



Barwon Youth Partnerships

Newsletter - November 2011

Barwon Youth Partnerships Forum

A Barwon Youth Partnerships Forum was convened on 29 September 2011 to conduct an engaging and collaborative process for key stakeholders to inform and identify the strategic priorities and activities for the Barwon Youth Partnerships site.

The forum was well attended, with over 60 local, state and federal government, community service organisation and education representatives participating on the day. Many thanks to those who participated and contributed to the day.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Barwon Youth Partnerships – Record of Discussion, please contact the Barwon Youth Partnerships project officer (details provided at end of newsletter).

Barwon Youth Partnerships – Project Update

The information captured and developed through the Barwon Youth Partnerships Forum has been used by the Barwon Youth Partnerships Local Governance Committee to identify the key strategic priorities for Barwon Youth Partnerships.

The key strategic priorities were developed in the context of the statewide directions for the Youth Partnerships initiative, the identified cohorts of young people for the project and existing initiatives in the pilot site.

The strategic priorities were also developed in recognition that the realisation and maximisation of opportunities for the Youth Partnerships initiative will be greatly enhanced by establishing focussed and targeted pilots that can demonstrate efficacy and change.

The three endorsed key strategic priorities for Barwon Youth Partnerships are:

Barwon Youth Partnerships – Project Update (cont)

- **Improve early identification and intervention:** Development and pilot of frameworks, systems and tools that promote and support young people with emerging risk through early identification, holistic assessment, clear referral pathways and enhanced service coordination and case planning across sectors.
- **Alternative education setting:** A state funded alternative education setting developed specifically for young people, entirely disengaged from education and training, who experience trauma and attachment based behaviour and learning challenges.
- **Engaging our most vulnerable young people:** Barwon Youth Partnerships has identified young people residing in Out of Home Care (OOHC) as a sub-cohort of vulnerable young people that will be targeted within the Barwon Youth Partnerships initiative. Two key areas of activity will be explored in relation to this priority area
 - **Disengaged Learners:** *What flexible learning options can be developed and sustained in Barwon to engage and meet the needs of those young people in OOHC who are entirely disengaged from education and training?*
 - **Keeping on track:** *How can we better support young people in OOHC currently engaged in education, to improve their educational outcomes and improve retention in education and training?*



Barwon Youth Partnerships – Next Steps

Three working groups relating to each key strategic priority area are in the process of being formed. The immediate tasks of the working groups will be to bring together local expertise to identify and develop activities that will inform the Barwon Youth Partnerships strategic plan.

The working groups are chaired by members of the Barwon Youth Partnerships Senior Advisory Group.;

Improve Early Identification and Intervention Working

Group: Chair: Mr Mike Kelly (Chief Executive Officer – Time For Youth)

Alternative Education Setting Working Group: Chair: Ms Anne Condon (Director of Community Programs – MacKillop Family Services)

Engaging Our Most Vulnerable Young People Working

Group: Co- Chairs: Ms Anne-Marie Ryan (Executive Officer – Geelong Region LLEN) and Ms Leigh Bartlett (Regional Youth Affairs Coordinator – BATforce)

For further information regarding these working groups, please contact the Barwon Youth Partnerships project officer.

Barwon Youth Partnerships–Governance Update

The Barwon Youth Partnerships Local Governance Committee welcomes two new members to the Committee, Ms Leigh Bartlett (Regional Youth Affairs Consultant - BATforce) and Mr Mike Kelly (Chief Executive Officer – Time For Youth).

Mike and Leigh take up roles on the Barwon Youth Partnerships Local Governance Committee as the elected representatives of the Barwon Youth Partnerships Senior Advisory Group.

The Strategic Review of Effective Re-engagement Models for Disengaged Learners Report

The *Strategic Review of Effective Re-engagement Models for Disengaged Learners Report* was commissioned by Skills Victoria on behalf of the Victorian Skills Commission's Access and Equity Committee and prepared by the Centre for Research on Education Systems (CRES), University of Melbourne.

The report:

- draws on Australian and international literature and advice gathered through targeted stakeholder consultations, including on effective practice in Victoria
- profiles the characteristics of low skilled, working age Victorians who have disengaged in education and training
- documents effective practices and programs to re-engage them
- details programmatic costs
- outlines potential funding models
- considers approaches to program evaluation

The *Strategic Review of Effective Re-engagement Models for Disengaged Learners Report* is now available on the Skills Victoria website and can be accessed here:

[Strategic Review of Effective Re-engagement Models for Disengaged Learners Report](#)

Further Information

For more information on the Barwon Youth Partnerships site, please contact the project officer Pete Jacobson
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For more information about the work of the *Youth Partnerships* initiative, please refer to the following website
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/sensecyouth/Youthpartnerships>