Services | |
| <i>Quality</i> | |
| High quality policy advice as measured by the level of satisfaction of Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretary with the quality and timeliness of policy advice. | Qualitative evaluation of satisfaction and timeliness using feedback from the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary |
| High quality research and evaluation reports as measured by the level of satisfaction of Ministers with the quality and timeliness of the reports | Qualitative evaluation of satisfaction using feedback to the Secretary from Ministers and Parliamentary Secretary. |
| Research activities are completed according to plan | At least 90 per cent completed to plan |