

SCHOOL FOCUSED YOUTH SERVICE – INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

While most children and young people attend school regularly and successfully attain a senior secondary qualification, a small proportion leave school early for a variety of personal, family or school-related reasons. **School Focused Youth Service** is available to support students who are showing signs of disengaging, to help them remain actively engaged in their learning and achieve success.

STUDENTS SUPPORTED BY THE PROGRAM

School Focused Youth Service (SFYS) is available to support students between **Grade 5 and Year 12** who are attending school but are vulnerable to, or showing signs of, **disengaging from education**. SFYS is available to support students across **government, Catholic and independent schools**.

SFYS is an **early identification and intervention** program. It is aimed at supporting students who are **vulnerable to disengagement**, either because they face known barriers to engagement (eg. homelessness) or are in a vulnerable cohort (eg. young carers), or are **showing signs of disengaging** (eg. low or erratic attendance).

WHAT SFYS CAN OFFER YOUR SCHOOL

Through SFYS, local government and community-based agencies with **expertise in working with children and young people** work with schools to deliver **two types of services**:

- SFYS agencies can work directly with groups of disengaged **students** to deliver a wide range of targeted interventions. Interventions are designed to provide opportunities for these students to improve their social and emotional skills, foster

greater self-esteem, develop more positive attitudes towards learning, and experience success.

- SFYS agencies can work with **schools** to build the capacity of teachers and support staff to better understand and respond to disengaged students. This includes professional development opportunities for staff to better understand barriers to engagement, and improve the support they can provide to students who are vulnerable to or showing signs of disengaging.

SFYS agencies may also work with the **families and carers** of these children and young people. Utilising a partnership approach between the school, families/carers and the SFYS agency can be an effective way to ensure these students receive the additional support they need to remain engaged in their education.

HOW TO ACCESS SFYS SUPPORT FOR YOUR SCHOOL

SFYS agencies work closely with the Department's Area teams, sharing information and relevant data to identify the key issues and needs of disengaged students locally. This enables them to develop appropriate interventions and capacity building for schools.

SFYS agencies interact with schools in the following ways:

- SFYS agencies may approach schools and propose targeted interventions for specific cohorts of students and/or specific capacity building for teachers and support staff.
- SFYS agencies may identify and approach a group of schools with similar student needs/cohorts and propose interventions and/or capacity building measures that link schools and students together in an area.
- schools may approach their local SFYS agency to seek support for a specific cohort of students, and/or to seek specific professional development services for teachers and support staff to help them better support those students.

Once the target cohort of students has been identified, SFYS will work with participating school/s to develop and implement the agreed intervention and/or capacity building.

In some cases, an SYFS agency may partner with another agency or community organisation to deliver these services. The SFYS agency will remain responsible for overseeing the delivery of the services.

A **list of SFYS agencies** by Department Area and local government area is attached.

YOUR SCHOOL'S ROLE IN SFYS

Where a school accesses services through its local SFYS agency, it will need to work closely with the agency to support the successful delivery of the services. While the SFYS agency is responsible for the planning, delivery and evaluation of interventions and capacity building activities, participating schools must work with the SFYS agency on key aspects of the intervention, including:

- **target cohort:** identify the students to be supported through the intervention and/or capacity building. This may include students showing signs of disengaging (eg. low or erratic attendance), students with known barriers to engagement (eg. experiencing family breakdown/crisis), or students in a vulnerable cohort (eg. children in out-of-home care)
- **participants:** ensure that the right participants are invited to attend the intervention and/or capacity building activity, based on their disengagement needs or role in supporting those students
- **data:** ensure that suitable baseline data (eg. attendance data, survey data on behavioural issues, etc.) is identified and collected prior to the delivery of the intervention and/or capacity building activities, and review data (same as baseline data) is collected following delivery, so that the impact of the intervention/capacity building can be assessed

- **sustainability:** consider options to embed successful interventions and/or capacity building activities into school strategies to support disengaged students (eg. school will review relevant policies, school will fund service continuation, school will maintain working relationship with participating agencies, etc.)

This information will be collected in reporting templates completed by the SFYS agency, which must be **endorsed** by all participating schools.

The **cost** of the intervention/capacity building activity will be funded by the SFYS program. SFYS funding is not however available to fund activities on an ongoing basis. If a school wishes to continue a particular intervention/capacity building activity, it will need to fund it directly.

WHAT SFYS DOES NOT FUND

SFYS funding is provided to support early identification and intervention for disengaged students. SFYS funding cannot be used for primary prevention measures (eg. whole-school strategies), or individualised, specialised support for high-risk students (eg. clinical interventions).

SFYS funding pays for SFYS agency staff, and the cost of delivering services, including both interventions and capacity building. SFYS funding cannot be used to purchase infrastructure, to fund additional staff, for research purposes, or to deliver services that are already funded by the Department or another government agency.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions in relation to SFYS, please contact the Senior Transitions Officer or Youth Program Officer in your local Department Area team.

School Focused Youth Service 2018-19
SFYS Agencies – by DET region, DET Area & Local Government Areas

DET Area	Local Government Area	SFYS Agency
South-Eastern Victoria Region		
Bayside Peninsula	Bayside, Frankston, Kingston	Family Life
	Glen Eira, Port Phillip, Stonnington	City of Stonnington
	Mornington Peninsula	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
Southern Melbourne	Cardinia, Casey	Connections UnitingCare
	Greater Dandenong	Monash Health
Inner Gippsland	Bass Coast, South Gippsland	Bass Coast Health
Outer Gippsland	Baw Baw, Latrobe, Wellington	OzChild
	East Gippsland	Gippsland Lakes Community Health
North-Eastern Victoria Region		
Inner Eastern Melbourne	Boroondara	City of Boroondara
	Manningham	City of Manningham
	Monash	Monash City Council
	Whitehorse	Whitehorse City Council
Outer Eastern Melbourne	Knox	Knox City Council
	Maroondah	Maroondah City Council
	Yarra Ranges	Yarra Ranges Shire Council
Goulburn	Greater Shepparton, Moira	Kildonan UnitingCare
	Mitchell, Murrindindi, Strathbogie	Berry Street
Ovens Murray	Alpine, Benalla, Mansfield, Wangaratta	North East Support and Action for Youth
	Indigo, Towong, Wodonga	Gateway Health

North-Western Victoria Region			
Hume Moreland	Hume	DPV Health	
	Moreland	Merri Community Health	
North Eastern Melbourne	Banyule, Nillumbik	healthAbility	
	Darebin, Yarra	Berry Street	
	Whittlesea	Kildonan UnitingCare	
Loddon Campaspe	Campaspe, Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Community Health Services	
	Central Goldfields, Macedon Ranges, Mount Alexander	Cobaw Community Health	
	Buloke, Campaspe, Loddon, Gannawarra, Swan Hill	Northern District Community Health Service	
Mallee	Mildura	Mildura Rural City Council	
South-Western Victoria Region			
Brimbank Melton	Brimbank	Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand	Melbourne City Mission
	Melton	Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services	
Western Melbourne	Maribyrnong, Melbourne	MacKillop Family Service Limited	
	Moonee Valley		
	Hobsons Bay, Wyndham	Hobsons Bay City Council (in partnership with Wyndham City Council)	
Barwon	Colac Otway, Greater Geelong, Queenscliffe, Surf Coast	Barwon Adolescent Task Force	
Central Highlands	Ballarat, Golden Plains, Hepburn, Moorabool	Ballarat Community Health	
	Ararat, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees	Grampians Community Health	
Western District	Corangamite, Glenelg, Moyne, Southern Grampians, Warrnambool	Brophy Family & Youth Services	
	Hindmarsh, Horsham, West Wimmera, Yarriambiak	Wimmera UnitingCare	