

# Futures for Young Adults

## Information for new participants, families and carers

Bulletin No.6 September 2006

### Background

Futures for Young Adults (FFYA) has been operating for ten years and has helped over 6,000 young people with disabilities make the transition from school to adult life.

*New Directions for Futures for Young Adults, Guidelines 2005* was introduced to give the program a greater emphasis on the following three important areas:

- earlier and better transition planning
- the identification of a variety of opportunities for young people when they leave school
- employment pathways for young people, where appropriate.

### The FFYA Program

FFYA can provide information about a wide range of activities and services that help people make a successful transition from school. Support can be provided for up to three years and may include:

- advice and guidance regarding the availability of post-school options
- identification and referral to appropriate post-school programs
- provision of funding to specialist disability services to assist young people achieve their goals.

FFYA can help young people participate in:

- community based education and training
- community based activities aimed at developing specific skills
- valued social activities within the local community
- work experience placements.

### Some frequently asked questions

#### Who is eligible for FFYA Support?

To be eligible for FFYA support for 2007 you must:

- be a permanent resident of Victoria
- be aged 18 years of age before 31 December 2006

- have been assessed as eligible to receive and be currently receiving support at school through the Department of Education and Training's Program for Students with a Disability or equivalent in the Catholic or Independent school sector.

#### How do I get support from FFYA?

To get support from FFYA you need to submit a FFYA referral form which is available through schools, Department of Human Services regional offices or online at

[www.dhs.vic.gov.au/futures](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/futures)

Alternatively, you can call Disability Intake and Response Service on **1800 783 783** to find out about applying for FFYA support.

#### What is the role of a transition planner?

Transition planners assist FFYA participants and their families to explore the types of post-school options that are available. FFYA transition planners meet with FFYA participants, family members, carers and schools to develop and review transition plans and provide information regarding available post-school options.

#### What are FFYA reviews?

FFYA reviews identify whether the transition plan is assisting the young person to achieve their goals or if different support is needed. The Department of Human Services recognises the important role that family members and caregivers play in supporting young people with a disability in the planning process. A FFYA review is a meeting between a FFYA participant, their family/carers or representatives of their choice and their transition planner. FFYA reviews should happen every 12 months or as required.

#### What is the FFYA Safety Net?

The 'Safety Net' gives a young person time to try employment, further education, training or community activities independent of the FFYA program and keep the flexibility to seek advice and support from FFYA until 31 December in the year they turn 21 years of age.

## How can FFYA help people access employment?

If a young person with a disability wishes to access employment, FFYA transition planners can link them with specialist pre-employment training programs or open employment services to help them find a job. The Commonwealth Government funds open and supported employment services.

## Can Transport Accident Commission (TAC) clients receive advice and information regarding FFYA?

Yes, FFYA transition planners are available to provide information and planning assistance to TAC clients. Funding for disability supports will be provided directly from the TAC.

## What will happen after the three-year transition period?

The Department of Human Services recognises that there are some FFYA participants who will require ongoing disability support. The Victorian Government has recently allocated 200 packages of support to people who require this ongoing assistance. The Department of Human Services will consult with disability advocacy agencies from September 2006 to develop criteria for the allocation of these ongoing support packages.

## What if I want to go to TAFE?

People wishing to go to TAFE can apply directly to the TAFE college. Where an individual is not accepted into the course they applied for, or where they need some additional supports not provided by the TAFE College, they can forward a FFYA referral form to the Department of Human Services regional office. If a person commences a TAFE course and wishes to leave the course, they can return to the FFYA program through the 'Safety Net'.

## New Directions in FFYA

### Early planning

To implement the *New Directions*, the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education and Training are working to help young people with disabilities start transition planning as early as possible. The Managed Individual Pathways (MIPs) program, available in government schools, is an example of a good way to start the planning process. This process commences from Year 10 within the school setting. Assistance and advice from FFYA transition planners is available to students with a disability, their parents and schools about the different options available for young people after they leave school.

For more information on MIPs programs, see [www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/voced/careers\\_transition/mips](http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/voced/careers_transition/mips)

### Pre-employment training programs

Five pre-employment initiatives were developed across the state in 2005 and have successfully assisted many young people into employment. Six new pre-employment training programs for young people with disabilities have been available from July 2006. The aim of these programs is to assist young people with disabilities into paid employment. The programs are located in six different regions; Barwon, Eastern, Hume, Loddon Mallee, Grampians and Southern, and will build on the success of programs trialed last year.

Information regarding these pre-employment training programs can be obtained from Department of Human Services regional offices.

### Youth Disability Advocacy Service

The Department of Human Services has established the Youth Disability Advocacy Service, located at the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc (YACVic), to support young people with disabilities aged 12 to 25 years of age. FFYA participants are invited to access the service if they need support with advocacy. The service can be contacted on **9267 3755** or toll free (from outside of Melbourne) on **1300 727 176**.

For more information go to [www.yacvic.org.au](http://www.yacvic.org.au)

### Regional contact numbers

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

**Telephone: 1800 783 783**

**TTY: 1800 008 149**