

MINUTES
GREATER DANDENONG YOUTH NETWORK
Education and Employment Pathways for Young People

Tuesday 20 April 2021

9.30am – 11.30am

ONLINE MEETING

ITEMS	NOTES
Welcome	All welcomed and Traditional Owners acknowledged.
Guest Speaker Monga Mukasa <i>Community Liaison / Indigenous and Multicultural Coordinator, Lyndale Secondary College</i>	<p>Mukasa provided an overview of emerging trends through term 1 as students commenced a new school year after long periods of remote learning during 2020. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key focus on supporting students who have transitioned to year 7 this year • Expectations of the school can be high and need to consider where students are – for example, a standard class period is longer whilst learning on-site compared to online, and this took some adjustment. • COVID appears to have had a negative toll on student behaviour • Study habits have changed for many students <p>The following opportunities would be helpful for schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student forums • Support for student leaders • Events/opportunities that support interaction with students from other schools • Learning and professional development opportunities for teachers <p>To contact Mukasa, please email: Monga.Mukasa@education.vic.gov.au</p>

Guest Speaker

Nicole King

*Team Leader Student Support Services,
Department of Education and Training*

Nicole provided insight into the key priorities and emerging trends identified through the Department of Education's Student Support Services (SSS) program.

- Priorities for this year include:
 - Student engagement and attendance
 - Supporting year 7 & 8 students who have had disrupted transition to secondary school
 - Learning catch up – roll out of tutoring support
- Schools reporting high rates of mental stress including self-harm, as well as an increase in family relationship breakdown and family violence
- In Greater Dandenong, the mental health practitioners in schools have either already been employed or are currently being recruited and will be in place very soon
- The department are currently updating guidelines for how schools respond to self-harm and suicide
- New initiative to track young offenders and support their re-engagement in education after they are released from custody
- Focus on professional development for teachers in behaviour management
- High levels of fatigue for both staff and students at the end of term 1
- Notable increase (state wide) in prep/grade 1 children presenting with complex behaviours and support needs post-COVID
- Disability inclusion reforms rolling out state wide – southern Melbourne region will be one of the last to come on board (not expected until 2024)

To find out more, please contact SSS Team Leader for Greater Dandenong:

Hanna Szczepanski | Team Leader/Psychologist | Student Support Services
Department of Education and Training
M: 0428 966 421
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Overview Local Employment Services

The purpose of this session was to provide insight into some of the key employment service contracts operating within Greater Dandenong. One service provider has been asked to present an overview of the key features and eligibility criteria of the program.

Job Active

Nikki McNeilage, WISE Employment

- Individuals receiving a Centrelink payment have a mutual obligation to be linked with a Job Active provider.
- Individuals may choose a Job Active provider or alternatively be allocated to one by Centrelink.
- Mutual obligations require Job Active clients to be actively looking for work, applying for jobs and attending interviews.
- Job Active providers will work with clients to identify barriers to employment. Support is available for expenses such as work appropriate clothing, training and myki top ups.
- If a young person does not feel that a Job Active provider is the best fit for them, encourage them to open up to the provider about any other barriers or support needs. A Job Active provider can advocate to Centrelink on behalf of a client if the Job Active model is not the 'best fit' for employment support.
- It is possible to change Job Active providers – a client is not obliged to stay with their current provider.
- Young people who are considered vulnerable but are not able to receive income support from Centrelink may register directly with a Job Active provider.

Eligibility:

- A young person can Directly Register if they are aged between 15 and 20 years inclusive, have a legal right to work in Australia, and; meets the following Vulnerable Youth (VY) criteria:
 - not employed for more than 15 hrs a week
 - has at least one serious Non-vocational barrier; and
 - not in receipt of income support.

OR

- meets the Vulnerable Youth (Student) criteria:
 - is unable to be referred to an alternative local youth service
 - is a full time student
 - has at least one serious non-vocational barrier; and
 - presents in crisis.

Non vocational barriers can include: Homeless (or at risk of homelessness), domestic violence, drug and alcohol, mental health

Nikki McNeillage
 Career Development Consultant - Diversity
 Jobactive & Disability Employment Services | WISE Employment
 M: 0439 368 016
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Skills and Jobs Centre

Andrea O'Bryan, Chisholm Skills and Jobs Centre

- The Chisholm Skills and Jobs Centre has now reopened five days per week.
- Jobseeker workshops are being delivered face-to-face and on Zoom.
- The centre is open to everyone – no eligibility criteria apply.

The Skills and Jobs Centre are promoting job opportunities associated with the Victorian 'Big Build' and upcoming major construction initiatives.

Free 'skill set' training is available in the following areas:

- CONISS012 - Prepare to work safely in the construction industry
- CONISS020 - Traffic Management Skill Set
- CONISS014 - Enter and work in confined spaces
- CONISS001 - Operate elevated work platforms (up to 11 m)
- CONISS021 - Trenching and Shoring Skill Set
- CONISS022 - Remove Non-Friable Asbestos

This training can offer a 'taster' of work in the construction industry. For those seeking to go on to employment on Big Build projects, the Skills and Jobs Centre can assist with preparing an application.

Enrolments close 30 June. Completion of skills set training will not impact on future eligibility for Cert III/IV courses.

An information session is being held next week: Thursday 29th April, 10:00am - 11:00am. Register via Eventbrite link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/free-information-session-victorian-big-build-projects-tickets-150680362019>

Andrea O'Bryan
Manager
Chisholm Skills and Jobs Centre
311 Lonsdale Street Dandenong 3175
T 03 9212 4913
E Andrea.OBryan@Chisholm.edu.au

Jobs Victoria Employment Network
Kaye Bishop, Brotherhood of St Laurence

- JVEN are state funded programs providing 1:1 support and job coaching for clients
- Clients may be referred by an agency or self-refer
- The program is not compliance based or linked to Centrelink
- Work with clients to understand their barriers, skills and interests for work
- Support is provided on resumes, how to search for jobs, preparing job applications and presenting to an employer
- JVEN providers can also link clients to job vacancies
- Six-months post placement support is provided to ensure the sustainability of work
- The program is flexible and voluntary.

Eligibility criteria

- 6 months unemployed
- Open to citizens, permanent residents and persons seeking asylum
- Clients must be motivated

Kaye Bishop
Given the Chance Jobs Victoria Employment Program
Brotherhood of St Laurence
P 0490 440 263
E kaye.bishop@bsl.org.au

Australian Apprenticeship Support Network
Steve Roberts, MAS National

- Federally funded program – all services provided are free

- Team of trained careers counsellors who are mobile and can meet clients to provide 1:1 support
- Career counsellors use a range of assessment tools to consider and individual's potential career pathways and barriers to work.
- Assessments and advice are not limited to apprenticeships and traineeships – all pathways will be considered
- The service is available to anyone (no eligibility criteria)
- Also provide group presentations (eg: at schools) to highlight apprenticeship and traineeship pathways and address any misconceptions.

Steve Roberts

Career Development Consultant

MAS National

P 0498 011 003

E steven.roberts@masnational.com.au

Skills First Reconnect

Brendan Titford, Chisholm Reconnect Program

- This is a state funded program, providing support to re-engage in learning
- Reconnect identifies a clients career goals and develops a working and learning plan
- Personal supports can be provided with areas such as low literacy or mental health
- The program is flexible with engagement ranging from a minimum of 6 months to a maximum of 18 months
- Being based in Chisholm, the team can facilitate cross-referral to supports such as student services or the Skills and Jobs Centre
- The program considers both learning and non-learning needs for individuals

Eligibility

Must be within one of the following 4 categories

- Young people (Australian citizen or resident) aged 17-19 years; not engaged in education or training for 6 months or more (less than 8 hours per week)
- Mature participants (Australian citizen or resident) aged between 20-64 years; unemployment for 6 months or more (less than 8 hours per week) and not engaged in education of training for 6 months or more (less than 8 hours per week)
- Young people impacted by the justice system – Australian citizen or resident aged 17-24 years who has been, or is currently on, a Youth Justice Order

- Asylum Seekers – a person aged 17-64 years without citizenship but holds one of the following: Bridging Visa Class E, Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) or Temporary Protection Visa (TPV)

40 program places still available for this year

Brendan Titford
Pathways and Outreach Officer
Chisholm Reconnect Program
P 0448 082 765
E brendan.titford@chisholm.edu.au

Transition to Work

Matthew Dardenne, Mission Australia

- Transition to Work (TTW) is a federally funded program targeting young people aged 16-24 years
- Referrals can be made by schools, Centrelink or self-referral to the program
- Clients are provided with support to build their employability skills and ability to look for work
- Program has an outreach component to provide flexibility for young people
- The model provides for smaller case loads and more intensive 1:1 support for up to 18 months
- Transport is currently a big barrier for young people following COVID. Working through this as best as possible – 3 month wait for Probationary license testing.

Eligibility

- Criteria has now been reduced – young people must have been disengaged from work/school for 4 weeks

Matthew Dardenne
Team Leader Transition to Work and Parents Next
Mission Australia
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E dardennem@missionaustralia.com.au

	<p><u>Disability Employment Services</u> <i>(Information provided post-meeting)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports vulnerable people with disability – including mental illness, physical limitations or any addictions (eg: gaming, drug and alcohol) • Education, case management, financial assistance, employment opportunities and ongoing support is provided • Aged 14 to retirement <p>Andrea Savarin Community Engagement Coordinator Mission Australia P 0490 889 404 E SavarinA@missionaustralia.com.au</p>
<p>Information Sharing</p> <p><i>All attendees were encouraged to share an update via the meeting 'chat' or verbally.</i></p>	<p>Updates shared during the meeting</p> <p>Kylie Wilmot - Greater Dandenong Youth and Family Services <u>Change Makers youth forum – stand up to racism</u> Youth and Family Services are hosting a forum for young people interested in addressing racism and discrimination. Change Makers Wednesday 2 June (for young people aged 16-25) https://youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/youth/events/change-makers-youth-forum</p> <p><u>Youth Showcase</u> - don't forget to nominate young people who have demonstrated resilience or personal growth during COVID-19. We are looking forward to hearing their stories and celebrating their achievements. Nominations close on Friday 23 April – this can be extended until next week if you need extra time please let me know. https://youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/programs/youth-showcase</p> <p><u>Thrive - the south east regional professional development forum</u> This is a partnership event with Casey and Cardinia Youth Services, and it will be our first face to face networking event in over 12 months, with a great line up of speakers. Thursday 13 May, 9am - 12.30pm, free forum, open to professionals currently employed to work with young people in Greater Dandenong, Casey and Cardinia. Bookings essential http://southeastpd2021.eventbrite.com.au/</p>

Youth Week

If you are planning activities during Victorian Youth Week 2021, please reach out so that these can be included in a local calendar of activities that will be promoted through the network and directly to young people. Ph 9793 2155 or Kylie.Wilmot@cgd.vic.gov.au

Ahmad - The Bridge Employment:

Good morning all, my name is Ahmad, my role is Jobs Advocate Victoria based in The Bridge Employment. I would love to have to know about the events in the community. My email address is aandar@thebridgeinc.org.au
There is no eligibility criteria for access a job advocate who can provide career counselling and support navigating services.

Francis Fanchette – Springvale Monash Legal Service

Francis Fanchette, Youth Worker: Springvale Monash Legal Service :) Lovely to be here

Chelsea King – Centre for Multicultural Youth

Hi everyone, I work as a Sector Development Officer at the Centre for Multicultural Youth. I am on Wurundjeri Country this morning.
Centre for Multicultural Youth is currently offering free anti-racism workshops for staff in Victorian Secondary Schools, based off of a recently developed resource 'Schools Standing up to Racism'. If you're interested in booking these workshops for your school, please contact me at cking@cmymy.net.au. <https://www.cmy.net.au/schools-standing-up-to-racism/>

Kate Ditchburn – Gamblers Help Southern

Hi all, I am a Community Engagement Officer at Gamblers Help Southern and new to this network. Looking forward to connecting

Nikki McNeilage, WISE Employment

Good Morning Yall - Nikki McNeilage from WISE Employment - I run a program called WISE WOMEN - working with disadvantaged women and assisting them in overcoming barriers to employment, upskilling / education and securing economic independence :)

Greg K - SHINE - Family Life

Hi, I'm Greg. I am a family worker from non-profit organisation Family Life, an early intervention program called Shine for children aged 0-17 with early signs of mental health issues. Please email me on gkavarnos@familylife.com.au for more information on our program.

Rebecca Roberts - St Kilda Gatehouse Young Women's Project

Hi everyone, I'm Rebecca Roberts - program manager for St Kilda Gatehouse Young Women's Project.

St Kilda Gatehouse's, Young Women's Project supports young women aged between 12-25 years in the Greater Dandenong area, who are at risk of sexual exploitation. Gatehouse have a Group Work Program, which runs on a Thursday for low risk young women who may be experiencing social isolation as well as a number of other low-risk factors. For Term 2, we are running a program called "who I am" which is a 5 week program which explores different aspects of self-esteem, values & media influence explored through painting. It will be run from 13th May, 4.30-7pm (including dinner) in Dandenong. For more information or further enquiries regarding the referral process please contact our Group Work Coordinator, Alissa Franklin at referrals@stkildagatehouse.org.au

Neysa Charlton – Centre for Multicultural Youth

Morning everyone! I work at the Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) within the Learning Beyond the Bell team. We support out-of-school-hours learning support programs (homework clubs) across Victoria. I am the South East officer and can be contacted at ncharlton@cmy.net.au. Lovely to be here.

Anita Khalil - Neami YRR

Anita - Service Manager from Neami's Youth Residential Rehabilitation Service in Noble Park. We have 10 young ppl with mental health challenges living on site for up to 1 year. Pls contact me for further info. 0428 788 495

<https://www.neaminational.org.au/find-services/neami-noble-park-yrrs/>

Amy Marshall – Whitelion

Good morning all, my name is Amy Marshall and I am Project Lead for Pathways to Work at Whitelion -

amy.marshall@whitelion.asn.au

Calypso Spendlove – Ardoch Foundation

Hi all, Calypso Spendlove from Ardoch, I work with a number of schools and early years centres in Greater Dandenong, focusing on STEM and pathways support.

Recruiting volunteers for upcoming mock interviews in local schools:

Keysborough Secondary College

6th May 12.00PM-1.30PM

6th May 2.00PM-3.30PM

Hampton Park Secondary College

21st May (Timetable TBC)

<https://www.ardoch.org.au/corporate-volunteer-application-learning-through-lunch-mock-interviews-speed-careers>

Contact calypso.spendlove@ardoch.org.au

Harlin Gandhok – Hampton Park Secondary

Harlin Gandhok from Hampton Park secondary - student wellbeing counsellor

Amy Cox – Chisholm

Morning All. My name is Amy Cox and I am the team leader of student support at Chisholm, overseeing provision of counselling and equitable learning and disability support. Contact 9212 5269. Looking forward to connecting with you all.

Felicity Hills - Road Smart Department of Transport

Hi I am Felicity and co-ordinate Road Smart a program for Year 10 students which is offered to all secondary colleges and funded by the State Government www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/roadsmart

Alanna – Lyndale Secondary College

Good morning everyone! My name is Alanna and I'm a Secondary School Nurse with DET- I'm based at Lyndale Secondary College

Jess Woodward – Monash Health

Hi all, my name is Jessica Woodward. I am the Senior Nurse/Clinician for Monash Health's Youth Mental Health Services - Recovery and Prevention of psychosis team. I can be contacted at Jessica.Woodward@monashhealth.org

Engy Abdelsalam – Peninsula Community Legal Centre

Hi I am Engy Abdelsalam, I am a Community Engagement Officer at Peninsula Community Legal Centre. My role is to deliver a Community Legal Education project. The aim of the project is to undertake an intensive effort to engage with CALD communities through online and in-person CLE on a wide range of legal issues affecting them. The format of the CLE will be mostly informal and interactive. While the ultimate objective will be to address family violence and family law issues and to connect communities with services. We are keen to develop strong partnerships to deliver regular CLE both online and in-person with special focus on isolated multicultural women and young people. eabdelsalam@pclc.org.au

Engy Abdelsalam – Wellsprings for Women

I am also a Community Development Officer at Wellsprings for Women. I am responsible for a project to facilitate access of young multicultural girls to sports through strong partnerships with peak sports bodies. We are keen to deliver our program at different schools and educational facilities to overcome as many barriers as possible that the girls might face. We have many educational classes coming up, Financial Wellbeing and Literacy, Literacy and Numeracy for Early Childhood Education, Choosing the Right Career Path, and Introduction to Working in the Community. I will be sending the flyers to Kylie. Thank you :)

Jas Organ - Monash Health

Good Morning, my name is Jas Organ and I am the Youth Justice Mental Health Clinician with the Dandenong and Frankston youth justice offices. I sit with the Youth Consultation and Treatment Team at Monash Health. Email: jasmine.organ@monashhealth.org

Cara Tizon – Red Cross

Good morning everyone, Cara here from Red Cross coordinating our WorkREDi program and lived experience group for young people in contact with the justice system. Acknowledging I'm on Wurundjeri land and pay my respects to the Traditional Owners.

Yvette Shaw – DFFH

Hi I'm Yvette Shaw Southern Melbourne Area (SMA) Senior Advisor Dept of Families Fairness and Housing (DFFH).

Jack Simcoe - Reclink Australia

Morning everyone. Jack Simcoe from Reclink Australia. Delivering inclusive Sport and Recreation Programs to the Community. Email: jack.simcoe@reclink.org

Stephen Jenkinson – Whitelion

Hi All, Stephen from Whitelion here - I support the Breakthrough Mentoring program (16 - 25) supporting YP plan for and get employment opportunities; as well as coordinating the Community Integration Program - linking young people in out-of-home care with community activities, with support from volunteers

Bess Schnioffsky - The Big Issue

Hi GDYN, Bess here from the Big Issue. I coordinate a new women's Street Soccer program in Dandenong, we run on Tuesdays (4-6pm) at JC Mills Reserve. We are a free community health program, open to all women aged 16 and over - if you know of any young women who might be interested in coming along to the program feel free to email me on: bschnioffsky@bigissue.org.au

N'gamoh Braima - YSAS Dandenong

Hi everyone. I am N'gamoh Braima. I work with YSAS YSS Dandenong. We provide support service for young people and their families. This is my email: nbraima@ysas.org.au

Cath Currie – Peninsula Community Legal Centre

Cath Currie here from Peninsula Community Legal Centre. I'm the Co-Ordinator of the Tenancy Assistance & Advocacy Program which assists tenants in private rentals, rooming houses and caravan parks in the Bayside Peninsula and Southern Metro regions. With the implementation of the 138 amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 on 29 March we are expecting to see an increase in tenants requiring assistance with various aspects of their tenancies. Telephone or face to face appointments can be made by contacting our office on 9783 3600. We also provide free tenancy information sessions to groups.

	<p>My email is ccurrie@pclc.org.au</p> <p>Jackson Taylor - Basketball Victoria Hi everyone, Jackson from Basketball Victoria here. I have to jump out early unfortunately today. Just wanted to share the flyer for our new program before I jump off. Feel free to reach out. Jackson.taylor@basketballvictoria.com.au 0429962130</p> <p>Navida Aslam – Catholic Care Navida Aslam. AOD, school refusal and settlement/refugee support programs navida.aslam@ccam.org.au</p> <p>Jesse Boyd - SMRC Jesse Boyd - Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre Dandenong. Homework, careers and casework support for young people and families. jesseb@smrc.org.au 0448896328</p> <p>Reminder to network members: for promotion of programs/services in the monthly eNewsletter please send a short blurb to kylie.wilmot@cgd.vic.gov.au</p>
Next Meeting	<p>Thursday 17 June 2021, 9.30am – 11.30am</p> <p>For further information please contact Kylie Wilmot, Youth Development and Community Engagement Officer on 9793 2155 or email kylie.wilmot@cgd.vic.gov.au</p>