Story of Re-Engagement progress thus far

The genesis of this project goes back at least to 2003 with the publication of a discussion paper entitled *What Are Schools For?*. In that report, YANQ welcomed the Beattie Government’s plans to fund community organisations to employ youth workers in schools around Queensland.

In the same report, however, we also called for greater support for young people who were marginalised from education and not attending schools (and therefore unable to benefit from the support of youth workers in schools).

Since that report, YANQ has continued to agitate for greater support for young people who are disengaged from schooling through a range of publications and research projects, such as the following:

**2004** *Let’s Invite Everyone*, a discussion paper written to encourage discussion and debate about the ETRF process.

**2005-2006** Submissions to the State Government’s review of Education Laws in Queensland.

**2008** A small research project, *A Snapshot of Queensland’s Re-Engagement Services*, was undertaken to assess the level and nature of support that was available for young people (12 to 18) who were disenfranchised from education and work. This project highlighted the inconsistent (and in some cases non-existent) levels of support for young people who had become disengaged from education and were rarely, if ever, attending school.

**2010** A pilot study undertaken in collaboration with the University of Queensland and Griffith University collected data from a small, diverse group of alternative schools in South-East Queensland, identified some of the practices that have engaged marginalised young people facing very difficult life circumstances and resulted in a YANQ publication: *Re-engaging Students in Education: Success Factors in Alternative Schools*.

Based on these previous projects, YANQ made the decision to commit significant time and energy into improving our advocacy for young people marginalised from education – and so the Re-engagement Project was born.

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**Current Project**

**Project Length**: 3 years (2012-2014)

**Funding**
Australian Research Council supported collaboration (ARC Linkage Project: LP 120100141)

**Research project overview**
This project explores the provision of existing alternative/flexible learning pathways in Queensland for young people who have become disengaged from mainstream schooling. It seeks to assess educational principles and practices that work in such sites so as to develop a framework of educational ‘best practice’ that may inform this sector.

**Who is involved**
YANQ Network, project partners and researchers from The University of Queensland and Griffith University.

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**Project Timeline**

- **Stage One** (Jan-April 2012)
  - MAPPING OF REENGAGEMENT SITES

- **Stage Two** (May-Dec 2012)
  - SURVEYS

- **Stage Three** (Jun 2012 - 2013)
  - INDEPTH CASE STUDIES

- **Stage Four** (2013-2014)
  - CASE STUDIES, FRAMEWORK AND REPORT

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**Goals of YANQ Re-Engagement Project**

**Goal One**
To map re-engagement services available to young Queenslanders – i.e. services that support young people to re-engage with meaningful learning of some form.

**Goal Two**
Encourage a deeper understanding within the youth sector, governments and the community about disengagement and the types of re-engagement services that can work in different communities.

**Goal Three**
Develop, articulate and publish models of successful re-engagement services.

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**How to Get Involved**

Share your stories and your resources
Have resources and stories that may be useful for the project? Please share them with us!

Join the YANQ Re-engagement Network
Receive up to date news on the Project by joining the Re-engagement Network.

Become a project partner
You can become a project partner through a financial or in-kind contribution to the project.

Become a member of YANQ
Join YANQ and support our work. You will get regular email updates, free newsletters and discounts on our other publications.

To get involved, contact...
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Youth Affairs Network Qld

Project Partners

Griffith University
The University of Queensland
Edmund Rice Education Australia
Edmund Rice Education Australia

Brisbane North and West Youth Connections Consortium
Youth Connections
Bond University Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
Edmund Rice Education Australia