Preparing Students with Disabilities for Transition

An information session for Parents and Educators of Young People with disabilities or learning difficulties in Secondary School in Victoria
The Importance of Transition Planning

• ‘He who fails to plan, plans to fail’
  Proverb

• Getting transition right is the biggest issue in success for people with disabilities.

• ‘Students who had assistance in planning for transition while at school were 30% more likely to succeed’
  - Rod McDonald, ITHACA Researcher
Personal Transition Stories

- Lauren Blair
  Employee, McDonalds

- Heather Fearn-Wannen
  Parent
Getting Ready

• Career Development is the complex process of managing life, learning and work - ‘Getting the Life you Love’

• Developing the skills and tools to manage their future

• Be aware of your young person’s interests, strengths and skills.

• Work out what additional skills they may need to focus on before leaving school.
Making a Career Action Plan with my team

The Victorian Careers Curriculum Framework

- customised quality career development program for young people which is embedded across the curriculum
- ensures all young people can develop knowledge and skills to manage their career pathway planning
- includes Career Action Plan templates for all students and customised plans for students with a disability

Each young person should be supported to develop a Career Action Plan (Managed Individual Pathway)
Making a transition plan with my team

When are the transition meetings?

- This differs from school to school.
- Career Action Plans do not replace Individual Learning Plans

What is my role as a parent?

Parents can be involved:

- In the formation and regular updating of the CAP
- By making reference to this process in Student Support Group meetings
- Attending Futures for Young Adults meetings
- Being an advocate for their child.
- Be the Career Ally
Preparing and Connecting

- Is the Career Action Plan just about deciding what they want to do or is there more to it?
- How do we connect with my young person’s post-school option?
- Why do we need to connect before they leave school?
- What do I do with the CAPs document at the end of the year?
• What is ‘Futures’?

• What is ‘Transition to Employment’?

• How do I know if my young person is eligible?
  o be a permanent resident of Victoria
  o be leaving school
  o be turning 18 on or before 31 December of the year they finish school
  o have support at school

• If they are eligible how do we apply? When?
  o FFYA registration forms are primarily available through school
  o early Term 2
  o from Disability Intake and the department 1800 783 783
Futures for Young Adults and Transition to Employment

- What can Futures provide?
  - information and assistance to access further education, training,
  - employment or where required, disability supports
  - support and encouragement to try a range of options
  - development and implementation of a transition plan
  - Transition to Employment (TTE)
  - Safety Net available

- Who can I talk to today about this?
  - FFYA, Transition to Employment – Robyn Browne
Centrelink funding and support

- What is the Disability Support Pension?
  To qualify for DSP, a person must:
  - have turned 16 years and at the time of claiming be under Age Pension age, **and**
  - satisfy the residence criteria, **and**
  - be permanently blind or
  - An appropriate level of medical impairment **and** work capacity are assessed together to determine eligibility for DSP. The nature and duration of the customer's medical condition and the impact of that condition on their ability to work. The condition must be fully treated, diagnosed and stabilised.
Centrelink funding and support

- Why would my young person need this instead of just the Youth Allowance?
  - Parental income is not taken into account
  - At this stage there is no compulsory participation requirements
  - Financially Higher rate of payment
  - May be eligible for additional payments such as Mobility Allowance and Pensioner Education Supplement

- How do I know if they are eligible?
  - Lodge a claim and test eligibility or visit WWW. Centrelink.gov.au to find out further information
Centrelink funding and support

• When and how should we apply?
  o For Disability Support Pension a claim can be lodged up to 3 months prior to child turning 16. Contact Centrelink for a claim pack.
  o For Youth Allowance depending on if you are a Student, Job Seeker or Apprentice please contact Centrelink for information as to when you can lodge your claim.

• Are there any other benefits Centrelink can provide I should know about?
  o Employment help with Job Services Australia and the Disability Employment Network
  o Referrals to other appropriate community organisations

We strongly encourage you to discuss your individual circumstance with Centrelink for more detailed information.
Further Education

What is Further Education?
  o Accredited education provided by Universities, TAFEs and Private providers (RTOs)

How do I apply?
  o Directly to TAFE departments/RTOs or via VTAC

What is SEAS?
  o Special Entry Access Scheme via VTAC

What if I don’t get offered a uni place?
  o Alternative Entry – Bridging courses, Pathways programs, Mid semester intake, TAFE articulation
Further Education

• What supports are available?
  o Qualified Careers Advisors
  o Course Advisors
  o Disability Liaison Officers (DLO)
  o Financial support via Centrelink or Scholarships

• Who do we contact and when?
  o After applying for your course, contact the DLO before your course begins

• Scholarships
  o VTAC, TAFEs & Universities and www.adcet.edu.au
Apprenticeships/Traineeships

• **What is an Apprenticeship/Traineeship?**
  o A contract to train
  o Learning on the Job and at TAFE/Registered Training Provider

• **Why is it an option to consider?**
  o Support from Apprenticeship Field Officer, Apprenticeship Support Officer, AAC Field Officer, Learner Services through TAFEs
  o Disability support from Federal Government including:
     – Disabled Australian Apprenticeship Wage Support. (DAAWS)
     – Tutorial, mentoring or other assistance with TAFE training.
I’m interested in a Apprenticeship or Traineeship – where to from here?

- Careers Advisors at school
- Normal avenues of job seeking
- Job Network Agencies
- Australian Apprenticeship Centres and/or Group training companies.
- TAFES (Pre-apprenticeship or other specific training programs)

Who can I talk to today about this?
• Why have a job?
  Independence, responsibility, learning, friends, social inclusion, personal growth, social standing & be a valued member of community.

• DES ... Disability Employment Service Providers
  Job search support including:
  o Resume development
  o Career planning
  o Training referrals/RTO’s
  o In-house skills development
  o Employer canvassing
  o Support in accessing other services

  Employment support including:
  o Full on the job training support/ Work trainers
  o Ongoing post placement support
  o Centrelink support
**My Young person wants a job!**

- How do you contact a DES provider? Direct registration when student is still at school means no need for a JCA, and referral from Centrelink.

- When? From age **15** if wanting part time work while still at school.

- Are there special eligibility requirements?
  - Legal working age if staying at school
  - Legal leaving age if leaving school
  - Not currently working for more than 8 hours a week
  - Support from educational provider regarding need for support due to the nature of their disability, condition or impairment.
Volunteering

- Australians volunteer over 713 million hours of community service a year.

- 55.5% of people in East Gippsland volunteer compared to only 30% in Melbourne.

- The top reasons for volunteering were:
  - ‘Helping others or the community’ 57%
  - ‘Personal satisfaction’ 44%,
  - ‘To do something worthwhile’ 36%.
Volunteering

• What types of volunteering is available?
  - Caring for people
  - Caring for places
  - Emergency service volunteering
  - Administration
  - Fundraising & events

• How can I find volunteer work?
  - Contact an organisation in the Volunteer in East Gippsland Brochure
  - Check online at www.volunteer.vic.gov.au
Day Programs

• What is a Day Program?
• How and when do we access them?
• Do they all cost the same & offer the same things?
• How do I work out which one to choose?
• How are they paid for?
• Who can I talk to today about this?
• Please take advantage of the available stallholders to make connections & have your questions answered.