

## **Key points from the agreement - NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON YOUTH ATTAINMENT AND TRANSITIONS\_COAG\_July 2009 (summarised by Peter Tatham)**

Under the new partnership agreement between the Commonwealth and states and territories a key task is to “better align Commonwealth, State and Territory programs and services related to youth, careers and transitions”.

“The Parties agree to cooperate in providing efficient and effective career and transition services to young people.”

The Parties agree that States and Territories will progressively assume primary responsibility for the provision of youth career and transitions programs in a way which engages all school sectors and that the Commonwealth will retain responsibility for national career development. The details of the reformed Commonwealth programs and details of the transition of responsibility and funding to States and Territories are detailed below.

### ***Youth Careers and Transitions Services***

43. The current suite of Commonwealth youth, career and transition arrangements are being consolidated and streamlined into four new elements to be put in place under this Agreement. The Commonwealth undertakes to transfer responsibility for youth careers and transitions programs to States and Territories. The Commonwealth will work collaboratively with the States and Territories to design and implement each of the elements in a way which allows flexibility of delivery in schooling and training sectors, removes duplication and overlap, complements and adds value to current State and Territory based policies and programs, and makes it easier for young people aged to get the assistance they need, when they need it.
44. Subject to negotiation of transfer of responsibilities to States and Territories through implementation plans, the Commonwealth will ensure continued delivery of youth careers and transitions services from 1 January 2010 through the following arrangements:
  - a. Maximising Engagement, Attainment and Successful Transitions
    - i. Project payments to States and Territories to assist with the implementation of strategies to address the following reform areas:
      1. multiple learning pathways;
      2. career development; and
      3. mentoring.
    - ii. Strategies in these reform areas will be agreed through each State and Territory implementation plan.
  - b. School Business Community Partnership Brokers (Community and Education Engagement)
    - i. A program will be put in place under this Agreement in collaboration with the States and Territories. School Business Community Partnership Brokers will improve community and business engagement with schools and registered training organisation to extend learning beyond the classroom, increase student engagement, deepen learning experiences, lift attainment and improve educational outcomes.
  - c. Youth Connections
    - i. A program will be put in place under this Agreement in collaboration with the States and Territories. Youth Connections will provide an improved safety net for youth at risk through the provision of tailored case management and support to help young people to re-connect with education and training and build resilience, skills and attributes that promote positive choices and wellbeing.

d. National Career Development

- i. The Commonwealth will maintain responsibility for National Career Development, providing funding for a range of national projects and resources for the benefit of all States and Territories, such as The Job Guide, through a Commonwealth Own Purpose Expense.

40. Project funding for Maximising Engagement, Attainment and Successful Transitions will be made available to the States and Territories from 1 January 2010 for the reform areas of multiple learning pathways, career development and mentoring. The reform areas and indicative actions should be seen as a menu which States and Territories will be able to select from. The implementation plans will outline the actions to be undertaken in the selected reform areas.

52. Once funding for the programs has been transferred to States and Territories, it will become a project payment and cease to be a Commonwealth Own Purpose Expense and there will be no requirement on States and Territories to continue the specific programs. If the specific programs cease, the project funding will continue, but the States and Territories commit that the project funding will be used for additional careers and transition support services in the reform areas described in table 2; and that existing State and Territory funding effort will be maintained. This will be included in annual reporting under this Agreement (see paragraph 71).

71. Reporting will include detail of funding provided to the non-government sector and maintenance of any existing State and Territory funding for careers and transitions support services (see paragraph 52 and 53).

75. Over the life of this Agreement, up to \$623 million will be allocated to drive reform delivering youth careers, transitions and support.

**Table 2: Indicative Outcomes to be Demonstrated for Provision of Project Funding**

REFORM AREA	INDICATIVE ACTIONS	INDICATIVE OUTCOMES
<b>Multiple learning pathways</b>	<p>Improving access to a broader range of more flexible, relevant and engaging learning options</p> <p>Creating opportunities to extend learning beyond the classroom</p> <p>Providing comprehensive program and subject choice, flexible timetabling and instruction methods</p> <p>Increasing engagement by Indigenous young people and young people with a disability</p> <p>Improving student progression and credit transfer to higher skill and qualification levels</p> <p>Improving access to structured workplace learning</p>	<p><u>Participation</u></p> <p>Increased participation and engagement of young people aged 15-24 in education and training</p> <p>Improved access to a broad range of flexible and relevant learning options</p> <p><u>Engagement</u></p> <p>Improved student engagement in their learning</p> <p>Improved access to quality career development and pathways planning</p> <p>Improved access to quality mentoring programs</p>
<b>Career development</b>	<p>Offering universal high quality individualised career development and pathways planning</p> <p>Involving business and industry and parents/families, in young people's career development</p> <p>Improving the industry relevance of career advice and tailoring it appropriately</p>	<p>Improved early identification and support for young people disengaged or at risk of disengaging from education</p> <p>Improvements in personal skills and wellbeing for young people at risk</p> <p>Well established, sustainable partnerships exist between the education sectors, between jurisdictions and with schools, industry, families and the community</p>
<b>Mentoring</b>	<p>Increasing the provision of a variety of meaningful quality mentoring opportunities</p> <p>Improving mentor training programs and increasing the numbers of trained mentors</p> <p>Increasing the use of mentoring to support young people to develop resilience and provide direct assistance at important transition points in their lives</p>	<p><u>Attainment</u></p> <p>Increased attainment of core foundation and employability skills</p> <p>Increased qualification attainment of young people aged 15-24, including Indigenous youth</p>

	<p>Adopting national benchmarks relating to the design and implementation of mentoring programs</p>	<p><u>Transitions</u></p> <p>Increased numbers of young people make smooth and efficient transitions from school to further education, training and employment.</p>
<p><b>School, Business and Community Partnerships</b></p>	<p>Aligning policies, programs and services to complement the new School Business Community Partnership brokers and remove duplication or overlap</p> <p>Working with the Commonwealth to maximise outcomes from the School Business Community Partnership which will be jointly established to improve partnerships between schools, the community and business</p>	
<p><b>Individualised, Personalised Support for Young People at Risk</b></p>	<p>Aligning policies, programs and services to complement the new Youth Connections Program and remove duplication or overlap</p> <p>Working with the Commonwealth to maximise outcomes from the Youth Connections Program which will be jointly established to provide and improve the early identification of young people at risk of disengaging and improve support available for at risk and disengaged young people</p>	