

# Youth Support Coordinator Initiative - 2014

## Context

The Department of Education, Training and Employment is committed to supporting all young people to engage in education or training in order to enhance opportunities for further education and sustainable employment.

From the 2014 school year, the Youth Support Coordinator Initiative (YSCI) will be refocused to target young people in the crucial period of Years 10 – 12 to support retention and attainment.

## Allocation Methodology

Eligible schools will receive their funding allocation directly from the department to be used to purchase front line services. As is currently the case, not all schools will receive a service from the YSCI.

The allocation methodology is based on the size of the school (50 or more students in the target group) and level of need (using the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage [ICSEA], which incorporates factors such as socioeconomic background, rural and remote locations and Indigeneity). This methodology seeks to ensure that students who are most in need receive services to support their engagement with education.

Regions will each be allocated one full-time equivalent (FTE) AO7 position to employ a Regional Youth Support Coordinator.

## Direct Funding

Direct funding will give schools more control over decisions and more flexibility on how to meet the needs of their students and community.

The FTE allocation to schools will be at the AO3 level (mid-level range equates to approximately \$55,000 plus oncosts).

Schools will make local decisions on how the FTE allocation will be utilised. Options include:

- directly employ a youth support coordinator
- top-up existing youth worker time at the school (e.g. student welfare worker)
- convert the allocation to cash to:
  - establish an agreement with a non-government organisation to deliver a youth support role
  - purchase external programs (e.g. Get Set For Work) on an as needs basis
- cluster with other local schools to pool funds.

### **Directly employ a youth support coordinator**

Schools receiving an allocation under the YSCI model may choose to directly employ a youth support coordinator either individually or by pooling their allocation with other local schools. A role description is currently being developed centrally and will be available for schools in the near future.



This option provides the advantage to schools of maximising the amount of front-line service from their FTE allocation by leveraging off the corporate resources of the department. Eligible schools choosing this option will need to undertake local recruitment processes and will assume line management responsibilities for the youth support coordinator.

As with other public servants working in schools, Youth Support Coordinators will be permitted to negotiate with their line managers to work above 7¼ hours to enable them to accrue additional hours to cover time off during school holiday periods.

At this time the department is exploring a number of models for professional supervision, however a decision in relation to this has not yet been finalised. More information will be provided in due course.

### Top-up existing youth worker time

Eligible schools may elect to use their FTE allocation to 'top-up' existing student welfare worker hours in the school, in accordance with current practices. While either student welfare workers or chaplains can be accessed under the Chaplaincy/Pastoral Care Funding Program, chaplains may not be topped up through the YSCI funding.

Funds may be used to purchase services or top up existing services from Student Welfare Workers, Social Workers or Psychologists to work with students and their families (where appropriate) in Years 10 to 12 who are at risk of disengaging from education.

Type of Service	Top-up Existing	Purchase new service	Target client group
Student Welfare Worker	Yes	Yes	Years 10 - 12
Social Worker/Psychologist	Yes	Yes	Years 10 - 12
Guidance Officer	No	No	Years 10 - 12
Teacher Aide	No	No	Years 10 - 12
Chaplain	No	No	Years 10 - 12

### Convert allocation to cash

Eligible schools may choose to convert their FTE allocation to cash which may then be used to establish an agreement for purchase of services with a non-government organisation to deliver a youth support role in the school or in a cluster of schools.

A formula based on the average AO3 salary level including 'on-costs' will be made available to schools to enable them to calculate the funds they have available under the YSCI. Converting the allocation to cash will provide schools with control and flexibility regarding the specific utilisation of the funding.

A list of preferred providers that meet minimum standards will be developed for each region and made available for schools to identify appropriate organisations and begin brokering services from a non-government agency.

Purchase of services from non-government organisations will result in a lower level of frontline service than the direct employment option. This is due to management fees charged by non-government agencies, however, these fees are directed toward the line management responsibilities of the organisation for the youth support worker.



Alternatively, schools may choose to purchase external programs (e.g. Get Set For Work) on an as needs basis. This may also occur by pooling resources in a cluster model with other schools.

### Cluster approach

As many schools will receive a pro-rata allocation of an FTE position (e.g. 0.2), schools may choose to create a cluster model, pooling their allocations to apply to a chosen option. A preference for this option should be discussed with the region who can facilitate and support this model, if required.

Schools entering into cluster arrangements with other schools will need to negotiate agreement between regarding recruitment, site-base and line management leadership of the youth support coordinator or negotiation and management relationship with non-government organisation.

### Support

The department will host a web-conference in July to discuss the various options available to schools and outline the consultation requirement in further detail.

### Consultation

A community consultation process will be required prior to finalising the school's direction for 2014. This might include:

- P&C/school council
- Staff consultation, including current school support staff
- Local consultative committee
- Other local schools receiving an allocation in 2014, if applicable
- Consultation with the current non-government organisation provider, if applicable.

### Notification

By **31 August 2013**, schools that have been advised they will receive an FTE allocation under the YSCI model must notify the Regional Youth Support Coordinator which option has been chosen.

Regional Youth Support Coordinator contact details are below:

REGION	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
South East	Sarah Taylor	<a href="mailto:Sarah.TAYLOR@dete.qld.gov.au">Sarah.TAYLOR@dete.qld.gov.au</a> 0439 722 714
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