

SUPPORTING DISENGAGED PEOPLE AGED 12-17

The Victorian Government will aim to increase the numbers of young people connected to school and engaged in learning with a new initiative.

Utilising \$8.6 million in new investment, a two-year Navigator service pilot will support young people aged 12-17 years who are not connected to schools at all or at risk of disengaging.

It will aim to increase the numbers of young people connected to school and engaged in learning.

HOW WILL NAVIGATOR WORK?

Navigator will be a hands-on, proactive service delivered by schools and community agencies. Services will be established across the state, each tailored to its local community.

Providers will be responsible for improving outcomes for young people, linking them to support services and interventions, and supporting them to re-engage with education and training.

Through regular contact, providers will track and monitor young people, report on outcomes, identify gaps in local services and support planning to address these gaps.

HOW IS SUPPORT FOR DISENGAGED YOUNG PEOPLE CHANGING?

The Department of Education and Training will establish a Disengaged Students Register in 2016 to track young people leaving schools who may need support.

There is no Victorian or Commonwealth funding that delivers direct support to young people who are disengaged and not enrolled at school to support re-engagement. The Navigator service will fill this gap.

There are two existing complementary services:

- The Victorian Government spends about \$8 million a year on the School Focused Youth Services (SFYS), which works within schools to support young people at risk.
- The Victorian Government has also committed to provide \$32 million over four years to Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLEN) to continue supporting young people at risk of disengaging with education, training and employment opportunities.

Neither of these services provide direct support to disengaged young people, which is where Navigator will come in.

The new service will draw on evidence from the former Youth Connections program which delivered consistently positive outcomes in getting young people back into education and training.

An evaluation found that case management and flexible support were key to the success of the Youth Connections program, which the Commonwealth Government stopped funding in February this year.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR MY CHILD/SCHOOL?

The Department will seek applications from service providers, including schools and community agencies, through an open tender process to deliver Navigator. It may run in community settings or be co-located with a school.

At the point of leaving school, children will be referred to Navigator by schools, TAFEs and Registered Training Organisations, and department staff.

Navigator will support the most disengaged young people in the state to get back on the education path and achieve their potential.

"Some kids come to school and are not in a position to be ready to learn. Teachers cannot manage all of the welfare issues as well as teach the class."

Parent

"It's about preventative action rather than waiting for issues to happen and band-aiding them. We need integration of services and a focus on health and wellbeing – parenting, mental health and physical health."

Community member

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

The Victorian Government will invest \$8.6 million over two years in the Navigator pilot program to support disengaged young people.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Navigator, see:
www.education.vic.gov.au