

Background to Reform

- As of December 31st 2013, the YSCI as we now know it will cease to exist. The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS) will remove its approx 4 million contribution and the Department of Education, Training and Employment (DETE) will take their 9.6 million and contribute it to what they are calling the 'reform' of the YSCI.
- There is no name change – this reform will continue to be called the Youth Support Coordinator Initiative but will have a change of focus on young people at risk of early school leaving in years 10-12.
- Not all schools will receive a YSC Service, in fact many schools who are currently being supported by a YSC service will no longer receive support.
- DETE are moving to a direct funding approach, meaning that schools will be allocated funding based on their need. Schools will then have a choice regarding how they utilise their funding. This acknowledges DETE movement towards local decision make powers for schools.
- No money is being retained in DETE Central Office for administrative or program management costs; all funding will be distributed to schools for use at their discretion.
- Minimum funding for schools will be .2 FTE.
- 7 Regional YSC positions will continue in line with new funding post 2013.

Allocation Methodology

- An unreleased formula has been developed within DETE central office, which takes into account the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) across Queensland which incorporates:
 - socioeconomic background
 - rural and remote locations
 - Indigeneity
- DETE are also calculating the need for support based on a schools enrolment numbers from years 10-12 (50 students +).
- If the School fails to make the 50 + student enrolments in years 10-12 then they are automatically not eligible for a reformed YSCI service. This formula this excludes many P – 10 schools and many rural, regional & remote schools who struggle to make these enrolment numbers.
- Eligible schools have been advised of their allocation; however this has not been made public. Some YSCs have been advised of whether their school/s has received a funding allocation via the school.
- DETE has verbally reported that a list of schools, including their funding allocation would be made public on their website in due course.

How schools can utilise their funding allocation

Directly employ a youth support coordinator

Meaning that the school will directly employ a worker themselves, this may or may not be the existing YSC worker for that school. If the school has never received a YSC Service, it is not likely to be an existing YSC.

Top-up existing youth worker time at the school (e.g. student welfare worker)

DETE have made it clear that this funding is not to be used to 'top up' Guidance Officers or Chaplains. However if there is an existing youth worker in the school/counsellor/psychologist this money can be utilised.

Convert the allocation to cash to:

Establish an agreement with a non-government organisation to deliver a youth support role
NGO's will have to register with DETE to be a 'preferred provider' and meet a set of minimum standards (unreleased) to participate in this option, unless the NGO already has a relationship with the school. ALL NGO's state-wide are entitled to apply to be preferred providers, not just those who auspice the original YSCI. The allocated funding for this position is the Community Services equivalent to public service A03. It has been discussed that this amount of money makes it almost untenable for some NGO's. After program management

fees, it will be difficult for these NGO's who wish to support their workers to have access to appropriate resources i.e. supervision, transport and mobile phones within this funding model.

Purchase external programs on an as needs basis

DETE are proposing to create an online list of 'approved' programs for schools to access programs. This would be a suitable option for those schools receiving a minimum funding allocation.

Cluster with other local schools to pool funds.

Again, this would be relevant to those schools who have received a minimum funding allocation and wish to 'share' a worker with other schools in order to make a FTE position.

Operation of the Reformed YSCI

- Schools need to have decided on how they will utilise their funding by the 31st August and must advise their Regional Youth Support Coordinator.
- There will be no central monitoring or accountability process – each school will be responsible for its funding; however there is a suggestion that the DETE Oneschool system may be used to capture data for the reformed YSCI. This is undetermined and will not work for all proposed models.
- The funding has been confirmed for a 3 year cycle, with no change in allocation methodology during this period.