



STRONGER SCHOOLS

An inclusive education plan for Victoria

WELCOME AND SUPPORT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BACK INTO EDUCATION

Young people at risk of disengaging or who have disengaged from education are embraced by the system, not pushed away.

Helping disengaged children and young people return to education improves their educational outcomes and employment prospects.

Leaving school early is often a precursor to poor life outcomes and long-term unemployment.¹ Helping young people reengage in education is critical and requires a suite of evidence-informed programs that focus on early intervention and re-engagement.

The Victorian Government should facilitate greater coordination and referrals between schools, education and training providers, to ensure children and young people receive timely support and don't fall through the cracks.



Keep investing in a statewide intensive case management program to help children and young people stay engaged, or reengage in education

- Assist and resource schools to keep young people engaged through maintaining the statewide rollout of the successful Navigator outreach case management program, which supports young people aged 12-17 to stay engaged or reengage with education. or reengage with education.²

2

Provide a comprehensive suite of programs to help children and young people stay engaged, or reengage with education

- Develop and publish robust program evaluations, implement recommendations and expand effective programs and initiatives including LOOKOUT,³ Springboard,⁴ Navigator,⁵ Reconnect,⁶ Local Learning and Employment Networks,⁷ School Focused Youth Service,⁸ Educational Justice Initiative,⁹ and Hands on Learning.¹⁰
- Make program eligibility flexible so children and young people who require support are not arbitrarily excluded and don't fall through service gaps.

3

Invest equally in students who are in school, and those who are reengaging with school and flexible learning options

- Rectify inconsistencies in Victorian Government funding to ensure that students who are reengaging in the community, as part of their pathway back to education, access the same total level of education funding as their peers who are fully engaged in school (above and beyond the Student Resource Package (SRP)).

1. Kirsten J. Hancock and Stephen R. Zubrick, Children and young people at risk of disengagement from school, University of Western Australia, June 2015 (Updated October 2015), p. 5, accessed at <https://www.ccyp.wa.gov.au/media/1422/report-education-children-at-risk-of-disengaging-from-school-literature-review.pdf>

2. Victorian Government, Enrolment, Attendance and Behaviour – Navigator Re-Engagement Program, accessed at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/studentmanagement/Pages/reengagementnavigator.aspx>

3. Victorian Government, Lookout Education Support Centres, accessed at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/lookout.aspx>

4. Victorian Government, Springboard, accessed at <https://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/springboard-contact-list-word>

5. Victorian Government, Enrolment, Attendance and Behaviour – Navigator Re-Engagement Program, accessed at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/studentmanagement/Pages/reengagementnavigator.aspx>

6. Australian Government, Department of Social Services, Reconnect program, accessed at <https://www.dss.gov.au/families-and-children/programmes-services/reconnect>

7. Victorian Government, Local Learning and Employment Networks, accessed at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/lens.aspx>

8. Victorian Government, Enrolment, Attendance and Behaviour, School Focused Youth Service, accessed at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/studentmanagement/Pages/sfys.aspx>

9. Parkville College, Melbourne Children's Court, Educational Justice Initiative, accessed at http://parkvillecollege.vic.edu.au/?page_id=44

10. Save the Children, Hands on Learning, accessed at <http://handsonlearning.org.au/>