

Stepping Forward: *improving pathways for all young people*

A COMMITMENT TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA BY MINISTERS FOR
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

VISION

Young people make a significant contribution to Australia today and will shape what it will be tomorrow. The vitality, ideas, creativity and visions of all young people must be embraced.

CHALLENGE

OUR DECLARATION



The majority of young people are doing well, moving successfully through the different stages of their lives and responding to the challenges of the future. We can be confident that they will achieve success, find fulfilment in their adult lives and make a positive contribution to this country.

Some young people find their journeys more difficult and challenging. They may face problems in acquiring the knowledge, skills and self-confidence that form the foundations of their adult lives. We recognise the emotional, physical, cultural and learning barriers faced by these young people and the social, economic and locational factors that may negatively impact on their lives. There are opportunities for governments to address these barriers so that young people can achieve their best.

As Ministers entrusted with the collective wellbeing and interests of young people, we must foster an environment in which young people are nurtured and challenged—a society where all young people can realise their full potential. We must work together to support young Australians to achieve success as individuals and as members of society. We need to act collectively and we need to act now.

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Our vision is of an Australia where:

- young people benefit and flourish through sustaining networks of family, friends and community, and through their engagement in education, training, employment, recreation and society
- young people's opinions and contributions are sought and valued, and they are encouraged and supported to take an active role in their communities and the nation
- young people's lives are enriched by positive learning experiences and opportunities that assist them to reach their full potential
- we recognise and celebrate young people's achievements.

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Our challenge is to:

- listen and respond to young people
- work creatively in partnership with young people to build comprehensive networks that draw together jurisdictions, government departments, families and communities so that united we can address the complex issues confronting young people
- recognise and address structural barriers faced by young people
- ensure that our governmental systems recognise the diversity of young people through being inclusive, flexible and adaptive
- create effective opportunities for young people that are accessible, integrated and meaningful
- encourage young people to take increasing responsibility for their own lives, support their peers and contribute to their community
- ensure that young people have the information, skills and support needed to negotiate the transition to adult life and to make informed life decisions.

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With this declaration, we commit to developing practical ways to increase the social, educational and employment outcomes of Australia's young people including those who are at risk, disconnected or in vulnerable circumstances. We agree to establish a common direction to make a real and lasting difference to the lives of young people. We are united by a shared commitment and a joint responsibility. We unanimously agree to work in partnership towards implementing a shared vision for all young people.

Australia's Ministers for Education, Employment, Training, Youth Affairs and Community Services



The Hon. Lynne Kosky MP
Chair, Ministerial Council
on Education,
Employment, Training and
Youth Affairs
Minister for Education and
Training (VIC.)

The Hon. Matt Foley
MP
Chair, Ministerial
Subcommittee on
Young
Peoples' Transitions
Minister for
Employment,
Training and Youth
Affairs
Minister for the Arts
(QLD)

The Hon. Bronwyn
Pike MP
Chair, Community
Services Ministers'
Conference
Minister for Aged
Care (VIC.)



The Hon. Simon
Corbell MLA
Minister for
Education, Youth
and
Family Services
(ACT)

The Hon. Tony
Abbott MP
Minister for
Employment,
Workplace
Relations and Small
Business (Cwlth)

The Hon. Larry
Anthony MP
Minister for Children
and Youth Affairs
(Cwlth)



The Hon. Brendan
Nelson MP
Minister for
Education, Science
and Training (Cwlth)

Senator Amanda
Vanstone
Minister for Family
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The Hon. Carmel
Tebbutt MLC
Minister Assisting
the Premier
on Youth (NSW)

The Hon. John
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Minister for
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The Hon. Faye Lo Po'
MP
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Minister for Education (QLD)

The Hon. Judy Spence MP
Minister for Families (QLD)

The Hon. Stephanie Key MP
Minister for Youth (SA)

The Hon. Dr Jane Lomax-Smith MP
Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education (SA)

The Hon. Patricia White MP
Minister for Education and Children's Services (SA)

The Hon. Paula Wriedt MHA
Minister for Education (TAS)

The Hon. Judy Jackson MHA
Minister for Health and Human Services (TAS)

The Hon. Monica Gould MLC
Minister for Education Services
Minister for Youth Affairs
Leader of the Legislative Council (VIC)

The Hon. John Pandazopoulos MP
Minister for Employment, Gaming and Tourism
Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs (VIC)

The Hon. Alan Carpenter MLA
Minister for Education, Sport and Recreation, and Indigenous Affairs (WA)

The Hon. John Kobelke MLA
Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection, and Training Packages (WA)

The Hon. Sheila McHale MLA
Minister for Community Development, Women's Interests, Seniors and Youth, Disability Services, Culture and the Arts (WA)

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