



Jan 2010

Futures for Young Adults

Information sheet for 2011 school leavers

Futures for Young Adults Program

Futures for Young Adults (FFYA) is a program funded by the Department of Human Services (DHS) that can provide focused support for young people with a disability if they need additional assistance to make the transition to post school options. The support is available for up to three years.

To receive support through FFYA you must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- be a permanent resident of Victoria
- be leaving school in 2011
- be turning 18 years of age on or before 31 December 2011
- assessed as eligible and currently receiving support through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's (DEECD) Program for Students with Disabilities or the equivalent in the Catholic and Independent sector.

If you meet the eligibility for FFYA then you may be provided with:

- support from a transition planner to help you explore a range of post school options and set goals for the future
- information and assistance to access further education, training, employment and community participation options.

The FFYA program has a **Safety Net** provision so that you can seek advice and support from FFYA transition planners at any time during the three year eligibility period. This provides flexibility to allow you to try some employment, training and community activities independently and still have the opportunity to seek support from FFYA until you turn 21 years of age.

What types of choices are available after leaving school?

Before you leave school you can talk to your teachers about the different sorts of things that you may like to try after completing school. You will be able to work with your teachers and the transition planner to find out about the types of supports available. FFYA aims to support and encourage people to try a range of options.

FFYA is not the only way you can get support to explore your options though. There are a range of services in the community that are set up to help people, including young people with a disability, to find work, or move onto further education or become involved in their local community.

Exploring the Possibilities provides a good starting point to help you navigate the range of options available. A copy of *Exploring the Possibilities* is available at

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/disability.

What is Transition to Employment?

The Transition to Employment (TTE) initiative in Victoria is being developed as part of the FFYA program and provides a clear pathway for young people with a disability leaving school who are interested in pursuing further education, training and employment. TTE is focused on providing support to individuals who are not yet ready to move directly into employment or receive assistance through a Commonwealth employment program.

If you are interested in exploring employment or post school education, you may be eligible to access additional funds and supports via a TTE provider to give you an even better chance of achieving your goals.

If you are allocated a planner, they will be able to talk to you about whether you are eligible or suitable for TTE supports.

How FFYA help you plan for the future?

A transition planner will organise to meet with you and the important people in your life to talk about what things you may wish to do when you leave school. Planning is directed by you and you may choose to involve your family or key support people.

What to think about before your meeting?

- What are you good at and what types of things do you like doing?
- What you would like to do when you leave school?
- What types of skills do you need to develop to achieve your goals?

- How can your family, friends, teachers or key support help you to achieve your goals?
- What other support will help you achieve your goals?

What is a goal?

A goal is something you work towards in the future. They may include things you want to learn or activities you would like to be involved in, for example my goal is to get a job.

What will happen when you meet with the transition planner?

At this meeting you can talk about what you want to do and who can support you. The things agreed to in the meeting will be written down in your Transition Plan. These things may include:

- trying new things
- participating in more training and developing new skills
- becoming more independent
- being more involved in your community or
- getting a job.

Putting your Plan into action

You will then work with the people or services identified on your plan to achieve your goals. A copy of a plan will be given to you.

Reviewing your Plan

A decision will be made with you, and the people supporting you about who will review the plan and when this will be done. This means that you get together with the people supporting

you to decide if you are doing what you said you wanted to do or if there need to be changes made.

Examples of who may review the plan are:

- a staff member from an agency providing you with a service
- a transition planner
- a case manager
- you, a family member or another important person in your life.

Where can I find out more?

Further information about FFYA and post school options is available on the internet at www.dhs.vic.gov.au/disability or by calling the regional Intake and Response Service on 1800 783 783.