

Futures for Young Adults

Information Sheet for New Participants 2008 School Leavers

Futures for Young Adults (FFYA) 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 assistance beyond the usual supports available to make the transition to a range of post school options. The support is available for up to three years.

To receive support through FFYA you must meet the eligibility criteria and then you may be provided with:

- assistance from a FFYA transition planner to explore a range of post school options
- information about generic, community and specialist supports
- information and support to access disability supports, if required

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.

Further information regarding eligibility criteria and the FFYA program can be obtained by contacting Intake and Response on 1800 783 783 or at www.dhs.vic.gov.au/futures

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 FFYA transition planner to find out about the types of supports available. FFYA aims to support and encourage people to try a range of options. The types of choices available are:

- further education and training to improve your chances of getting a job
- participating in activities or programs to develop your skills and confidence for being involved in the community or
- actively seeking employment opportunities

What are other ways of getting support?

FFYA is not the only way you can get support. 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. DHS has prepared an information sheet called *Post School Pathways for Students with a Disability 2008* which provides information about the different ways to get support.

What types of support are provided through the FFYA Programme?

Funds may be provided if:

- support will help achieve the goals written on your plan
- support in the community is not currently available
- support provided through government subsidy or assistance programs is not available, for example the Mobility Allowance, Centrelink

- the support is not related to costs that other people in the community would normally have to pay. For example funding of personal holidays or interests not linked to needs identified on the plan, fee relief, purchasing educational resources would not be funded.

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 worker
- a case manager or
- you, a family member or another important person in your life

Longer Term Support

In some cases people may need support that goes on for longer than the 3 years provided through FFYA. If this is the case, the types of supports required to meet your goals will be identified in the final year of the FFYA program as part of the annual review process.

Where can I find out more?

Further information about FFYA is available on the Internet at www.dhs.vic.gov.au/futures or by calling the regional Intake and Response Service on 1800 783 783