

# Community Options

## Information for existing Futures for Young Adults participants, families and carers

December 2006

### Background

Futures for Young Adults (FFYA) is a transition program that supports young adults with a disability to make the transition from school to adult life.

In May 2003, the Minister for Community Services announced that the FFYA program would be refocused on achieving better outcomes for young people with disabilities leaving school.

*New Directions for Futures for Young Adults, Guidelines 2005* identified that FFYA supports will be provided for up to three years to assist young people to transition from school to adult options.

As part of this renewed focus, new guidelines have been developed for existing and new FFYA participants.

1. *Existing Participants Years 1-8, Guidelines 2005* - for those participants who have accessed the program from 1997 to 2004
2. *New Directions for Futures for Young Adults, Guidelines 2005* - covering young people who entered the program from 2005

### Frequently asked questions

#### What is new for existing FFYA participants?

##### FFYA review

All FFYA participants (years 1-8) will have the opportunity to participate in a review of their current situation. This review may be coordinated by a transition planner from either the Department of Human Services or a funded provider and will involve the person receiving

support, their family or carer and other key support people.

As part of the review meeting, a plan will be developed that outlines whether the person would like to continue at their current service, try other activities in the community, or access other supports separate from FFYA funding. Participants may want to try something different on a trial basis.

#### What other options are available?

Since FFYA commenced, a range of new programs have been established. People interested in these can contact a FFYA transition planner to find out what's available. These options may include:

- work experience placements and pre-employment training programs
- help to find a job
- volunteer work
- attending other programs in the local area such as sporting clubs, recreation and leisure, and education and training.

#### What if the person wants to try something new and then changes their mind?

Some people may want to try something new on a trial basis. An agreement will be made between the current service provider and the new service provider to identify the length of the trial period. A transition planner will be able to assist in organising this. In some cases, the person may want to return to their previous service provider following a trial period.

## Community Options packages for participants accessing the FFYA program from 1997-2004

Some people, who have been receiving funding through the FFYA program, require ongoing specialist disability supports.

Community Options is for FFYA participants who:

- have completed their transition from school to a stable adult option through FFYA
- have moderate to high complex support needs and require disability specific supports.

## How do people transfer to Community Options?

If the FFYA review identifies that the person meets the criteria for Community Options, their funding will be transferred. A letter confirming the transfer will be sent to the person, their key support network and their current service provider. When a person transfers to Community Options their current supports do not need to change.

As with FFYA, Community Options funding will continue to remain with the person, so there will still be an opportunity for the person to try a range of things.

## Will participants have reviews once they transfer to Community Options?

People transferring to Community Options will have a review meeting at least once a year by their current service provider to make sure that the program continues to meet their needs. If a person would like to try other things and doesn't feel comfortable raising it with the current service provider, then contact can be made with the relevant regional Intake and Response Service within Victoria by calling **1800 783 783**.

## How to get more information about FFYA and Community Options?

To get more information about the FFYA and Community Options programs:

- contact your local regional Department of Human Services Office on **1800 783 783**
- go to [www.dhs.vic.gov.au/futures](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/futures) or Disability Online, for information regarding a broad range of disability services [www.disability.vic.gov.au](http://www.disability.vic.gov.au)

### Regional contact numbers

Barwon-South Western  
Eastern Metropolitan Region  
Gippsland Region  
Grampians Region  
Hume Region  
Loddon Mallee Region  
North & West Region  
Southern Metropolitan Region

**Telephone: 1800 783 783**

**TTY: 1800 008 149**