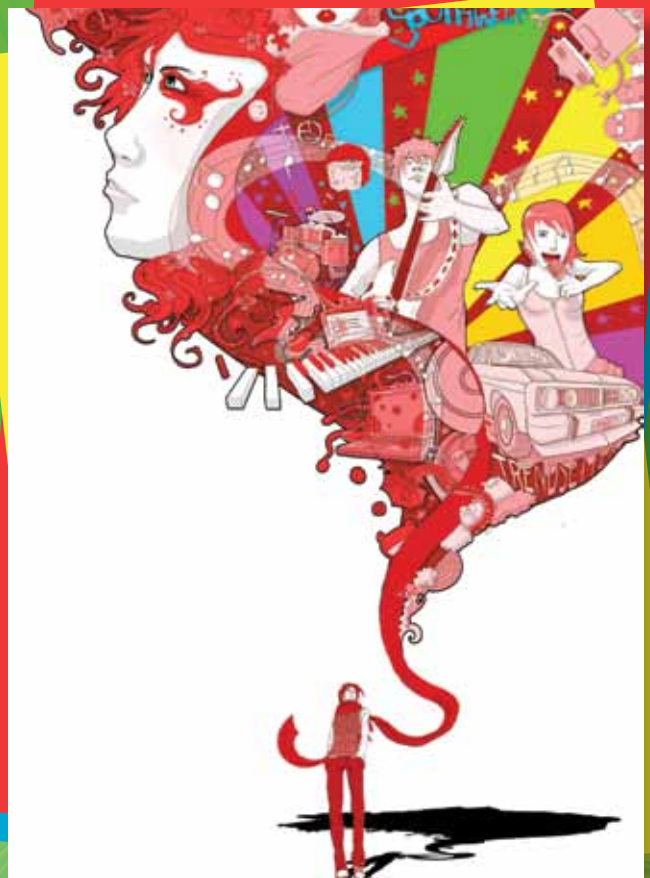
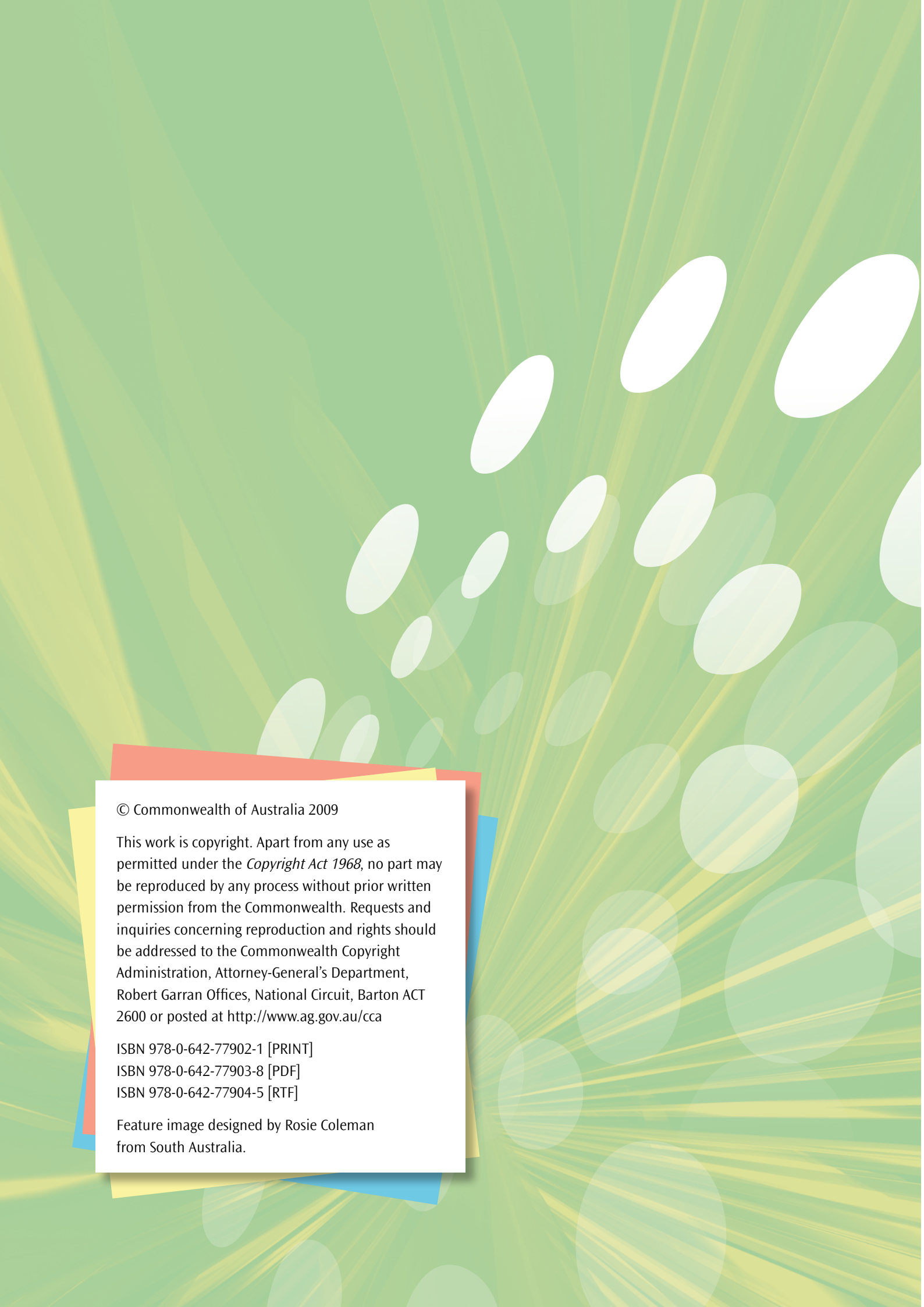




Australian Government
Office for Youth

Investing in Australia's Young People





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Investing in Australia's Young People: a stocktake of Australian Government initiatives for young people

**Report by the Office for Youth
December 2009**

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Foreword



As the Minister representing young Australians I am delighted to launch the first edition of *Investing in Australia's Young People: a stocktake of Australian Government initiatives for young people*.

This report details the Australian Government's substantial investment in young people and provides a central point of reference for Australian Government activities that directly affect young people aged between 12 and 25.

The experiences of young people are wide and varied. It is a time of increasing responsibility; a time of changes and of challenges. It is a time of key transitions, from schooling to employment or from schooling into

higher education and training. It is a time when young people become increasingly independent from their families, and peers take on increasing importance.

The Government has an important role to play, alongside families and communities, in supporting young people to negotiate these changes. This report details the Government's broad investment across a range of areas to support the 3.5 million Australian young people; support in their families, in education, employment and through cultural and sporting programs.

Not surprisingly, the majority of Australian Government investment in young people is centred on education and employment. The Government invests across a range of large and small scale programs and services to support young Australians to maximise their educational opportunities and participate productively in the workforce.

Investing in Australia's Young People will be a useful resource for governments, the broader community and of course young people themselves. I look forward to continuing to work with all these sectors to ensure that the Australian Government supports young people to ensure they can make the most of available opportunities, both now and into the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Ellis".

Kate Ellis

Minister for Early Childhood Education, Childcare and Youth

Disclaimer

This report is intended to provide general information only about Australian Government investment in Young People. The contents of the report are not intended as information or advice to individuals for solving or addressing any problems or difficulties. If you require assistance for any problem or difficulty you should consult a relevant professional. If you have questions about this report you should contact the Department, Agency or Organisation responsible for the program to which the information relates and/or obtain any appropriate professional advice relevant to your particular circumstances. The Commonwealth does not guarantee the accuracy, currency, completeness or appropriateness of the information in this report. Any views expressed in the report are not necessarily those of DEEWR. To the extent permitted by law the Commonwealth disclaims liability to any person or entity for any injury, loss or damage arising or allegedly arising from what is included or not included in this Report.

PART ONE

Introduction

Young people are an important part of Australian society.

They make up 20 per cent of Australia's population and play a valuable role in our social, cultural and economic life.

The Australian Government views young people as a distinct and important population group.

The Australian Government's vision is for all young people to grow up safe, healthy, happy and resilient and to have the opportunities and skills they need to learn, work, engage in community life and influence decisions that affect them.

The Government works to achieve this vision across a wide range of domains that support the positive development of young people. This report brings these efforts together.

This report is a listing of Australian Government activities (programs, services, payments and policies) for young people. These activities include those specifically for young people, and also those which support the general population, but which have a significant impact on young people.

This report aims to provide a central resource for a broad audience including young people, those who work with them, the wider community and policy makers to identify and access the wide range of activities available for young people.

Methodology

Investing in Australia's Young People: a stocktake of Australian Government initiatives for young people was developed by the Australian Government Office for Youth in consultation with all Australian Government portfolio bodies.

The Australian Government is made up of 17 portfolio bodies and their associated agencies. For example the Education, Employment and Workplace Relations portfolio includes the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, and associated agencies such as the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The listings included in this report were provided to the Office for Youth by the responsible Australian Government portfolio bodies. Portfolios were asked to identify and provide details on relevant activities across all their agencies.

Agencies were also encouraged to identify which of six themes their activities fitted within:

Expressing yourself, having fun and being active outlines the Government's promotion and development of sports, arts and culture. It includes information on arts and culture grants for individuals and organisations as well as broader community based activities.

Family, community and communication details the Australian Government's work across a range of areas including youth development, family support, social inclusion and communication to support the continued strengthening of families and communities. Information in this section includes the support available for families and young people, resources to support young people to participate safely online and community activities for young people.

Health, wellbeing and development provides information on the Australian Government's role in supporting the health, wellbeing and development of young people. Health and wellbeing includes physical, and mental health. This section details the wide range of programs run by the Australian Government, including public health campaigns, general and mental health services and research programs to support young people.

Pathways, work and money includes Australian Government activities that support young people to engage with education and training, to transition and participate productively in the workforce. It also includes information about income support including allowances and other payments. This section also lists resources available to help young people understand and effectively manage their money, including tax, superannuation and consumer protection.

Learning and skills development provides information on Australian Government investment in schools, Vocational Education and Training and universities. As well as direct support for these sectors, it also outlines Australian Government programs and policies that support learning in schools, technical colleges and universities.

A productive and sustainable Australia details the Australian Government's commitment to a prosperous and sustainable economic and environmental Australia now and into the future. This section provides information on youth focussed Australian Government activities which support this, including those that encourage environmental sustainability, the development of strong international links, business and trade.

Agencies were also asked to identify whether the activities were considered youth specific or non youth specific:

Youth-Specific activities are Australian Government activities directed specifically at young people aged between 12 and 25 years. Where activities are targeted at young people slightly outside this age bracket (e.g. 12 and 28) they are also considered youth specific.

Non Youth-Specific activities are Australian Government activities that are targeted at the general population, but have a significant impact on this age group, either through a high participation rate or through a direct impact on education, health, family and living situations.

How to use Investing in Australia's Young People

This report has 3 parts:

Part 1 – provides an introduction to the report and describes the methodology used in putting it together;

Part 2 – outlines the Australian Government's role regarding young people, including a description of each portfolio body's role in youth affairs; and

Part 3 – is a listing of Australian Government youth activities and is divided into the 6 themes:

Expressing yourself, having fun and being active

Family, community and communication

Health, wellbeing and development

Pathways, work and money

Learning and skills development

A productive and sustainable Australia

Each activity listing includes:

- a description of the activity
- the responsible Australian Government agency
- the type of activity
- information about accessibility and eligibility
- a website address for further information (where available)

This report is intended to be utilised as a first point of reference about Australian Government activities for young people. It is an overview and, while comprehensive, is a point in time publication, resulting in some constraints around the information included. Readers should check that information is up to date by contacting the relevant Australian Government agency for further information. Contact details are provided at the back of the report.

This report is not intended to be read from front to back, but rather to be used as a reference resource on particular issues. Readers can locate relevant activities through the index at the back of the report.



Part 2



PART TWO

The Australian Government's role in the lives of young people

The Australian Government's role in youth affairs is wide and varied. Government responsibilities relating to young people include major areas like education, employment and income support, but also less obvious areas like communication and transport. The Government in some cases acts as the direct provider of services such as payments through Centrelink.

In other cases it acts as a funding body for other levels of government and community organisations.

The Government also has policy responsibilities for areas that impact upon the lives of young people in areas as diverse as transport, family support, communication (including online safety) and the arts.

Responsibility for policies and programs for young Australians are spread across all levels of government. The community sector also plays a very important role in service delivery for young people.

Across these multiple layers of responsibility, the Australian Government has a leadership role, in areas including education, crime prevention and child protection. This leadership role involves setting policy directions, ensuring consistency and coordination across national policy areas.

It also involves the funding of state and local governments to deliver vital services, including health and education.

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is responsible for the development and implementation of policies and programs that ensure Australia's agricultural, fisheries, food and forestry industries remain competitive, profitable and sustainable.

The portfolio consists of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry plus a number of agencies, including the **Biosecurity Services Group** (BSG), the **Bureau of Rural Sciences** (BRS) and the **Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics**.

There are also a number of Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act (CAC) bodies within the portfolio, including the **Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation**, the rural industry based **Rural Research and Development Corporation**, the **Australian Fisheries Management Authority** and **Wheat Exports Australia**.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has a particular interest in the issues relating to young people aged between 15 and 30 years who are entering or involved in primary industries and living and working in rural, regional and remote Australia. Agencies in the portfolio work across government to reflect whole-of-government policy relating to young people.

The **Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation** works with industry to invest in research and development for a more profitable, sustainable and dynamic rural sector. The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation's mandate from government is to achieve results from research and development investments in three areas:

- New rural industries
- Specific established rural industries
- National rural issues.

Attorney-General's Department

The Australian Government Attorney-General's portfolio serves the people of Australia by providing essential expert support to the Government in the maintenance and improvement of Australia's system of law and justice and its national security and emergency management systems.

The portfolio comprises the Attorney-General's Department and 22 statutory and non-statutory bodies. Non statutory bodies include the **Australia Human Rights Commission** which is an independent statutory organisation and reports to the Federal Parliament through the Attorney-General, the **Australian Law Reform Commission** which conducts inquiries into areas of law reform at the request of the Attorney-General and the **Australian Federal Police** which enforces the laws of the Commonwealth to protect the interests of the Commonwealth both domestically and internationally.

The portfolio responsibilities of the Attorney-General's Department are diverse and include providing advice and services to the Commonwealth in the areas of access to justice, administrative, civil, family and international law, international adoption, international child abduction, federal courts and tribunals, domestic and international human rights issues, Indigenous justice, legal assistance, native title, personal property securities, bankruptcy, law reform, constitutional policy, classification, copyright and legislative drafting.

Responsibilities also include international crime cooperation, federal criminal law, law enforcement and prosecutions, national security and emergency management, customs and border control. Additionally, the administration of Australia's non self-governing territories and management of the Australian Government's interests in Australia's self-governing territories, including the Australian Capital Territory, is held within this portfolio.

By providing expert advice and services in these areas, the portfolio contributes to the Australian Government's long-term reform agenda for a stronger, more secure and fairer Australia and an Australia capable of meeting new challenges.

The Department funds a range of law and justice services for young people including Supporting Children after Separation Program, the National Classification Scheme which establishes how young people can access films, computers games and some publications, and law and justice projects that service Indigenous youth in remote, regional and metro areas.

Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy aims to develop a vibrant, sustainable and internationally competitive broadband, broadcasting and communications sector, that promotes the digital economy for the benefit of all Australians.

The Department works to achieve this outcome through policy development, advice and program delivery activities that:

- facilitate the increased availability of fast, affordable and reliable broadband and communications infrastructure across Australia
- support all Australians to safely and securely realise the full potential of the digital economy
- ensure the availability and reliability to consumers and businesses of reasonably priced basic and essential communications services
- ensure the smooth transition to digital television by the end of 2013
- support access to high quality and diverse broadcasting services that deliver content consistent with Australia's diverse community expectations and needs.

The portfolio includes the **Australian Communications and Media Authority**, which is responsible for the regulation of broadcasting, the internet, radio communications and telecommunications.

The internet is an essential tool for all Australians, including children and young people. It is an integral part of our economic and social activities and a vast resource of information, education and entertainment. The ability to use online tools effectively provides both a skill for life and the means to acquire new skills.

While online services and associated technologies have been of enormous benefit to Australians, including children and young people, they have also raised new issues of concern including cyber-safety risks such as cyber-bullying, grooming, privacy, exposure to illegal and prohibited content and internet addiction. Parents rightly expect the Australian Government to play its part in helping protect children online.

In May 2008 the Government committed \$125.8 million over four years to a comprehensive range of cyber-safety measures, including law enforcement, filtering and education. Work on cyber safety for young people is informed by the Consultative Working Group and Youth Advisory Group on Cyber-safety.

Department of Climate Change

The creation of the Department of Climate Change, and its placement in the Prime Minister's portfolio, reflects the Australian Government's conviction that climate change is one of the defining challenges of the current and future generations. Some of the impacts of climate change are already observable such as rising sea levels and more extreme weather and there is scientific consensus that further changes will occur. Temperature increases of 2 to 3 degrees Celsius could have irreversible effects on natural ecosystems such as coral reefs, alpine areas and low-lying freshwater wetlands. The decisions made by the Government today to address carbon pollution will have a significant impact on young people and all future generations.

The Department of Climate Change is leading the delivery of some of the most ambitious and significant policy reforms with intergenerational impacts, built around three pillars:

- reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions
- adapting to unavoidable climate change and
- helping to shape a global solution.

These reforms include the implementation of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, which will drive transformational change to the Australian economy and encourage the transition to a low carbon future. Equally significant are the reforms required to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change. The work the Department is leading on a new climate change science framework and on adaptation strategies will influence urban planning, land use, agricultural practices, infrastructure investments and industry development, and help prepare human and natural systems that will sustain future generations. The success of the Department's work domestically on mitigation and adaptation will also enhance the Australian Government's international influence and capacity to help shape an effective global solution to climate change.

Department of Defence

The Australian Defence Organisation's mission is to defend Australia and its national interests. To achieve this mission, Defence must shape, build and maintain a military capability that is versatile, adaptable and can meet and sustain the demands of diverse operations and strategic partnerships. The Australian Defence Organisation includes the Department of Defence, the Defence Materiel Organisation and the Defence Science and Technology Organisation.

Australian young people are crucial to Defence's future success and international standing. Various activities and initiatives have been established to help familiarise young people with the work of Defence and recruit young adults with the necessary skills to contribute to Defence's overall capability.

Specific skilling, scholarship and recognition programs have also been established to encourage the evolution of a strong knowledge base for future needs in Defence and its support industries. A wide range of graduate and industry placement programs help foster this growth, and combine resources with state and federal educational institutions, Defence support industries, professional associations, agencies such as the CSIRO and other departments such as the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Defence is acutely aware that it has a responsibility to maintain its reputation as a respected part of Australian culture and society. Defence aims to foster a positive community attitude and provide unique developmental experiences for Australia's young people through such programs as the Australian Defence Force Cadets, the Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Awards and Young Endeavour Program.

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations is the lead government agency providing national leadership in the areas of education and workplace training, transition to work and conditions and values in the workplace.

The broad objectives of the Department include:

- educating and building socially inclusive communities where all Australians have the opportunity to reach their full potential and to actively participate in a rewarding economic and social life
- building and promoting individual development through equitable and accessible education from early childhood services to skills training and higher education
- increasing workforce participation and promoting fair and productive work practices
- developing national economic potential and capability that builds future economic prosperity and international competitiveness through skills development and employment growth
- actively engaging with clients and stakeholders to ensure services, advice and resources respond to the needs of these groups
- looking for efficiencies and innovative, targeted and effective solutions in developing national economic potential.

Along with providing strategic direction in the areas of employment, education and the workplace, the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations has a strong role in supporting young Australians. The Department includes the Office for Youth, established in 2008. The Office was founded on the understanding that this Government:

- recognises the importance young people have to Australian life
- understands the diversity of young people's life circumstances
- acknowledges the challenges and opportunities that are unique to this generation.

Young people are viewed as central to Australia's social success, workplace productivity and national prosperity. As such, the Department provides a range of services which support young people to grow up safe, healthy, happy and resilient and ensure they have the opportunities, skills and capabilities to learn, work and engage in community life and influence decisions that affect them.

The portfolio of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations includes the following agencies:

- The Australian Industrial Relations Commission
- Australian Industry Registry
- The Australian Learning and Teaching Council Limited
- Comcare, the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission, Seafarer's Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority
- Fair Work Australia
- The Fair Work Ombudsman
- Office of the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner

- Teaching Australia—Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited
- The Workplace Authority.

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Australian Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts develops and implements national policy, programs and legislation to protect and conserve Australia's environment and heritage and to promote Australian arts and culture.

The portfolio is extensive and includes:

- Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
- Bureau of Meteorology
- Parks Australia
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- Australia Council
- Australian Film, Television and Radio School
- National Film and Sound Archive
- National Gallery of Australia
- National Library of Australia
- National Museum of Australia
- Screen Australia
- Bundanon Trust

The Department's responsibilities cover a diverse and exciting range of issues, including environmental protection and conservation of biodiversity, community and household climate action, cultural affairs, natural, built and movable cultural heritage, film and the arts, water resources, greenhouse gas abatement, renewable and energy efficiency, and air and fuel quality.

The Department has developed programs and resources for young people, including Indigenous and young people in regional and rural Australia, that aim to educate and encourage them to take an active interest in the future protection of Australia's resources, environment and heritage. Many of these resources are now available online, which increases audience reach and allows cultural institutions nationwide to work more effectively together.

The **Australia Council** is the Australian Government's principal arts funding body. The council aims to enrich the lives of Australians and their communities by supporting the creation and enjoyment of the arts.

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs is the Australian Government's principal source of advice on social policy. The Department works in partnership with other government and non-government organisations in the management of a diverse range of programs and services designed to support and improve the lives of Australians of all ages.

The Department also has whole-of-government responsibilities in relation to Indigenous affairs and women.

The portfolio includes:

- the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency
- the Indigenous Land Corporation.

Families are central in the care and development of children and youth, shaping the attitudes and values of the next generation. It is important that families and youth have appropriate support to allow them to participate actively in community and economic life. As such, the Department aims to support them through a range of programs and services.

At the centre of this family-based approach is the Family Support Program, an initiative designed to improve outcomes for children and families by improving the Australian Government's ability to provide services to them. The program is driven by two key streams. The first focuses on broader family support and is available to the general population at critical transition points in their lives. The second concentrates on more intensive, targeted services, supporting the most vulnerable in the community.

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs also has a number of programs aimed specifically at young people. These programs seek to support young people, particularly those who experience disadvantage or exclusion, through engagement, mentoring, leadership development and strengthening parenting and family relationships.

The **Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency's** role is to administer the *Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act 1999* and through education, assist organisations to achieve equal opportunity for women. The agency works with employers to improve equal opportunity outcomes for women in the workplace by delivering practical solutions, building strategic partnerships, and leading public debate to increase the rate of change.

The **Indigenous Land Corporation** assists Indigenous Australians to acquire land and manage Indigenous-held land sustainably, to provide cultural, social, economic or environmental benefits for themselves and future generations.

Department of Finance and Deregulation

As a central agency of the Australian Government, the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance) plays an important role in assisting government across a wide range of policy areas to ensure its outcomes are met, particularly with regard to expenditure and financial management, deregulation reform and the operations of government.

Essential services delivered by Finance include supporting the delivery of the Australian Government Budget, the ongoing management of the Australian Government's non-defence domestic property portfolio and key asset sales. Finance is also responsible for implementation of the Australian Government's deregulation agenda and the financial framework for Australian Government Agencies.

Additionally, the Department provides entitlements advice and support to parliamentarians and their employees, maintains shareholder oversight for Government Business Enterprises, provides general insurance services to government agencies and promotes improved risk management. Finance also provides strategic advice, guidance and service provision for the productive application of new and existing information and communication technologies to government operations.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade aims to advance the interests of Australia and Australians internationally. This involves working to strengthen Australia's security, enhancing Australia's prosperity and helping Australian travellers and Australians overseas.

Young Australians play a vital role in the promotion of Australia's foreign and trade policy goals, notably in expanding our people-to-people links in support of those goals, in enhancing understanding of Australia abroad and in increasing Australia's understanding of the rest of the world.

The Department provides services to young people wishing to travel abroad providing secure and reliable passports and services, as well as access to up-to-date travel advice. Young Australians abroad may also have need of consular assistance which is provided by the Department.

The Department also contributes to the security and wellbeing of Australia's young people through its efforts to promote our trade interests overseas and by advocating Australia's security interests, both bilaterally and multilaterally.

The Department further supports a range of foundations, councils and institutes which strengthen Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio objectives in key bilateral relationships. While many of the councils and foundations supported by the Department are not solely focused on youth-related activities, they can provide grants for specific projects.

Within the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio, agencies which provide services to young Australians include the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the Australian Trade Commission (Austrade).

The **Australian Agency for International Development** (AusAID) manages the Australian Government's overseas aid program. As part of this program, AusAID places skilled young Australians on short-term assignments in developing countries where they play a vital role in the fight against poverty by transferring their unique skills and knowledge to help people build sustainable communities.

Austrade is the Australian Government's trade and investment development agency. It assists Australian businesses in contributing to national prosperity by succeeding in trade and investment internationally, and by promoting and supporting productive foreign investment into Australia. Austrade's Exporting for the Future education program helps educators inspire students to engage in innovation and global enterprise and promotes direct student engagement with global businesses through its annual export plan competition.

Department of Health and Ageing

The Department of Health and Ageing aims to achieve better health and active ageing for all Australians through strengthening evidence-based policy advising, improving program management, research, regulation and partnerships with other government agencies, consumers and stakeholders.

The health attitudes and behaviours of young people are essential to the health of the future of Australia. In recognition of this, the Australian Government has invested in a number of key areas to enable better health outcomes for young people while ensuring that their health promoting behaviours are continued into adulthood.

Youth health initiatives predominantly take early intervention and preventive approaches with a strong health promotion component and interdisciplinary coordination across government agencies and institutions at the national, state and territory, and local level. For example, the Australian Government is currently investing in a number of interventions that focus on substance abuse, including alcohol, tobacco and methamphetamines, among young people. There has also been significant investment in the mental health area, with these initiatives attempting to address the current and specific mental health needs of young Australians.

In addition to examining health outcomes, the Australian Government recognises the importance of continuing to monitor and report on trends in youth health and wellbeing in a broader context in order to achieve health gains for Australia's young people. Accordingly, the Australian Government has invested in the *Australia's young people—their health and wellbeing report* issued by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare every four years, which presents a national picture of health status and the determinants of health for young people.

The **Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health** was established to give a greater focus to the health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in mainstream health programs, and to assume responsibility for the administration of funding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled health and substance use services.

The long-term strategy of the Office is to improve the access of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to comprehensive primary health care and substance use services. The aim is to provide coordinated clinical care, population health and health promotion activities to facilitate illness prevention, early intervention and effective disease management. Evidence from Australia and overseas shows that improved access to comprehensive primary health care can make a real and sustainable difference to health status in the longer term.

Department of Human Services

The Department of Human Services directs, coordinates and brokers improvements to policy on service delivery and service delivery reform across Human Services agencies from a whole-of-government perspective.

It has a particular focus on cross-portfolio objectives including the reduction of health and welfare fraud, improved access to services for Indigenous Australians and major programs such as the development and implementation of Job Capacity Assessments.

The portfolio includes the **Child Support Agency**, **CRS Australia**, **Medicare**, and **Centrelink**.

These agencies deliver government payments and services on behalf of a number of Australian Government portfolio bodies, including the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, the Department of Health and Ageing, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The services administered are designed

to support a broad range of Australians including retirees, families, carers, parents, young people, people with disabilities, Indigenous people, and people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Payments and services delivered by Human Services portfolio agencies to assist young people include Youth Allowance, job seeker referrals, Medicare benefits, child support payments, disability services and rehabilitation services. Agencies such as Centrelink also run locally based initiatives focused on the needs of young people, which seek to link them to other services in their local community.

CRS Australia is a leading provider of vocational rehabilitation and assessment services to people with a disability, injury or health condition. CRS Australia works in partnership with employers to find staff and provides healthy and safe workplaces for employees through quality injury prevention and injury management services.

Medicare is Australia's universal health care system introduced in 1984 to provide eligible Australian residents with affordable, accessible and high-quality health care.

Medicare was established based on the understanding that all Australians should contribute to the cost of health care according to their ability to pay. It provides access to free treatment as a public (Medicare) patient in a public hospital, and free or subsidised treatment by medical practitioners including general practitioners, specialists, participating optometrists or dentists (for specified services only).

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

The purpose of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's (DIAC) role is to build Australia's future through the well managed entry and settlement of people. DIAC also promotes a society which values Australian citizenship, appreciates cultural diversity and enables migrants to participate equitably.

The Australian Government takes its humanitarian responsibilities very seriously and Australia's offshore Humanitarian Program continues to rank in the top three humanitarian resettlement programs in the world alongside the United States and Canada. Young people are a considerable component of both the Migration and Humanitarian Programs; in 2008-09 over 30,000 young people between the ages of 12 and 25 arrived in Australia.

Young people play an important role in forming a united and diverse Australian society and enhancing social cohesion. DIAC's settlement programs provide support to new arrivals most in need of assistance, complementary to the support available under wider government programs. Services include the Australian Cultural Orientation Program, the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy, Complex Case Support the Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors Program, the Settlement Grants Program, the Adult Migrant English Program, the Translating and Interpreting Service and a range of information products and resources.

DIAC also supports Multicultural Affairs initiatives such as Harmony Day, the Diverse Australia Program and the National Action Plan, that are highly inclusive of migrant youth. DIAC works closely with Australian Government agencies and other tiers of government in the implementation of the Government's multicultural policy and programs.

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government contributes to the wellbeing of all Australians by assisting the Government to promote, evaluate, plan and invest in infrastructure, through fostering an efficient, sustainable, competitive, safe and secure transport system, and by assisting regions and local government to develop and manage their futures.

The Department's purpose is to promote economic, social and regional development by enhancing Australia's infrastructure performance.

The Department plays a key role in:

- providing funding for transport infrastructure
- promoting safe and secure transport solutions
- providing a framework for competition between and within transport modes
- promoting a transport system that is accessible, sustainable and environmentally responsible
- providing policy advice on whole-of-government strategies to maximise the potential of Australia's regions
- ensuring information about relevant Government policies and programs is disseminated effectively to regional Australia
- promoting efficient and effective local government which fosters a strong sense of community.

Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

The Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research strives to encourage the sustainable growth of Australian industries by developing a national innovation system that drives knowledge creation, cutting edge science and research, international competitiveness and greater productivity. The Department is committed to developing policies and delivering programs, in partnership with stakeholders, to provide lasting economic benefits ensuring Australia's competitive future.

The portfolio of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research includes IP Australia, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and Questacon, Australia's National Science and Technology Centre.

To fully realise Australia's potential as a globally competitive, knowledge-based economy, the Government is making an effort to effectively develop an appreciation of science, research and innovation in its young people and provide them with the skills that underpin Australia's capacity to develop new knowledge and innovate.

A suite of measures has been adopted to engage young people in science, innovation and research and support the critical early stages of their careers in these areas. Programs and activities delivered by the Portfolio of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research range from the development of resources for schools and training for teachers through to work experience and graduate programs, to support for individuals to achieve higher degree by research qualifications and gain commercialisation skills. These programs and activities complement work across government to raise educational participation and attainment levels and build Australia's science, research and innovation capacity.

IP Australia administers Australia's intellectual property (IP) rights system, specifically patents, trade marks, designs and plant breeder's rights. IP Australia also has responsibility in shaping intellectual property policy and increasing levels of awareness and understanding about intellectual property.

The **Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO)** is Australia's national nuclear research and development organisation and runs Australia's only nuclear reactor. ANSTO is the centre of Australia's nuclear expertise and provides benefits to the Australian community in a range of different areas, including health, the environment, industry and international nuclear issues.

The **Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)** is Australia's national science agency and one of the largest and most diverse research agencies in the world. CSIRO has a range of facilities that are opened to the public, with each offering a unique insight into science research activities and history.

Questacon is the National Science and Technology Centre. Questacon develops and travels exhibitions, shows, outreach programs and online resources all provided in interactive, engaging ways to explore science and technology. A number of Questacon outreach activities are specifically targeted to secondary school students, including Questacon Smart Moves and Shell Questacon Science Circus. The Questacon Smart Moves Invention Convention is an intensive week-long program that brings together innovative and entrepreneurial young Australian secondary students to Canberra. It is an opportunity for like-minded young people to network with established entrepreneurs, to develop entrepreneurial skills to further develop their ideas. The Invention Convention is run over five days and includes seminars on networking, resources, marketing, exporting, money management, business skills, entrepreneurship and intellectual property. People with backgrounds in innovation and entrepreneurship participate to help mentor delegates. Questacon is a division within the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is responsible for providing high-quality policy advice to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet on matters that are at the forefront of public and government administration, including domestic and international affairs. The Department advises and supports the government in taking all relevant factors into account to make the best possible decisions.

The Department supports the Prime Minister, the Cabinet Secretary, Parliamentary Secretaries to the Prime Minister, and the Deputy Prime Minister (in her capacity as Minister for Social Inclusion), and consults extensively across the Australian Public Service to ensure that the advice provided draws on the most appropriate sources. The Department also has a strong role in driving policy development and innovation across the Australian Public Service.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet works with the Office for Youth and other Commonwealth agencies to provide informed and coordinated advice on youth policy matters including identifying, across portfolios, where changes in policy may impact on the interests of young people.

Areas where the Department has provided policy direction on youth matters include health, education and training, migration, income support, family support, social inclusion, employment and Indigenous issues. In addition, the Department has a key role in delivering national cooperation and action on issues that affect young people through the Council of Australian Governments.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet manages a large portfolio, including the Australian Public Service Commission, the Institute of Family Studies, the National Archives of Australia, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner, and the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman.

The **Australian Public Service Commission** works to ensure that the Australian Public Service is the service the country needs, and works with agencies to identify and promote better practice. The Australian

Public Service Commission promotes good practice in managing people, supports leadership, learning and development within the Australian Public Service, and fosters ethical behaviour and workplaces that value diversity.

The **Australian Institute of Family Studies** is responsible for conducting, facilitating and communicating research about issues affecting families in Australia. As the Government's principal source of specialist research expertise on families, the Institute undertakes high-quality research and analysis about factors affecting family wellbeing. Its research focuses on four themes: family relationships, children, youth and patterns of care, families and work and families and community life.

The **National Archives of Australia** promotes good records management in Australian Government agencies, preserves Australian Government records that have archival value, and makes those records accessible now and for future generations.

The **Office of the Privacy Commissioner** promotes and protects privacy in Australia by providing information and advice, handling complaints, and undertaking promotional and educational initiatives. In its efforts to educate individuals about their privacy rights the Office of the Privacy Commissioner has recognised the importance of communicating with young Australians and has developed specific strategies to target this group.

As young Australians move through developmental phases they will encounter different situations that may potentially impact upon their privacy. From online social networking to getting identification scanned at clubs, young people are at the forefront of activities that have major privacy implications and yet they are among the groups within society that are least aware of their privacy rights. Projects undertaken by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner address a range of privacy issues of relevance to young Australians, and which seek to educate them of their privacy rights and build awareness of the office and its resources.

The **Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman** safeguards the community in its dealings with government agencies, and ensures that administrative action by Australian Government agencies is fair and accountable.

Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism

The Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism provides advice and policy support to the Australian Government regarding Australia's resources, energy and tourism sectors. The Department develops and delivers policies to increase Australia's international competitiveness, consistent with the principles of environmental responsibility and sustainable development.

The portfolio includes the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism, Tourism Australia and Geoscience Australia. The work of these agencies contributes towards providing a stable economic environment for all Australians.

Managing resources and energy use is a critical issue that Australian companies and individuals face in the years ahead as the world responds to the challenges of climate change, energy security and economic competitiveness. The Department's energy programs and initiatives represent an important part of the Government's strategy to deal with these challenges.

Tourism is Australia's largest service industry, employing many young Australians in both metropolitan and regional areas. The Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism is developing a National Long-Term Tourism Strategy which will have a strong focus on addressing issues around investment, infrastructure needs, labour and skills, productivity, quality and access. There is also a focus on improving training and employment opportunities in the tourism industry for young people in regional areas, including Indigenous youth. The work of the Department has significant impact on the environmental and economic wellbeing of Australia, and therefore has clear implications for young people.

The Treasury

The Treasury's mission is to improve the wellbeing of the Australian people by providing sound and timely advice to the government, based on objective and thorough analysis of options, and by assisting Treasury ministers in the administration of their responsibilities and the implementation of government decisions.

Within Treasury's portfolio the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission have programs and products that directly target youth.

The **Australian Bureau of Statistics** produces statistics covering a range of topics relevant to youth including family, community, social participation, health, education and work. Statistics play an important role in describing the lives of youth and can illuminate problems young people experience and some of the factors associated with those problems. The Bureau also produces resources targeted at young people that aim to promote greater understanding, knowledge and access to Bureau statistics.

The **Australian Securities and Investments Commission** is Australia's corporate, markets and financial services regulator and works to ensure that Australia's financial markets are fair and transparent. The commission has responsibility for developing financial literacy in Australians of all ages, but its Financial Literacy Strategy specifically targets Australians aged 12 to 25 to help them learn more about money and take responsibility for applying financial literacy skills in their daily lives. This deliberate focus on youth will develop and drive long-term cultural change using formal education pathways and structures.

The role of the **Australian Competition and Consumer Commission** (ACCC) is to facilitate and encourage individuals and businesses to comply with Commonwealth competition, fair trading and consumer protection laws. The ACCC has a responsibility to take appropriate action in response to contraventions of those laws, to determine certain competition and access issues and to educate the community in relation to such matters. The ACCC remains committed to developing and pursuing strategies that ensure it provides consumers of all ages equivalent access to its services. The ACCC monitors market behaviour to identify business conduct which seeks to exploit any disadvantage or vulnerability arising in transactions with younger consumers. The ACCC is working to better engage with young Australians.

PART THREE

Family, community and communication

Twenty-first century Australia is characterised by rapid and constant change. This change has resulted in young people experiencing family, community and communication differently from those in previous generations.

The proliferation of media, the rise of online culture, greater technological advancement and the changing profile of families have all contributed to this; the advent of the internet has particularly changed young people's sense of community and the ways in which they communicate.

These changes bring both opportunities and threats.

The Australian Government has a role to play in equipping young people to take advantage of these opportunities and protect themselves against threats.

The Government supports young people by delivering quality services that are targeted to their needs, and by investing in activities which strengthen families and communities so that they can support young people too.

The Government works across a range of areas including youth development, family support, social inclusion, transport, and communication to help young people take advantage of all the opportunities available to them and embrace the benefits of a changing Australia.

Youth-specific activities

Activities included in this section are those Australian Government activities directed specifically at young people aged between 12 and 25 years. Where activities are targeted at young people slightly outside this age bracket (e.g. 15 to 28) they are also considered youth specific.

Reconnect

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Reconnect provides early intervention support for young people 12–18 years who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Services include counselling, group work, mediation and practical support to both the young person and their family. This includes a number of specialist Reconnect providers such as Indigenous, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD), Mental Health, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (GLBTI) and Newly Arrived Youth. Reconnect – Newly Arrived Youth Specialist services (formerly known as the Newly Arrived Youth Support Service – NAYSS Initiative) target newly arrived young people aged 12–21 years who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and their families. Eligible participants must have arrived in Australia in the previous five years. They can be young people from all visa entry types, however there is a focus on young people entering Australia on humanitarian visas and family visas.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Reconnect program uses community-based early intervention services and Reconnect providers also 'buy in' services to target individual needs of clients, such as specialised mental health services.

Find out more at: <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/housing/progserv/homelessness/Pages/reconnect.aspx>

Supporting Children after Separation Program

Program

Attorney General's Department

The Supporting Children after Separation Program assists children from separating families to deal with issues arising from the breakdown in their parents' relationship and to be able to participate in decisions that impact on them. The objective of this new service is to support children to manage and enhance their relationship with their parents both during and after family separation.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Attorney-General's Department funds community-based family relationship service providers to deliver the Supporting Children after Separation Program. The funding is allocated through a competitive selection process.

Find out more at: www.familyrelationships.gov.au

Family Separation: a guide for teens

Resource

Department of Human Services—Child Support Agency

The Child Support Agency has developed the booklet *Family separation: a guide for teens*, and a complementary website. The booklet and the youth website were developed in consultation with youth and community organisations. Both resources contain practical advice on a range of issues identified by these groups as being important after parental separation, including how to cope with emotions, dealing with change, adjusting to step-families, being concerned about what the future might hold, and maintaining studies.

Participation, eligibility and access

The booklet is distributed through community support groups and agencies and Child Support Agency community outreach activities. It is also available free to order from the Child Support Agency website.

Find out more at: <http://www.youth.csa.gov.au/>

Adolescent and Family Mediation Therapy

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Adolescent and Family Mediation Therapy program is an early intervention service established under the Family Relationship Services Program. The objective of the program is to assist young people aged 10 to 21 and their families or caregivers who want to improve their relationships and resolve conflict. Through mediation and/or family therapy, services work directly with adolescents and their families who are experiencing varying levels of conflict and complex issues that could potentially lead to family breakdown and/or youth homelessness. Adolescent clients of the program may or may not live at home with their parent or caregiver.

Participation, eligibility and access

Non-government organisations are contracted to deliver these services. The program assists young people aged 10 to 21 as well as their families or caregivers.

Find out more at: http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/families/progserv/FRSP/Pages/frsp-main_types_frsp_services.aspx#2

Partnership with BoysTown and Kids Helpline

Policy responsibility

Department of Human Services—Child Support Agency

The Department of Human Services works in partnership with BoysTown to support young people. BoysTown helps disadvantaged children and young people up to 25 to connect with the community, and also operates Kids Helpline. The Department's involvement with BoysTown includes joint media activity focused on the needs of children after family breakdown, providing input into new Child Support Program products and services, participating in stakeholder meetings and providing proactive customer referrals from the Child Support Program to Kids Helpline.

Participation, eligibility and access

BoysTown and the Department of Human Services cooperate on many levels, primarily through stakeholder meetings and input into new products and services, as well as by providing referrals.

Find out more at: <http://www.boystown.com.au/index.html>

Development of Pre-teen Resources

Information resource/products

Department of Human Services—Child Support Agency

The Child Support Agency is responsible for administering Australia's Child Support Scheme, supporting separated parents to transfer payments for the benefit of their children. The Child Support Agency has identified that there are about 50,000 children aged under 18 involved in separation or divorce in Australia every year. The Child Support Agency is developing two complementary products to support children aged under 12 who are affected by separation or divorce. These resources include an interactive CD-ROM targeted aimed at children aged 8 to 12, or with advanced literacy or cognitive abilities; and a publication in the form of an activity book targeting younger children aged 5 to 7 years or those with less developed literacy or cognitive abilities.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Child Support Agency will work with the Attorney-General's Department to supply Family Relationship Centres with the completed products. The CD-ROM and booklets will be promoted to parents and stakeholders and products will also be available through the Child Support Agency website.

Find out more at: <http://www.youth.csa.gov.au/>

My family is separating—what now?

Information resource/products

Department of Human Services—Child Support Agency

The Department of Human Services' new online tool entitled '*My family is separating—what now?*' provides information and links to a range of support products and services that can help with the emotional, financial and legal issues families face during separation. The tool contains specific information and links to assist children in finding useful resources and to help them better understand their rights and responsibilities. This tool will be publicly available from September 2009.

Participation, eligibility and access

The resource will be promoted through key child support stakeholders and their networks, existing Child Support Program (CSP) channels such as National and State Stakeholder Engagement Group meetings, the *Child Support Matters* newsletter, customer and stakeholder e-bulletins, service providers; newsletters; websites and the media. CSP will arrange with stakeholders for third party endorsement of the tool to assist with promotion.

Find out more at: www.familyseparation.humanservices.gov.au

YouthLinx**YouthLinx**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

YouthLinx is an early intervention and prevention program that targets young people aged 11 to 16 who are at risk of disconnecting from family, education and community. YouthLinx services provide practical support and guidance to young people and their families by helping them deal with issues affecting their wellbeing and by referring them to other specialist services. The YouthLinx program will cease on 31 December 2009. From 1 January 2010, new youth career and transitions programs will be in place under the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions. Please refer to the entry on the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions for more information.

Participation, eligibility and access

YouthLinx is a national program, delivered by local councils and community organisations. Details of YouthLinx services and their geographic coverage is provided at the website below. YouthLinx participants are commonly referred from schools, family services, community and government organisations, and their peers.

Find out more at:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/OfficeForYouth/YouthPrograms/Pages/YouthPrograms.aspx#youthlinx>

Social Policy Research Services Agreement funded research**Research**

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Social Policy Research Services (SPRS) Agreement funded research program includes an annual research agenda including some projects related to youth and others using the Youth in Focus data which is managed by the SPEAR centre.

Youth related projects for this year include:

- *The capacity of families to support young Australians: financial transfers from parents, co-residence, and youth outcomes.* This project analyses how 18 to 20-year-old Australians from different family backgrounds are economically supported by their parents and by the government, and how this support (or the lack of it) is correlated with their decisions regarding education and the labour market.
- *The relationship between income support history and the characteristics and outcomes of Australian youth—part 2.* This project provides an assessment of the relationship between a young person's characteristics and outcomes and the income support history of his or her family, as well as tracing the transformation of the survey respondents' characteristics over the two years that have passed between the waves of the Youth in Focus survey.

Participation, eligibility and access

Under the Social Policy Research Services program, the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has multi-year contracts with three research centres: the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales, and the Family and Community Health Research Unit and the Social Policy Evaluation, Analysis and Research Centre at the Australian National University.

Find out more at:

<http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/>

<http://econrssh.anu.edu.au/spear.htm>

In-house research based on Youth in Focus Project

Research

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Australian Government is working with the Australian National University and other partners on the Youth in Focus Project (YFP). The aim of the project is to get a more accurate picture of how young people are doing and how they achieve economic and social independence; specifically focusing on the intergenerational transmission of disadvantage. The project looks at young people from a wide range of different backgrounds and with different childhood experiences. The study is based on information provided by young people and their parents in a survey, as well as information from Centrelink's administrative records. Additional in-house research based on the results will be undertaken to inform youth initiatives relevant to FaHCSIA, including outcomes for youth in non-intact families and social inclusion among youth with a disability.

Participation, eligibility and access

Research based on the Youth in Focus data is undertaken by research centres on behalf of the Department, Under the Social Policy Research Services Agreement. The Department also undertakes additional in-house research using this dataset.

Find out more at: <http://youthinfocus.anu.edu.au/survey.htm>

The Australian Youth Forum

Initiative/Scheme

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Australian Youth Forum is run by the Australian Government as a communication channel between the Government, young people and the organisations that work with, for, and on behalf of young people (also known as the youth sector). The forum's role is to engage young people and the youth sector in ongoing public debate, and secure their input on important issues and practical solutions that affect young people's lives now and in the future.

The Australian Youth Forum engages young people through its website, and also at forums and community activities. It brings young people, the youth sector and the Australian Government closer together, and gives them an opportunity to be heard.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Youth Forum website includes discussion boards where young people can post their thoughts or suggest a topic that they would like to see discussed.

The forum also holds regular events where young people can get their ideas across in person, and details on these are available at the website below.

Find out more at: <http://www.youth.gov.au/ayf/>

Effective Communications with Young People

Project

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Office for Youth commissioned the development of the Effective Communications project to support Government agencies in their communications with young people.

Participation, eligibility and access

For further information on this project please contact that Office for Youth on : 13 33 97

Find out more at:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/OfficeForYouth/Pages/default.aspx>

Student Communication Strategy

Strategy

Centrelink

The Student Communication Strategy outlines the key priorities and recommended strategies for communicating with the student audience. It includes the print and distribution of resources to support the youth audience as well as participation in outreach activities such as university orientation weeks.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Student Communication Strategy is directly delivered by Centrelink.

Find out more at:

www.centrelink.gov.au

Heywire

Program

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Heywire provides a platform for young people from rural and regional Australia to express their stories, ideas and opinions with the broader Australian community. The best stories selected are broadcast across ABC Radio, as well as being available online. Heywire story producers are also given an opportunity to participate in the Heywire Youth Issues Forum in Canberra. The forum provides young people with an opportunity to gain leadership and communication skills, not simply for radio but also in their local communities. Participants are also able to gain an insight into the process of government, including working on the development of a proposal around an issue and presenting this to an expert panel.

Participation, eligibility and access

Participants must be between 16 and 22 years of age, and either come from or live in rural and regional Australia. Competition entrants must produce and submit a story suitable for the ABC's national audience.

Find out more at:

<http://blogs.abc.net.au/heywire>

Privacy Youth Portal**Project**

Office of the Privacy Commissioner

The Privacy Youth Portal has been designed as an easily accessible reference point for young Australians to find resources relating to privacy issues which affect them. Resources available in the Privacy Youth Portal include *private i—your ultimate privacy survival guide*, the *Think before you upload* educational video, and educational articles.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Privacy Youth Portal is provided by Office of the Privacy Commissioner through its website.

Find out more at:
<http://www.privacy.gov.au/topics/youth>
Youth Advisory Group on Cyber-Safety**Initiative/Scheme**

Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

The Australian Government has a role in helping parents to protect their children online. The Government's Cyber-Safety Plan 2008 includes the establishment and operation of the Youth Advisory Group on Cyber Safety. The group consists of some 300 young people aged between 11 and 17 years, who provide advice to the Government on cyber-safety issues from a young person's perspective. The Youth Advisory Group is considering and providing advice on the cyber-safety risks faced by Australian children, how best to address these and how to communicate cyber-safety messages to other young Australians.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Commonwealth/State Supportive and Safe Schools Committee and members of the Consultative Working Group on Cyber-Safety identified a number of schools with a known commitment to cyber-safety. Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy then invited 15 of these schools to participate in the Youth Advisory Group. The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy consults directly with the Youth Advisory Group through its website and through face-to-face meetings.

Find out more at:
http://www.dbcde.gov.au/online_safety_and_security/cybersafety_plan
Cybersmart Schools Gateway**Resource**

Australian Communications and Media Authority

In July 2009, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) launched the Cybersmart Schools Gateway. This is a web portal on the Cybersmart website which gives all Australian primary and secondary schools easy access to the full range of cybersafety education resources published by ACMA. The gateway hosts current resources and links to existing national and international resources, and also includes strategic tools for cybersafety education planning.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Cybersafety Schools Gateway is managed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

Find out more at:
www.cybersmart.gov.au

CyberNetrix**Program**

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Designed for early teens, CyberNetrix is an engaging multimedia resource which includes interactive activities designed to simulate popular online activities such as instant messaging. CyberNetrix aims to highlight age-specific risks online and offer advice on how to avoid them. This resource includes a Teacher Guide with activity guidelines and student handouts.

Participation, eligibility and access

CyberNetrix resources are available for download at the website below.

Find out more at: <http://www.cybernetrix.com.au/>

Wise up to IT**Program**

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Wise up to IT is a video-based program aimed at secondary school students. The program covers cyberbullying, online stalking, internet security and grooming in four videos which depict young people's experiences online. The videos encourage students to think about whom they are really chatting to online, what personal information they are posting, and whether or not their computer is protected from scams and spyware. Wise up to IT is supported by teacher and student resources and is available both as a DVD and online. An updated version with new episodes of Wise up to IT will be available in 2010.

Participation, eligibility and access

Wise up to IT resources are available for download at the website provided below.

Find out more at: <http://www.wiseuptoit.com.au/>

Cyberbullying video: Let's Fight it Together**Program**

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Let's Fight it Together is a comprehensive teaching resource that aims to help young people, teachers and parents understand cyberbullying and its impact on other people.

The resource provides practical advice in a package made up of a short film, supporting teacher materials and links to online activities. Let's Fight it Together highlights how technology can be misused and lead to cyberbullying, as well as providing guidance on how to promote confident technology users.

Participation, eligibility and access

Available from September 2009

Find out more at: <http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/>

Cybersmart Kids Brochures **Resource**

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Social networking, mobile phone use and general internet safety tips are covered in this suite of brochures from the Australian Communications and Media Authority. The brochures provide tips for children and parents about keeping safe online.

Participation, eligibility and access

Cybersmart Kids brochures are developed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority and are available for download at the website provided below.

Find out more at: <http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/>

CyberQuoll

Program

Australian Communications and Media Authority

The internet-related antics of the Quoll cousins are the focus of this internet safety resource for upper primary school students. CyberQuoll provides users with a fun, cartoon-style multimedia experience with episodes covering the basics of internet use and how to keep safe online. CyberQuoll includes a range of teacher materials such as a Teacher Guide, student worksheets, certificates and contracts. CyberQuoll also includes materials that parents can use with their children at home.

Participation, eligibility and access

CyberQuoll resources are available for download at the website below.

Find out more at: <http://www.cyberquoll.com.au/>

Youth mobile phone avant card

Campaign

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission produced an Avant Card to inform young people about purchasing and using a mobile phone. The project is currently being evaluated to determine the benefit of a national campaign.

Participation, eligibility and access

Postcards were distributed using the Avant Card network in venues frequented by young people, including cafés, bars, universities, high schools, retail outlets, arts venues and regional hot spots. The campaign was also featured on the Avant Card website, and postcards were distributed during regional outreach activities in the Northern Territory in July 2009.

Find out more at: <http://www.avantcard.com.au/SendCard.php?input=SelectCard&id=1093>

Youth Development and Support Program

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Youth Development and Support Program funds a range of community-based projects to encourage productive participation, inclusion and positive development for young people aged 12 to 25. The program supports initiatives that inspire and encourage young people to develop skills and connections within their communities.

Participation, eligibility and access

A total of \$500,000 is available to support eligible organisations to deliver projects for implementation in 2009–10.

Eligible organisations are invited to apply for the level of assistance appropriate to the scale and scope of their proposed project, up to a maximum of \$75,000.

Program guidelines and an application form are available from the website below.

Find out more at: <http://www.youth.gov.au/ydsp.html>

Young Endeavour Youth Scheme

Initiative/Scheme

Departments of Defence and Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Young Endeavour Youth Scheme is a youth development program delivered in the context of tall ship sail training and run by the Royal Australia Navy. The scheme offers young Australians the opportunity to participate in an 11-day sea voyage in Australian waters. The aim of the scheme is to provide young Australians with a unique, challenging and inspirational experience that increases their self-awareness, develops their teamwork and leadership skills and creates a strong sense of community responsibility.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Young Endeavour Youth Scheme is delivered by the Department of Defence in partnership with the Royal Australian Navy. Some community scholarships are funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The scheme administers a program of up to 22 voyages annually for young Australians aged 16 to 23 and a series of day sails for disadvantaged and disabled youth. A majority of youth crew members are selected by a twice-yearly ballot process from all Australian states and territories.

Find out more at: <http://www.youngendeavour.gov.au>

National Youth Mentoring Partnership

Initiative/Scheme

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The National Youth Partnership has been formed between the Dusseldorp Skills Forum, Big Brothers Big Sisters Australia, The Smith Family, Job Futures and the Department of Education, Employment, and Workplace Relations, representing the Australian Government. The partnership started in 2005.

An initiative of the National Youth Mentoring Partnership is the Youth Mentoring Network, which aims to support and develop a functioning network of youth mentoring practitioners to enhance the quality of mentoring programs being offered in Australia, and to foster the growth of these programs.

Participation, eligibility and access

The National Youth Mentoring Partnership is between the Australian Government and community organisations, and works to foster the Youth Mentoring Network which is delivered through the website below.

Find out more at: <http://www.youthmentoring.org.au/>

Mentor Marketplace**Program****Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations**

Mentor Marketplace supports mentoring opportunities available to young people by establishing new mentoring activities and assisting the growth of successful existing activities. The program encourages the use of mentoring to improve outcomes for young people aged 12 to 25, particularly those at greatest risk of disconnection from their family, community, education, training and the workplace. The Mentor Marketplace program will cease on 31 December 2009. From 1 January 2010, new youth career and transitions programs will be in place under the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions. Please refer to the entry on the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions for more information.

Participation, eligibility and access

Projects funded under the program provide access to mentoring for a wide range of young people, including those in foster care, young carers, young people with disabilities, Indigenous young people, and those from disadvantaged groups and localities.

Find out more at: http://www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/OfficeForYouth/YouthPrograms/Pages/YouthPrograms.aspx#the_mentor_marketplace_program

**National Action Plan—
Mentor Marketplace
Extension Pilots****Initiative/Scheme**

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Under the National Action Plan for Social Cohesion and Harmony, funding was allocated to the Mentor Marketplace Program to conduct two extension pilots in Sydney. The pilots included mentoring services for disadvantaged young Muslims aged 12 to 25 who were at greatest risk of disconnection from their families. The pilots are specifically targeted at those experiencing family breakdowns, disconnection from community, education and work, cultural isolation, discrimination, mental health issues, drug and alcohol abuse, unemployment, and homelessness. The delivery of the pilots includes appointing appropriate role models to participants who can offer guidance on a range of issues including education, employment, and social and cultural participation. The pilots ceased in June 2009.

Participation, eligibility and access

Two non-government organisations (NGO) are currently funded to deliver the pilots. Eligible organisations which can deliver the pilots include incorporated organisations, consortiums (lead agency must be incorporated) and not-for-profit-organisations.

This is a restricted selection process.

Find out more at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/a-diverse-australia/national-action-plan/>

Ladder Mentoring Model**Project**

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Ladder Mentoring Model is a joint project of the AFL Players Association and the Australian Football League. The project aims to provide young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness the opportunity to develop supportive and positive relationships with their communities, and to learn new life skills.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Government provides funding to Ladder to support the organisation's work with young people.

Find out more at: <http://www.ladder.org.au/>

Australian Defence Force Cadets

Youth organisation

Department of Defence

The Australian Defence Force Cadets (ADFC) is a collective term used to describe the Australian Navy Cadets (ANC), Australian Army Cadets (AAC) and Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC). These voluntary, uniformed youth development organisations comprise cadets, community and school-based staff and volunteers. The prime focus is youth development. It also seeks to encourage interested young people to pursue careers in the ADF, the ADO or Defence Industry and bring about a positive attitude towards the ADF and active community involvement Australian Defence Force.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Navy, Army and Air Force are directly responsible for their respective Cadet organisations. Within each organisation, reservists, community and school-based cadet staff and volunteers provide youth development activities and programs in a military-like setting.

In addition, Defence funding is provided to support identified cadet initiatives such as increasing cadet numbers.

Find out more at: www.cadetnet.gov.au
www.navy.gov.au/Cadets
www.aac.adfc.gov.au/
www.aafc.org.au/hqaafc/

Australian Defence Force Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Awards

Program

Department of Defence

The Australian Defence Force Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Awards recognise students who demonstrate leadership and teamwork within both the school and the broader local community. At the same time, they recognise those who display strong values such as doing one's best, respect for others and mateship, that are integral to Australian society.

Recipients of a Long Tan Award will receive a certificate and a financial reward—\$100 for a Year 10 student, \$250 for a Year 11 student and \$500 awarded to a Year 12 student.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Defence Force Long Tan Awards are designed to encourage senior students—tomorrow's leaders—to actively participate in the life of their schools and local communities. In 2007 some 2100 schools participated in the awards and almost 5400 students received certificates and cheques. In 2008 the number of schools participating rose to over 2350 and almost 6000 students were rewarded. Winning students are selected by their school principal based on the criteria set out on the selection criteria sheet available for download from the site below.

Find out more at: www.defence.gov.au/longtanawards

Outside School Hours Care for Teenagers with Disability Program (formerly called Extra Support for Children with a Disability Program)

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Outside School Hours Care for Teenagers with Disability Program assists children and teenagers with disability and their families by funding services to deliver flexible outside school hours and vacation care. A particular focus of this program is to increase access for children and teenagers with disability aged 12 through to 18 years. The program assists:

- children and teenagers with disability to access quality outside school hours and vacation care services that are appropriate to their needs
- parents and carers of children and teenagers with disability to participate or increase their opportunities in the paid workforce.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Outside School Hours Care for Teenagers with Disability Program is delivered at 48 sites located across Australia by a range of disability and child care service providers.

Find out more at:

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/funding/outsidingschoolcare/Pages/default.aspx>

National Youth Affairs Research Scheme

Research

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The National Youth Affairs Research Scheme is a cooperative funding program between the Australian and state and territory governments which facilitates national research on subjects affecting young people. These governments fund reports to provide the government and youth sectors with evidence on youth issues. Recent research reports include *Young Carers: Their characteristics and geographical distribution* and *Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Young People and Mentoring: the case of Horn of African young people in Australia*.

Participation, eligibility and access

The National Youth Affairs Research Scheme is managed by the Office for Youth within the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. The Office for Youth commissions external agencies to undertake research projects.

Find out more at:

[http://www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/OfficeForYouth/YouthPrograms/Pages/YouthPrograms.aspx#national_youth_affairs_research_scheme_\(nyars\)](http://www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/OfficeForYouth/YouthPrograms/Pages/YouthPrograms.aspx#national_youth_affairs_research_scheme_(nyars))

Social Inclusion of Disengaged Youth

Policy responsibility

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations has broad policy responsibility for issues related to social inclusion and disengaged youth. It provides input to policy development in a number of key sectors including those that deal with labour market trends, the global financial crisis, education and training, and youth homelessness.

Participation, eligibility and access

Social Inclusion Policy management is delivered directly by the Participation Policy Branch of Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Find out more at: <http://www.socialinclusion.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>

United Nations Youth Association Youth Representative Program

Leadership

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The United Nations Youth Association (UNYA) Youth Representative Program aims to increase youth and community awareness of the United Nations. The program is delivered through a grant which covers the accommodation costs for a youth representative to attend the United Nations General Assembly in New York as a member of the Australian Delegation. The grant covers the delegate's accommodation costs for six to eight weeks.

Participation, eligibility and access

Australia is represented at the United Nations by three major diplomatic missions, one of which is based in New York. The New York Mission supports the Australian delegation during the regular sessions of the General Assembly and represents Australia at a range of United Nations meetings that take place when the Assembly is out of session. The management of the United Nations Youth Association Youth Representative Program is handled by the Mission in New York and the United Nations Youth Association.

The Mission is responsible for the Australian delegation's participation in United Nations youth activities, as well as accommodation and engagement. The United Nations Youth Association handles the administrative aspects of the program including advertising for and selecting a short list of candidates.

Find out more at: www.unya.org.au

Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development Program

Program

AusAID

The Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development Program is part of Australia's international development assistance program. The program provides 400 skilled young Australians each year with an opportunity to gain personal and professional experience overseas. Volunteers work with local counterparts in host organisations to achieve sustainable outcomes through capacity building, skills transfer and institutional strengthening. AYAD assignments cover a diverse range of sectors including education, the environment, gender, governance, health, infrastructure, rural development and trades.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development Program is fully funded by AusAID. Youth ambassadors aged between 18 and 30 are on placed short-term assignments of between 3 and 12 months in developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Find out more at: <http://www.ayad.com.au/asp/home.aspx> <http://www.usaid.gov.au/partner/volunteer.cfm>

Diverse Australia Program

Program

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Young people are a priority group for the Australian Government's anti-racism campaign, the Diverse Australia Program. The program is primarily a community based engagement initiative for all Australians and aims to address issues of cultural, racial and religious intolerance by promoting respect, fairness, inclusion and a sense of belonging for everyone.

The program provides funding, education and information to help organisations create a spirit of inclusiveness, and to help ensure all Australians are treated fairly regardless of their cultural background or circumstance. Grants vary in size from \$5,000 to \$200,000 under three different elements:

- Small scale community grants
- Major community grants
- Emerging issues grants.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship provides grants to community and local government organisations.

Find out more at: <http://www.harmony.gov.au/>

Australian citizenship primary and secondary schools resource

Resource

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship produces an Australian citizenship teaching resource for primary and secondary schools each year. The resource links to the National Statements of Learning for Civics and Citizenship, and contains information for teachers, activities for students and an online interactive component.

Participation, eligibility and access

The resource is distributed directly to schools and is also available online.

Find out more at: www.citizenship.gov.au

Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors

Program

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

The Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors Program provides care and welfare supervision to minors who arrive in Australia through the humanitarian program and who do not have a parent or relative to care for them. The program is delivered by state and territory government child welfare agencies through long-standing cost-sharing agreements with the Commonwealth. Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors services are provided until the minor turns 18, become an Australian citizen, are adopted or leave Australia permanently.

Participation, eligibility and access

The services available will depend on the individual needs of each client.

The relevant state and territory government child welfare agency will conduct a needs assessment of the minor on their arrival in Australia. Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors are also entitled to services provided under the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy.

Find out more at:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/69ihss.htm>

Information for Students—web section update

Project

Australian Human Rights Commission

Information for Students is an online education resource for secondary school students. The website promotes greater awareness and understanding of human rights, their origin and history, the development of international human rights conventions and contemporary human rights issues in Australia. The website targets students by providing information on a range of human rights issues and is designed to engage with students on a practical level. It includes a 'plain English' guide to what human rights are, including common questions and answers on human rights and an explanation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Other information includes further details on issues such as Indigenous social justice, refugees and asylum seekers, children in immigration detention, sexual harassment and discrimination, and human rights in other countries.

Participation, eligibility and access

Information for Students is directly delivered online by the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Find out more at:

http://www.humanrights.gov.au/info_for_students/

Young People's Human Rights Medal

Awards

Australian Human Rights Commission

The Young People's Human Rights Medal has been introduced as part of the annual Human Rights Medal and Awards. The Young People's Human Rights Medal is awarded to recognise an individual who is under the age of 18 years (as of 3 July 2009) and has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of human rights in Australia.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Young People's Human Rights Medal is awarded by the Australian Human Rights Commission. Nominations can be entered by visiting the commission's website.

Find out more at:

http://humanrights.gov.au/hr_awards/index.html

Australian Human Rights Commission online media

Project

Australian Human Rights Commission

The Australian Human Rights Commission makes use of a range of online social networking media platforms to communicate with young people about human rights. These include Facebook, MySpace and YouTube.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Human Rights Commission Facebook and MySpace pages include posts which inform members on upcoming Australian Human Rights Commission events.

Find out more at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sydney-Australia/Australian-Human-Rights-Commission/58057437310>
<http://www.myspace.com/letstalkaboutrights>
<http://www.youtube.com/user/AustralianHRC>

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Event

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is an advisory body to the organisation's Economic and Social Council. Its mandate is to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs provides funding to send two participants to this forum.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs provides funding to the Australian Human Rights Commission to facilitate the participation of Indigenous representatives in important international forums.

Find out more at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/>

Australia Malaysia Institute Malaysia: Sister School Project

Project

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

This is a new project offered by the Australia Malaysia Institute which is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The project is part of a broader strategy to develop institutional and people-to-people links between Australia and Malaysia. It will be a collaborative project between the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Malaysian Ministry of Education, and will be available to students from participating schools.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Sister School Project will be delivered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, and the Malaysian Ministry of Education.

Find out more at: <http://www.dfat.gov.au/ami/>

Non youth-specific activities

Activities included in this section are Australian Government activities that are targeted at the general population, but have a significant impact on the 12 to 25 age group, either through a high participation rate or through a direct impact on education, health, family and living situations.

Family Support Program

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Family Support Program (Community and Family Partnerships stream) aims to improve child development, safety and family functioning through the provision of targeted early intervention, prevention and support services to vulnerable and disadvantaged children and their families. The program provides services to children from birth to twelve years, while a number of projects within the service strategies also target young people as prospective parents, and young parents aged between 12 and 24 years. Other service strategies have place-based, community development approaches which assist young people. Service strategy programs include Communities for Children, Invest To Grow, Responding Early Assisting Children, the Indigenous Children Programme, the Indigenous Parenting Support Program, and Playgroup Programs.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Family Support Program (Community and Family Partnerships stream) is delivered through a variety of mechanisms including contracted non-Government organisations and open grant and funding rounds.

Find out more at:

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/family/parenting-parenting_early_childhood.htm
www.fahcsia.gov.au/fsp

Family Relationship Services

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Family Relationship Services is the Australian Government's key response to supporting positive family relationships. The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs funds community organisations to deliver early intervention services to individuals, couples and families to help them build stronger family relationships. The aim of these services is to improve the wellbeing of all families and family members through prevention and early intervention activities at a national level. Activities include counselling, family relationship education and skills training, specialised family violence and adolescent mediation and family therapy programs and services for families in special circumstances, humanitarian entrants and for men.

Participation, eligibility and access

Non-government organisations are contracted to deliver these services. Family Relationship Services work collaboratively across the sector to ensure an integrated service delivery system. Partnerships are formed with a broad range of services delivered through the Commonwealth and state and territory governments (such as mental health, family violence, child abuse and housing).

Find out more at:

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/families/progserv/FRSP/Pages/default.aspx>

Child Support Policy**Policy Responsibility**

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has responsibility for the development, monitoring and ongoing management of child support legislation and policy that promotes parental responsibility through the payment of child support.

Participation, eligibility and access

Child support service delivery is a responsibility of the Department of Human Services (Child Support Program) under the provision of the Child Support Agency.

Find out more at: <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/> and <http://www.csa.gov.au/>

The Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey**Research**

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey is a household based longitudinal survey. It collects data annually on all members of the sample households and interviews those aged 15 and over.

Participation, eligibility and access

The survey is funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Responsibility for the design and management of the survey rests with the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research (University of Melbourne).

Find out more at: <http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/HILDA>

Early Childhood Development Strategy**Policy responsibility**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The national Early Childhood Development Strategy—*Investing in the Early Years* aims to improve the health, safety, early learning and wellbeing of Australia's children, and spells out the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) shared vision—that by 2020 all children can have the best possible start in life to create a better future for themselves and for the nation.

The Early Childhood Development Strategy identifies seven key outcomes for young children and their families. These are:

- children are born and remain healthy
- children's environments are nurturing, culturally appropriate and safe
- children have the knowledge and skills for life and learning
- children benefit from better social inclusion and reduced disadvantage, especially Indigenous children
- children are engaged in and benefiting from educational opportunities
- families are confident and have the capabilities to support their children's development
- quality early childhood development services support the workforce participation choices of families

Participation, eligibility and access

Commonwealth and state and territory governments work in partnership to deliver the national Early Childhood Development Strategy.

Find out more at: http://www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Policy_Agenda/Pages/EarlyChildhoodDevelopmentStrategy.aspx
<http://www.coag.gov.au>

Indigenous Early Childhood Development National Partnership

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

The Indigenous Early Childhood Development National Partnership Agreement was signed at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting on 2 October 2008, as a first step in achieving the COAG Closing the Gap targets for Indigenous children. The National Partnership comprises \$564 million of joint funding over six years to address the needs of Indigenous children in their early years.

The National Partnership has three elements:

- Element 1 – the establishment of at least 35 integrated Children and Family Centres across Australia. The Children and Family Centres will improve access to early learning, child care and parent and family support services, targeting areas with a high proportion of Indigenous children and high levels of disadvantage.
- Element 2 – Increased access to and use of antenatal care by young Indigenous mothers; pre-pregnancy and teenage sexual and reproductive health programs to support young Indigenous women to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health.
- Element 3 – Increased access to and use of maternal and child health services by Indigenous families.

The National Partnership is based on evidence that halving the gap in Indigenous child mortality requires better access to antenatal care, teenage sexual and reproductive health services, child and maternal health services and integrated early childhood development and family support services.

Participation, eligibility and access

The National Partnership is being implemented by state and territory governments in partnership with the Australian Government. The Agreement is managed through an inter-jurisdictional Steering Committee, chaired by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). DEEWR has oversight for Element 1. The Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health has oversight of Elements 2 and 3. A number of activities are contracted to non-government organisations.

Find out more at: http://www.coag.gov.au/intergov_agreements/federal_financial_relations/index.cfm

National Classification Scheme

Consumer guidance and support

Attorney General's Department

Films, computer games and some publications are classified under a National Classification Scheme, which is a cooperative arrangement involving the Commonwealth, states and territories. The scheme affects young people as some classifications for films, computer games or publications restrict access to young persons who have not reached a certain age. The Classification Board and Classification Review Board must make these classification decisions, which could impact on a young person's right to access certain material.

Participation, eligibility and access

Classification decisions are made independently of government by the Classification Board and Classification Review Board, taking into account criteria agreed between Commonwealth, state and territory ministers. Classification enforcement is the responsibility of the states and territories.

Find out more at:

www.classification.gov.au

www.ag.gov.au/classificationpolicy

Cybersmart resources for public libraries

Resource

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Recognising the important role that public libraries play in providing internet access and educating users, the Australian Communications and Media Authority has produced a range of resources for library staff and families using libraries.

The resources were developed in conjunction with the Australian Library and Information Association and Australian public libraries. The resources include:

- Cybersmart Guide for Library Staff
- Cybersmart Guide for Families
- A cyber rules poster
- Four online safety information videos

Participation, eligibility and access

Cybersmart resources for public libraries are delivered by the Australian Media and Communications Authority.

Find out more at:

www.cybersmart.gov.au/libraries

Hector's World

Program

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Hector's World™ is an innovative online safety resource for young children featuring Hector Protector®, a bottlenose dolphin. Developed in New Zealand by Hector's World Ltd, this animated resource features episodes which can be viewed online. It is accompanied by online puzzles, as well as storybooks and activities that can be downloaded. For teachers, there are also lesson plans aimed at three age levels from 5 to 11 years. Themes covered include—protecting personal information and cyberbullying.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Hector's World resource kit is available at www.cybersmart.gov.au

Find out more at:

www.cybersmart.gov.au

Cybersmart website**Resource**

Australian Communications and Media Authority

The Cybersmart website is about keeping safe and smart online. It provides cybersafety education and awareness for children, young people and parents. Cybersmart features news, resources and information about current cybersafety issues and provides practical advice on how to deal with them. It also has a helpline for children and young people to receive direct information and advice on cybersafety issues.

In addition to videos, animations and activities on how to play safe online, the site links to comprehensive training and cybersafety resources and professional development for teachers and internet safety awareness sessions for parents, teachers and students through the Schools Gateway. The site also hosts cybersafety materials for library staff.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Cybersmart website is delivered by the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

Find out more at: www.cybersmart.gov.au

Cybersafety Outreach**Resource**

Australian Communications and Media Authority

The Australian Communications and Media Authority has developed a free and accredited program entitled Cybersafety Outreach—Professional Development for Educators. This is a one-day program providing teachers with a comprehensive understanding of a modern student's technology profile, digital literacy, positive online behaviour, personal and peer safety and their legal obligations to minimise and address risks. The authority also offers free general internet safety awareness presentations for parents, students and teachers.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Cybersafety Outreach—Professional Development for Educators program is delivered by the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

Find out more at: www.cybersmart.gov.au

Cybersmart Detectives**Resource**

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Cybersmart Detectives is an online game where primary school students can track their way to safer internet experiences with the help of Cybersmart Guides. This innovative online activity teaches children key internet safety messages in a safe, school environment. Children work in teams, online and in real time, to investigate and solve an internet-themed problem, guided by teachers and internet safety experts who act as Cybersmart Guides in the activity.

Participation, eligibility and access

The hour-long activity is provided free of charge to schools, and is aimed at children in the final year of primary school.

Find out more at: <http://cybersmart.engagelive.net/>

Cybersmart badge and activities

Resource

Australian Communications and Media Authority

In February 2009, the Australian Communications and Media Authority launched a Cybersmart badge through SuperClubs PLUS Australia, a protected online social networking site available in schools for children aged 6 to 12 years. The Cybersmart badge enables children to undertake a range of cybersafety activities.

Participation, eligibility and access

Delivered by SuperClubs PLUS Australia on behalf of the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

Find out more at: www.superclubsplus.com.au

Postal Concessions for the Blind Program

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Under the Postal Concessions for the Blind Program, the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs reimburses Australia Post for the postal charges associated with posting Braille, audio recordings and other material (defined as 'eligible items') for people who are blind.

Participation, eligibility and access

Australia Post provides a 'free of charge' (for domestic mail) service for posting 'eligible items' under the Postal Concessions for the Blind Program for people who are blind.

Find out more at: www.austpost.gov.au

Information and Captioning Services

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The captioning service provided by Media Access Australia is directed at the captioning (subtitling) of video cassettes and DVDs. As many producers of DVD movies now include captioning at the time of release, the service focuses on the captioning of uncaptioned educational and community DVDs.

The Information service provided by Nican includes access for disabled consumers, their carers and families, to information on recreational, sporting, the arts and tourism, via telephone, mail, fax, email or internet. People are able to contact staff at Nican, who will undertake the research to ensure the information provided on sporting activities and events, accommodation and tourism and arts activities and events is relevant and tailored to the user's special needs.

Participation, eligibility and access

The information and captioning service is accessed via the Media Access Australia website, which provides a catalogue of captioned DVDs. People with disability contact the information service via email, telephone or fax.

Find out more at: www.mediaaccess.org.au
www.nican.com.au

Print Disability Services Program

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs funds nine print disability service providers to produce printed material in alternative communications formats for people, including young people, who by reason of their disability are unable to access information provided in a print medium.

Participation, eligibility and access

With around 300,000 Australians who are blind, have low vision, or are unable to read standard print due to physical and learning disabilities, it is critical to ensure access to a wide range of information in alternative formats. Through the Print Disability Services Program printed materials are produced by print disability service providers. These services can be accessed via their library services and websites.

Find out more at:

www.guidedogswa.com.au
www.users.tpg.com.au/canblind
www.cbmi.org.au
www.peoplelearn.com.au
www.qns.com.au
www.ridbc.org.au
www.rsb.org.au
www.stedmunds.nsw.edu.au
<http://www.visionaustralia.org.au/> http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/providers/print_disability_review/Pages/Starting_the_review_process.aspx

Personal Helpers and Mentors Program

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Personal Helpers and Mentors Program aims to provide increased opportunities for recovery for people who have severe functional limitations resulting from a severe mental illness.

Personal Helpers and Mentors employed by each service provider, support program participants in their recovery journey, building long-term relationships and providing holistic support. They ensure that services accessed by program participants are coordinated, integrated and complementary to other services in the community.

Participation, eligibility and access

Funding is provided for non-government organisations that have demonstrable experience in working with people with a mental illness in a community context to deliver the program.

Find out more at:

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/mentalhealth/progserv/PersonalHelpersMentorsProgram/Pages/default.aspx>

National Disability Advocacy Program

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The National Disability Advocacy Program assists people with disability to overcome barriers such as physical access, discriminatory attitudes, abuse and neglect, that impact on their daily life and their ability to participate in the community.

Participation, eligibility and access

Multiple national not-for-profit and non-government organisations receive funding under the National Disability Advocacy Program to implement the program.

Find out more at: <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/providers/NationalDisabilityAdvocacyProgram/Pages/NationalDisabilityAdvocacyProgram.aspx>.

National Disability Awards

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The National Disability Awards form part of Australia's celebrations of International Day of People with Disability (IDPWD). The IDPWD and the Awards celebrate the achievements and contributions of people with disability and raise awareness amongst the broader community of the positive attributes and contributions of people with disability.

There are five Award categories. The Award category which specifically targets young people is the Disability Rights Young Leader Award (young person aged 12–25yrs).

Participation, eligibility and access

Nomination forms and guidelines will be available, electronically from the IDPWD website or in hardcopy via National Mailing and Marketing who manage the IDPWD Call Centre. Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs staff assess and shortlist applications. A panel of external members independently judges finalists and award recipients.

Find out more at: www.idpwd.com.au

Complaint handling

Service

Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

The Commonwealth Ombudsman considers and investigates complaints from people who believe they have been treated unfairly or unreasonably by an Australian Government department or agency, including the Australian Taxation Office, Australia Post, Centrelink, the Child Support Agency, and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. The Commonwealth Ombudsman is also the ACT Ombudsman, the Defence Force Ombudsman and the Law Enforcement Ombudsman. The Commonwealth Ombudsman cannot override the decisions of agencies, nor issue directions to their staff. Instead, it resolves disputes through consultation and negotiation, and if necessary, by making formal recommendations to the most senior levels of government.

Participation, eligibility and access

Since its establishment in 1977, the Commonwealth Ombudsman's office has assisted in resolving many thousands of individual complaints and brought about significant improvements in the quality of government administration. Of the complaints received by the Commonwealth Ombudsman's Office, about 5 per cent are from people aged under 25.

Find out more at: www.ombudsman.gov.au

National Action Plan to Build on Social Cohesion, Harmony and Security

Initiative

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Since 2005–06 the Australian Government has been working in partnership with state and territory governments to develop and implement the National Action Plan to Build on Social Cohesion, Harmony and Security. The National Action Plan responds to particular pressures Australian communities are facing as a result of increased intolerance and the promotion of violence arising from events around the world and in Australia since 2001.

In 2008–09 the National Action Plan funded community organisations to address priority areas such as focusing on increasing opportunities for participation in social and cultural projects to enhance leadership and connectedness among young people.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship administers the National Action Plan funding through initiatives such as Community Grants and State and Territory Partnerships.

Find out more at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/a-diverse-australia/national-action-plan/>

Harmony Day

Event

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Harmony Day celebrates the cohesive and inclusive nature of our nation and promotes the benefits of cultural diversity. Participation in Harmony Day has grown each year since its inception, with over 400,000 Australians participating in Harmony Day celebrations in 2007. Schools have traditionally been the biggest supporters of Harmony Day and the main users of Harmony Day promotional products. Over 50 per cent of all Harmony Day events registered with the department take place in schools across Australia.

Participation, eligibility and access

Harmony Day is delivered through community run events, for which the Diverse Australia Program provides free promotional materials. The Diverse Australia Program website provides a community diary of Harmony Day events, suggestions for how organisations can celebrate and promote their event; and support for schools in the form of an online education resource.

Find out more at: <http://www.harmony.gov.au/harmony-day/>

Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy

Program

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

The Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy is delivered by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and provides intensive settlement support to newly arrived humanitarian entrants. Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy service providers assess entrants to identify their settlement needs and deliver appropriate services in a coordinated way. These services are generally provided for around six months, but may be extended in particular cases. Volunteer groups also work with service providers to support entrants and assist them to settle into the local community.

Participation, eligibility and access

The services available will depend on the individual needs of each client. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship uses a number of agencies, including volunteer groups, in each state and territory to provide Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy services.

Find out more at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/66ihss.htm>

Settlement Grants Program

Program

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

The Settlement Grants Program is an Australian Government initiative which provides funding to organisations to help new arrivals settle in Australia. The aim of the Settlement Grants Program is to fund services which help clients become self-reliant and participate equitably in Australian society as soon as possible after arrival. Settlement Grants Funding is:

- on a project basis
- offered for periods of one, two or three years
- based on financial years and is provided for a fixed period
- expected to be fully committed at the beginning of each financial year
- not recurrent, as priorities change over time

The Settlement Grants Program projects focus on provision of three types of services:

- orientation projects aimed at promoting self-reliance in individuals and families through the development of Australian life skills
- developing communities' projects aimed at assisting newly-arrived migrant and humanitarian communities to identify common goals and interests, develop a shared sense of purpose and promote a sense of identity and belonging
- integration projects aimed at promoting inclusion and participation in broader Australian society by encouraging partnership initiatives with mainstream community and government organisations.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Settlement Grants Program is subcontracted through community, local and other government service providers.

Find out more at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/delivering-assistance/settlement-grants/what-sgp-about.htm>

Australian Cultural Orientation Program

Program

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

The Australian Cultural Orientation Program is offered to humanitarian visa holders who are preparing to settle in Australia. It is delivered overseas, before the entrants begin their journey to Australia. The program contains particular components aimed at children and young people, and is designed to give participants confidence and independence when starting their new lives in Australia. It also provides an opportunity for migrants to meet others making the same journey. Topics covered during the course include:

- an overview of Australia including government, geography and climate
- travel to Australia including arrangements for the airport, the flight, transit and arrival
- settling in, including on-arrival assistance
- cultural adjustment, including communication and behaviour
- healthcare, including Medicare, hospitals, immunisation and preventative health
- education, including learning English, schools, tertiary and community education
- finding a job, including Centrelink, Job Network, recognition of overseas qualifications and experience and Australian working conditions
- money management, including banking, budgeting, taxation and credit
- housing, including renting and household management arrangements
- public transport and drivers' licences
- Australian law, values and citizenship
- access to torture and trauma counselling

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Cultural Orientation Program is delivered offshore. The International Organization for Migration is currently contracted to deliver the course on behalf of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. The International Organisation for Migration is an inter-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration by providing services and advice to governments and to migrants. It has about 400 offices in over 120 countries across the world.

Find out more at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/67ausco.htm>

Law and Justice Advocacy Development Program

Program

Attorney General's Department

The Law and Justice Advocacy Development Program supports the advancement of Indigenous Australians' legal rights by funding groups to pursue advocacy, law reform and community-level education. The program provides funding for projects which support the development of greater legal rights for Indigenous Australians and activities which provide increased access and equity to legal services. The program also supports policy development which identifies laws, policies and practice (particularly in relation to incarceration, policing, family violence and the needs of youth) that impact adversely and disproportionately on Indigenous people. The program supports reforms which counter these adverse practices.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Law and Justice Advocacy Development Program contains a Community Legal Education component which funds community legal education activities that provide information and education to advance and protect the rights of Indigenous Australians under Australian law. Ten projects are currently funded nationally for Indigenous Australians. The Community Legal Education workshops have a high percentage of youth attendance. Services are delivered by external providers through grant funding.

Find out more at: http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Indigenoulawandnativetitle_Indigenoulawprograms_Thelawandjusticeadvocacyprogram

Legal Aid for Indigenous Australians Program

Program

Attorney General's Department

The Attorney-General's Department provides funding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service organisations in each state and territory under the Legal Aid for Indigenous Australians Program. Legal Service organisations are engaged to provide high-quality and culturally sensitive legal aid services to Indigenous Australians so that they can fully exercise their legal rights as Australian citizens. These Legal Service organisations provide criminal, civil and family law assistance to eligible Indigenous Australians, including Indigenous youth.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Attorney-General's Department provides funding for organisations to deliver legal aid services to Indigenous Australians. This network delivers services at numerous permanent sites, court circuits and outreach locations in urban, rural and remote areas throughout all states and territories.

Find out more at: http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Indigenoulawandnativetitle_Indigenoulawprograms_LegalaidforindigenousAustraliansprogram

National Illicit Drug Strategy—The Strengthening Families and Supporting Families Coping with Illicit Drug Use—Strengthening Families Program

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Strengthening Families measure is an early intervention, family focused component of the National Illicit Drug Strategy. The measure has been funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs since 2005, and is specifically directed towards family support rather than the health, education or criminal justice aspects of the strategy.

Participation, eligibility and access

Non-government service providers are contracted to deliver a range of Strengthening Families projects. The providers deliver education, counselling support services, advice and referral services, and targeted projects for families. Services are aimed at supporting parents, grandparents, kinship carers and children affected by illicit drugs.

Find out more at: <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/gamblingdrugs/progserv/nids/Pages/default.aspx>

Human Rights Education Program

Project

Australian Human Rights Commission

Given education is one of the Australian Human Rights Commission's main roles, the Human Rights Education Program aims to explain how human rights and responsibilities apply to our everyday lives. The Australian Human Rights Commission provides resources and information to teachers, students, media, legal services and business groups. These resources explain what human rights are, where they come from and how they are protected in international and Australian law. Most importantly, they encourage people to explore the relevance of human rights in their own communities.

Participation, eligibility and access

Education resources are provided online with content developed and managed by the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Find out more at: <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/education/index.html>

Community Partnerships for Human Rights program

Program

Australian Human Rights Commission

In recent years the Australian Human Rights Commission has consulted closely with Muslim communities to identify and address prejudice, intolerance and discrimination. The Australian Human Rights Commission's Community Partnerships for Human Rights program builds on this work. The program's central objective is to address human rights issues experienced by Australian Muslim communities by countering discriminatory views and increasing social connectedness using a broad, collaborative social inclusion and community engagement framework. The central goal is to increase social inclusion and counter discrimination and intolerance towards Australia's Muslim communities.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Community Partnerships for Human Rights program has been funded under the joint commitment to the Australian Government and Council of Australian Government *National Action Plan to Build on Social Cohesion, Harmony and Security (NAP)* to deliver the CPHR. It includes seven projects which the Australian Human Rights Commission will develop, deliver and evaluate in consultation with Muslim communities, and in partnership with Muslim communities, peak bodies and other organisations. These projects focus on a range of areas, including research, education, community participation and resource development. Regular evaluations will help to ensure that there is consistency, rigor and validity to the approach and identify new approaches and policy initiatives that can benefit Muslim communities and promote human rights.

Find out more at: <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/partnerships/index.html>

Australia-Malaysia Institute Grants Program

Program

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The Australia-Malaysia Institute (AMI), funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provides financial support to projects that enhance awareness and promotes links and understanding between Australia and Malaysia. The program, particularly, supports initiatives that build links between young Australians and youth in Malaysia.

Some of the key AMI grant programs relevant to young people include the Young Leaders Exchange Program, the Interfaith Exchange Program, the Education Program and the Cultural Understanding Program.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australia-Malaysia Institute is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Institute works with institutions and individuals in Australia and Malaysia to achieve greater communication and collaboration between the two countries, as well as entering into strategic alliances with possible sponsors and partners to enhance the institute's programs. Funding is administered through the institute.

Find out more at: <http://www.dfat.gov.au/ami/>

Australia-Korea Foundation

Program

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The Australia-Korea Foundation, funded through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, promotes people-to-people and institutional links covering the range of Australia's relations with Korea. This includes education, science and technology, commerce and industry, arts, the media and sport. The foundation administers and funds projects and programs which will assist in achieving the purposes and aims stated above.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade supports the Australia-Korea Foundation. Funding for projects is administered by the Australia-Korea Foundation.

Find out more at:

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/akf/index.html>

Australia-India Council

Project

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The Australia-India Council's (AIC) purpose is to broaden the relationship between Australia and India. The AIC initiates or supports a range of activities designed to promote a greater awareness of Australia in India and a greater awareness of India in Australia, including encouraging and supporting contacts and increasing levels of knowledge and understanding between the two countries. Initiatives which support the work of the AIC include conducting visits and exchanges between the two countries, development of institutional links, and support of studies in each country. The AIC also offers funding for projects likely to contribute to the development of the relationship.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade supports the Australian India Council. Funding for projects is administered by the Australia India Council.

Find out more at:

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/aic/index.html>

Australia-Indonesia Institute

Project

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The Australia-Indonesia Institute was established to develop relations between Australia and Indonesia by promoting greater mutual understanding and contributing to long-term cultural exchange between the people of Australia and Indonesia. Programs run by the Australia-Indonesia Institute include awards, residencies and exchange programs.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provides funding to the Australia-Indonesia Institute.

Find out more at:

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/aia/index.html>

Muslim Exchange Program**Program**

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The Muslim Exchange Program aims to develop greater understanding and recognition of religions, including Islam. The dual aim of the Muslim Exchange Program is to increase Australian awareness of the nature of mainstream Islam in Indonesia and Indonesian awareness of Australia's multicultural society.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Muslim Exchange Program involves visits of several weeks' duration to Australia by groups of young Indonesian Muslim community leaders such as writers, bureaucrats, academics, workers in non-governmental organisations and religious bodies, and visits to Indonesia by their Australian counterparts.

Find out more at:**www.dfat.gov.au/aia/muslim_exchange.html****Australia-Thailand Institute Grants Program****Project**

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The Australia-Thailand Institute advises the Australian Government, through the Minister for Foreign Affairs, on strategies to increase and strengthen the relationship between Australia and Thailand. The institute also provides funding grants for projects that focus on building links between the youth of these countries. Funding is particularly geared towards activities conducted in regional Thailand, activities which involve partner funding from other sources and those which may lead to long-term linkages.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provides funding to the Australia-Thailand Institute which then administers the funding for their programs.

Find out more at:**www.dfat.gov.au/ati****Australia-China Council****Program**

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The Australia-China Council's purpose is to promote understanding and foster people-to-people relations between Australia and China. The Council funds projects in Australia, China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. The Australia-China Council provides funds for general funding grants, Australian studies in China, residencies, awards and youth exchanges.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provides funding for the Australia-China Council. The Australia-China Council administers funding for projects.

Find out more at:**<http://www.dfat.gov.au/acc/index.html>**

Health, wellbeing and development

The transition from adolescence to adulthood involves immense psychological, biological and social changes. The behaviours and attitudes formed by young people during this stage have life-long implications for their health and wellbeing.

Investing in the development of healthy attitudes and behaviours during this period is a key priority for the Australian Government. The Government funds a number of key initiatives including dentistry, mental health and preventative health activities, which support better health outcomes for young people.

The mental health of young people is an important area of focus for the Government, with substantial investment being made in services and campaigns that support the psychological wellbeing of young people.

The Government is also working to improve the safety of young people, including addressing issues of violence, homelessness and disaster recovery.

Youth-specific activities

Activities included in this section are those Australian Government activities directed specifically at young people aged between 12 and 25 years. Where activities are targeted at young people slightly outside this age bracket (e.g. 15 to 28) they are also considered youth specific.

Medicare Teen Dental Plan Program

Medicare Australia

The Medicare Teen Dental Plan helps families with the cost of an annual preventative dental check for eligible teenagers aged 12 to 17. As at 1 January 2009, the Medicare Teen Dental Plan provides dental benefits of up to \$153.45 for each eligible teenager in each calendar year, to help with the cost of a 'preventative dental check'. The benefit payable for the service is indexed on 1 January each year. Eligible teenagers can receive their preventative check from a private dentist and claim the benefit from Medicare Australia. Alternately, eligible teenagers may also be able to use the voucher at a public dental Clinic (including a school-based clinic). A public dentist will bulk bill the preventative check by claiming the benefit directly from Medicare Australia.

Participation, eligibility and access

To be eligible for the program families are means tested using client information provided by Centrelink or the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Once participants are deemed eligible, Medicare Australia will automatically send families or teenagers a voucher for a preventative dental check each calendar year. Most people will receive their voucher from mid-January each year.

Find out more at: <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/public/services/teen-dental.jsp>

National School Drug Education Strategy

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The goal of the National School Drug Education Strategy is to improve educational outcomes through developing effective, evidence-based prevention and early intervention school drug education programs and by supporting schools to respond to, and effectively manage, drug issues. It includes the Indigenous, Rural and Remote Initiative which supports the development of effective prevention and early intervention drug education programs and policies for Indigenous young people and those from rural and remote Australian communities.

The National School Drug Education Strategy has developed a range of national strategic resources including DVDs, teacher and student workbooks), research and initiatives to assist schools and the broader school community to deliver effective drug education and to prevent the harm that substance abuse can cause young people. The National School Drug Education Strategy has supported state and territory government and non-government education authorities to provide professional development for teachers on national drug education resources to ensure they are used effectively in schools.

Resources distributed through the strategy provide current, evidence-based information on drugs and drug issues that affect young people. They focus on the promotion of resilience and social/emotional competency in young people and assist schools to gain an understanding of current research and practice in the area of resilience, social/emotional learning and drug education. IRRI supports students to reconnect or to stay connected with education. It has facilitated the involvement of the broader community in addressing the wellbeing of young people.

Participation, eligibility and access

The National School Drug Education Strategy supports state and territory government and non-government education authorities to undertake activities and initiatives that promote student wellbeing by developing evidence-based information and resources. The strategy's Indigenous, Rural and Remote Initiative supports school communities in rural and remote areas to access effective drug education.

Find out more at: http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school_education/policy_initiatives_reviews/key_issues/drug_education/nsdes.htm

Illicit Drug Use—Targeting Young Methamphetamine Users

Campaign

Department of Health and Ageing

The aim of the Illicit Drug Use—Targeting Young Methamphetamine Users campaign is to contribute to a reduction in the uptake of methamphetamines, ecstasy and cannabis among young Australians, by raising awareness of the harms associated with drug use and encouraging and supporting decisions not to use. It also encourages young people using methamphetamines to reconsider their use and directs them to relevant support, counselling and treatment services.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Illicit Drug Use—Targeting Young Methamphetamine Users campaign is delivered through a range of communications activities including advertising, website and merchandising. The campaign is managed by the Department of Health and Ageing.

Find out more at: <http://www.drugs.health.gov.au/internet/drugs/publishing.nsf/Content/facts-ill-drug-use>

A Better Future for Indigenous Australians—continuing the National Illicit Drug Strategy—Indigenous Communities Initiative

Project

Department of Health and Ageing

The aim of these projects is to implement a broad promotion, prevention and early intervention strategy for youth wellbeing in communities in the Northern Territory and Queensland. Community projects will be developed to increase the health and wellbeing of all young people in communities affected by alcohol misuse, petrol sniffing and inhalant misuse.

Participation, eligibility and access

This measure is specifically targeted at Indigenous Australians and will reduce the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs. These projects are being delivered by local government and non-government organisations.

Find out more at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/budget/publishing.nsf/Content/budget2007-hfact43.htm>

Petrol Sniffing Strategy Integrated Youth Services Project

Project

Departments of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Petrol Sniffing Strategy Integrated Youth Services Project provides youth diversion services in a number of communities in the Northern Territory.

The project aims to divert at-risk youth, primarily aged 10 to 25, away from destructive behaviour such as substance abuse and toward education or employment opportunities. Services delivered through the project include:

- sport, cultural, recreational, and other diversionary activities
- linking to more specialised case management services to provide support for at-risk individuals at the local level (including assistance to remain connected to family)
- assistance to remain connected to or engage with education, training and employment
- links to community health and education initiatives
- infrastructure, including recreation hall upgrade/construction, vehicles, equipment and youth worker accommodation.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Petrol Sniffing Strategy Integrated Youth Service Project is delivered by Mission Australia in the communities of Imanpa, Finke (Apatula), Docker River (Kaltukatjara) and Mutitjulu.

Reducing Substance Abuse initiative

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Reducing Substance Abuse initiative forms part of the whole-of-government strategy aimed at fighting the debilitating effects of substance abuse in remote communities in the following nominated regions:

- Central Desert, Northern Territory
- Central Desert, South Australia
- Central Desert, Western Australia
- East Kimberley, Western Australia
- Southern Gulf, Queensland

The program aims to implement diversionary education projects to engage young people affected by substance abuse. It also aims to facilitate behavioural change, deliver alternative activities and accredited training, facilitate further pathways and re-engagement opportunities, and promote sustainable pathways for ongoing success.

Participation, eligibility and access

Projects are delivered by contracted organisations in each of the regions. Projects are selected through a Request for Applications for Funding process.

Find out more at:

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Indigenous/Youth/Programs/Pages/reducing_substance_abuse.aspx
http://www.deewr.gov.au/Indigenous/Youth/Programs/Pages/reducing_substance_abuse.aspx

Reinvigorating the National Tobacco Strategy

Campaign

Department of Health and Ageing

Part of the funding for the reinvigoration of the National Tobacco Strategy is targeted at reducing the uptake and prevalence of smoking rates, particularly among young people.

Participation, eligibility and access

Strategies are currently being developed.

Redevelopment of the Oxygen website

Project

Department of Health and Ageing

The existing Oxygen website is being updated to become more user-friendly and to increase website interactivity. At a minimum, the redeveloped website will inform young people about the harmful effects and impacts of tobacco smoking, empower young people with knowledge about the tobacco industry and their marketing strategies, and promote and encourage young people to adopt and sustain a smoke-free lifestyle. The website will also provide educators with access to a large range of tobacco education resources and smoking prevention materials.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Health and Ageing has a contract with a non-government organisation which operates the Oxygen website.

Find out more at: www.oxygen.org.au

Early Intervention Pilot Program

Program

Department of Health and Ageing

The Early Intervention Pilot Program requires health services and the police to work in partnership to help young people at risk of abusing alcohol. The program aims to shift young people currently engaged with the police force into the health system where services encourage attitude and behaviour change. The program also supports innovative early intervention and diversion programs for young people to prevent the onset of serious alcohol problems. These early intervention initiatives focus on a variety of influences including the individual and their immediate cultural environment. There is also a strong emphasis on personal responsibility.

Participation, eligibility and access

Early Intervention Pilot Programs are funded by the Australian Government and delivered through state and territory governments.

National Skin Cancer Awareness Campaign

Campaign

Department of Health and Ageing

The National Skin Cancer Awareness Campaign aims to educate young Australians about the seriousness of, and their susceptibility to, skin cancer through sun exposure, with a particular focus on the risks associated with cumulative exposure and deliberate tanning.

Participation, eligibility and access

The National Skin Cancer Awareness Campaign is delivered through a range of communications activities including advertising, website and merchandising. The campaign is managed by the Department of Health and Ageing.

Find out more at: <http://www.skincancer.gov.au/>

National STI Prevention Campaign

Campaign

Department of Health and Ageing

The National STI Prevention Sexual Health Campaign aims to raise awareness of sexually transmitted infections, reduce sexual risk taking behaviour, and promote preventative behaviour among target populations via an integrated national social marketing campaign. The campaign combines advertising, public relations, online and other communication activities aimed at a range of target audiences, primarily heterosexual young people, men who have sex with men, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Participation, eligibility and access

The campaign is delivered through advertising and a website managed by the Department of Health and Ageing.

Find out more at: <http://www.sti.health.gov.au/internet/sti/publishing.nsf/Content/about>

Juvenile Arthritis Camps

Program

Department of Health and Ageing

The Department of Health and Ageing provides funding to support camps for those with juvenile arthritis. Funding includes provisions for the development of nationally accepted best practice guidelines, running of juvenile arthritis camps and promotion and support for access to camps for priority groups. Priority groups for participation in the camps include children residing in regional and remote areas, those from diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds, and Indigenous Australians.

Other services for children with juvenile arthritis include the Educational Workshop Program developed by Arthritis Western Australia which provides support for young people aged 18 to 25 years who are transitioning into adult health services.

Participation, eligibility and access

The juvenile arthritis camps are delivered by Arthritis Australia.

Youth Cancer Networks

Program

Department of Health and Ageing

The Australian Government will provide funding to CanTeen to assist in the establishment of Youth Cancer Networks. These networks will deliver better models of care for adolescents and young adults with cancer through projects that improve services and their coordination, and which improve the level of support and care available.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Youth Cancer Networks will be delivered through a funding agreement between the Australian Government and CanTeen. CanTeen will be the national program manager and funds-holder for the Youth Cancer Networks. CanTeen will also oversee the implementation of Youth Cancer Networks in the states and territories.

A Picture of Australia's Children and Young Australians: their health and wellbeing.
Reports on the health and determinants of health of children and young people

Research

Department of Health and Ageing

The Department of Health and Ageing provides funding to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare to produce reports on the health, development and wellbeing of children and young people in Australia. Information is provided on children and young people's health status and outcomes, factors influencing their health and wellbeing, and the performance of the health system in improving their health.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Health and Ageing provides funding to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare for the production of these reports.

Find out more at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/childyouth/childyouthhealth/youthhealth/index.cfm>

Child health and wellbeing reports are at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/childyouth/childyouthhealth/childhealth/index.cfm#poac>

Research into prevention of hearing loss (adolescents)

Research

Department of Health and Ageing

This research will investigate the prevalence of hearing loss and its relationship to leisure sound exposure in adolescents.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department has commissioned the research division of Australian Hearing—National Acoustic Laboratories—to conduct the research.

Physical Activity Recommendations for Children and Youth

Policy

Department of Health and Ageing

The Physical Activity Recommendations for Children and Youth are a set of national physical activity recommendations specific to children and young people. They provide direction for stakeholders in various sectors to progress consistent policy and program work around physical activity in young people and to accurately determine whether children and youth undertake sufficient levels of physical activity. They also help to establish and measure the effectiveness of intervention and prevention programs.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Health and Ageing has created a brochure outlining the physical activity recommendations which is accessed by a wide range of stakeholders, including health organisations and schools.

Find out more at:

http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-publth-strateg-phys-act-guidelines#rec_12_18

School Nutrition Program**Program**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The School Nutrition Program is a breakfast and lunch service for school aged children attending school in prescribed communities of the Northern Territory. The program aims to support better school attendance and to help with learning and engagement in education. In addition, the program provides job opportunities and training for local communities.

Participation, eligibility and access

The program is available to all children attending school from Year 1 to Year 10 in the 73 prescribed communities of the Northern Territory.

Find out more at:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/Pages/TheSchoolNutritionProgram.aspx>.

Youth Mental Health Initiative**Program**

Department of Health and Ageing

The Youth Mental Health Initiative aims to help young people aged 12 to 25 with mental health and associated drug and alcohol problems. Part of this initiative is the establishment of headspace, Australia's National Youth Mental Health Foundation.

headspace provides access to 30 youth-friendly shopfronts across the country for young people aged 12 to 25. The shopfronts provide referral to primary health care, alcohol and other drug services, primary health care and a range of social support services such as accommodation and vocational services. The **headspace** Foundation also provides research on best practice treatment and early intervention for young people, and specialised training for health and other professionals involved in service provision.

The second program within this initiative is the Allied Health Workers Program which provides funds to 30 local Communities of Youth Service platforms to employ allied health professionals to assist young people using the services.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Health and Ageing has a funding agreement with ORYGEN Research Centre and the University of Melbourne for the establishment and operation of **headspace**.

The Allied Health Workers Program is administered by the Department of Health and Ageing through individual funding agreements with 30 Divisions of General Practice.

Find out more at:

www.headspace.org.au

MindMatters**Initiative/Scheme**

Department of Health and Ageing

MindMatters is the Australian Government's framework for improving the mental health outcomes of students. MindMatters includes the use of a range of resources to increase the capacity of Australian secondary schools to promote better mental health and increase intervention and prevention of illnesses related to mental health. It also includes the delivery of professional development to teachers and key school personnel, the provision of materials to support a whole-of-school approach, and an information website.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Health and Ageing funds Principals Australia to deliver MindMatters to secondary schools.

Find out more at: <http://www.mindmatters.edu.au>

Mental Health Community Based Program

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Mental Health Community Based Program aims to support families, carers, children and young people (aged between 16 and 24 years) affected by mental illness through a diverse range of community programs. The program seeks to build on family strengths and improve resilience and family functioning, particularly for Indigenous families and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Family members and carers who are educated, trained and feel supported are able to provide more effective support in turn. This contributes to the long-term wellbeing and rehabilitation of the person with a mental illness. Funded projects target prevention and early intervention of mental illness and promote resilient families and communities.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Mental Health Community Based Program is delivered by contracted non-government service providers. The types of services provided through the program include, but are not limited to:

- coping skills courses and workshops
- parenting skills courses
- resource and advice services
- support networks
- recreation programs
- mentoring programs
- community engagement programs
- community awareness programs.

Find out more at: http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/mentalhealth/progserv/mental_health_community_based_program/Pages/default.aspx

Closing The Gap in the Northern Territory: Youth In Communities

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Closing The Gap in the Northern Territory: Youth In Communities funding component aims to:

- provide an effective diversion for young Indigenous people from at-risk behaviours
- improve life choices and outcomes for Indigenous youth by engaging them in positive activities that promote pathways to better health and wellbeing, community capacity building and participation in school, work and social networks
- strengthen and improve the youth services infrastructure of the NT, both in the number of youth workers employed and facilities available for providing services and activities.

Participation, eligibility and access

The program will benefit Indigenous youth aged between 10 and 20, in Northern Territory urban, regional and remote communities. Priority participants for 2009/10 are young people at risk of using illicit drugs, alcohol, petrol or other substances; suicide or intentional self-harm; or entering and re-entering the criminal justice system.

Scientific research into the effects of cannabinoids on the adolescent brain

Research

Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Organisation

Schizophrenia is a major medical concern to society today, and onset often occurs in the late teenage years or early adulthood. The origins and causal effects of schizophrenia are still not completely understood. Current research in this area has indicated that the use of cannabis by adolescents who may be genetically predisposed to this disease can trigger the onset of psychosis during adolescence. The Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Organisation (ANSTO), in collaboration with the Schizophrenia Research Institute is pursuing research in this area.

Participation, eligibility and access

This research is undertaken by the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, in collaboration with the Schizophrenia Research Institute.

Find out more at: <http://www.schizophreniaresearch.org.au/>
<http://www.ansto.gov.au/research/rri>

State of Australia's Young People Report

Research

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The State of Australia's Young People Report is a comprehensive research project which provides a reliable and clear picture of the life circumstances of young people aged between 15 and 24.

Participation, eligibility and access

The report was commissioned by the Office for Youth and was officially released on 22 October 2009. The report is available online at the Office for Youth Website and as a hard copy publication upon request.

Find out more at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/Pages/YoungPeopleReport.aspx>

Australian Temperament Project

Research

The Australian Institute of Family Studies

The Australian Temperament Project is a longitudinal study of over 2000 infants and families that has collected 14 waves of data over the first 24 years of life. The project focuses on the developing child, investigating the contribution of personal, family and broader environmental factors to adjustment and wellbeing.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Institute of Family Studies is leading this project, in collaboration with researchers from the University of Melbourne and the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.

Find out more at: www.aifs.gov.au/atp/

Growing Up in Australia**Research**

The Australian Institute of Family Studies

Growing Up in Australia is a large longitudinal study that examines the impact of Australia's unique social and cultural environment on the next generation. The study involves a nationally representative sample of 10,000 children. It explores family and social issues relevant to children's development and addresses a range of research questions about family functioning, health, non-parental child care, and education.

Participation, eligibility and access

The study is conducted as a partnership between the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Australian Institute of Family Studies and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, with advice being provided by a consortium of leading researchers at research institutions and universities throughout Australia.

Find out more at: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/growingup/>

National Safe Schools Framework**Program**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Australian Government is currently reviewing the National Safe Schools Framework which was endorsed by all federal, state and territory Ministers for Education in 2003. The framework emphasises the need for teachers to have appropriate training in positive student management, and the need for schools to respond proactively to all incidents of victimisation or abuse. Through the review, links will be made with other wellbeing and child protection issues, including the emergence of technologies that enable new forms of bullying, to develop; social and emotional learning, the explicit teaching of values, and changes in legislation and government policy.

Participation, eligibility and access

The review commenced in late April 2009 and is due for completion in mid-2010. All Australian schools have access to the current National Safe Schools Framework. Following the review, the updated framework will be made available for all schools to use.

Find out more at: www.safeschools.deewr.gov.au

Cyber-safety and security presentations**Program**

Australian Federal Police

The Australian Federal Police deliver presentations to primary and secondary students at schools across the ACT and some parts of NSW, which address issues such as safe social networking, protecting online reputation, grooming, child pornography, sexting, filming fights, under-age access to adult pornography, cyber-bullying and scams.

Participation, eligibility and access

The cyber-safety presentations are delivered by the Crime Prevention Unit within the Australian Federal Police's High Tech Crime Operations.

Pilot against Cyber Bullying

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Australian Government has provided funding to the Alannah and Madeline Foundation to conduct a national pilot project aimed at addressing cyber-bullying in Australian schools. The pilot, which involves at least 150 schools across Australia, will help confront safety issues in e-communications, including cyber-bullying, and aim to identify content, website and back office support improvements which should be made to the in-schools change framework. The Australian Government has also provided financial support to the Alannah and Madeline Foundation for the National Coalition Against Bullying Conference *Navigating The Maze: cybersafety, bullying and wellbeing solutions for schools*.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Alannah and Madeline Foundation will report to the Australian Government in June 2010. An independent evaluation of the Pilot will be conducted and the Alannah and Madeline Foundation will provide the Government with a Final Report which includes:

- analysis of the outcomes from the National Pilot
- the recommendations of the independent Evaluation
- suggested approaches for developing cyber-safety initiatives for Australian schools.

The foundation will also report to DEEWR at a conference which is to be held 8 to 10 April 2010.

National Youth Week sponsorship

Campaign

Australian Federal Police

The National Missing Persons Coordination Centre is a sponsor of National Youth Week, Australia's largest celebration of young people. The aim is to directly engage with young people as they represent a primary group at risk of going missing. The centre actively raises awareness of the issues and impacts of missing persons through campaigns and media which educate and inform the Australian community.

Participation, eligibility and access

Information about missing persons in Australia and internationally is available through the AFP's Don't you forget about me YouTube channel and the missing persons MySpace profile, as well as the websites below.

Find out more at:

<http://www.missingpersons.gov.au/awareness/campaigns/youth-week.aspx>
<http://www.missingpersons.gov.au/awareness/overview.aspx>

National Schools Chaplaincy Program

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The National Schools Chaplaincy Program assists schools and their communities by supporting school chaplaincy services to provide greater pastoral care, advice and comfort to all students and staff so as to support their spiritual wellbeing.

Participation, eligibility and access

The National School Chaplaincy Program is a voluntary program. Two funding rounds were held in 2007. Funding was available to both government and non-government schools that wished to establish school chaplaincy services or to enhance existing services. Individual school communities were able to apply for funding of up to \$20,000 per annum for three years (to a maximum of \$60,000). Nationally, a total of 2,747 schools have been granted funding under the program.

Find out more at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/SchoolingRelatedWebsites/Pages/Chaplaincy.aspx>

Young Carers Respite and Information Services

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Young Carers Respite and Information Services program provides support to young carers who are at risk of not completing their secondary education or vocational equivalent due to the demands of their caring responsibilities. It enables young carers to access age appropriate support and respite services to undertake activities such as studying for exams or carrying out training and recreational activities.

The program also provides a range of information, advice and referral services, including referral to counselling, to support young carers in managing the challenges they face as part of their caring role.

Participation, eligibility and access

Young carer support and respite services are delivered by the national network of Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres. Information, referral and advice services are delivered by Carers Australia and its network of Carers Associations.

Find out more at: <http://www.facsia.gov.au/sa/carers/progserv/Pages/default.aspx>

Defence School Transition Mentor Services

Program

Department of Defence

The Defence Transition Aide program provides support to the children and families of Australian Defence Force members, particularly when moving in and out of a school on posting or when a parent is absent from home. Defence School Transition Mentors are located in secondary schools across Australia where there are significant numbers of Australian Defence Force families. Their role is to support and assist young people from Australian Defence Force families to integrate into the school community and to manage the challenge of transition.

Participation, eligibility and access

Defence School Transition Mentors provide support directly to young people from Australian Defence Force families.

Find out more at: <http://www.defence.gov.au/dco>

Youth in Focus Project**Research**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Australian Government is working with the Australian National University and other partners on the Youth in Focus Project. The project aims to get a more accurate picture of how young people are coping in society and how they achieve economic and social independence. The project looks at young people from a wide range of backgrounds and with different childhood experiences. The study is based on information provided by young people and their parents in a survey, as well as information from Centrelink's administrative records.

Participation, eligibility and access

The people who were invited to participate in the survey were randomly selected from Centrelink's records. Many young people have a Centrelink record because their parents received Family Assistance while they were growing up, while others have a Centrelink record in their own right as they either receive Youth Allowance or some other form of social security payment. It is estimated that 95 per cent of all young people in Australia have a Centrelink record.

The Youth in Focus project is supported by a five-year linkage project grant from the Australian Research Council.

Find out more at:<http://youthinfocus.anu.edu.au/survey.htm>**Transition to Independent Living Allowance****Program**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Transition to Independent Living Allowance is a practical support initiative from the Australian Government. The allowance assists young people making the transition from formal and informal care to independent living by providing a one-off payment of up to \$1,500. The allowance can be accessed by young people exiting a range of formal and informal care situations, including the juvenile justice system, out-of-home care and Indigenous kinship care arrangements.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations funds Southern Youth and Family Services to deliver the Transition to Independent Living Allowance nationally.

Find out more at:<http://www.tila.org.au/>

Non youth-specific activities

Activities included in this section are Australian Government activities that are targeted at the general population, but have a significant impact on the 12 to 25 age group, either through a high participation rate or through a direct impact on education, health, family and living situations.

Medicare enrolment

Program

Medicare Australia

Medicare ensures that all eligible Australian residents have access to free or low cost medical, optometric and hospital care while being free to choose private health services. People enrolled in the Medicare program have access to free treatment as a public patient in a public hospital and free or subsidised treatment by practitioners such as doctors, including specialists, participating optometrists or dentists (specified services only).

Young people aged 15 and over may enrol for their own Medicare card. Children (including those under 15) who are cared for by a primary carer other than a parent or reside at a boarding school can have a card of their own with their parent's consent.

Homeless children are given special consideration. Where an applicant is unable to meet the usual enrolment requirements due to their personal circumstances, a letter from a medical practitioner, teacher, social worker, minister of religion, youth refuge worker, police or member of the legal profession may be submitted confirming the child's eligibility and identity.

Participation, eligibility and access

Medicare enrolments and Medicare benefit payments are administered by Medicare Australia through its network of Medicare offices and other channels. To enrol in Medicare young people need to fill out an enrolment form which can be downloaded from the agency's website. Forms are also available from Medicare offices. When a young person enrolls, they will need to show original or certified copies of documents such as a birth certificate or passport to prove that they are eligible.

Find out more at: <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/public/migrants/new-residents.jsp>

HealthInsite

Resource

Department of Health and Ageing

HealthInsite is the Australian Government's internet gateway to reliable information about health and wellbeing online.

Participation, eligibility and access

HealthInsite provides links to over 17,000 resources on the websites of more than 80 accredited information partners, a number of which cater specifically for young Australians. No eligibility criteria apply, and any young person with access to the internet can use HealthInsite to search for information on health and wellbeing. While HealthInsite is currently managed by the Department of Health and Ageing, it will soon be integrated with the National Health Call Centre Network Ltd, operating as healthdirect Australia.

Find out more at: <http://www.healthinsite.gov.au>

National Immunisation Program

Program

Department of Health and Ageing

The National Immunisation Program is a joint Australian, state and territory government initiative. The program aims to reduce the incidence of vaccine-preventable disease through immunisation and increase national immunisation rates. As part of the National Immunisation Program, the National Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Program aims to prevent cervical cancer by providing free cervical cancer vaccine to girls in their first year of secondary school. Immunisation is also provided free of charge against Hepatitis B and chicken pox for young people aged 10 to 13, and diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough for those aged 15 to 17.

Participation, eligibility and access

The National Immunisation Program is implemented Australia-wide, with vaccines funded by the Australian Government and delivered through state and territory programs. Most vaccines for adolescents are delivered through school-based programs.

Find out more at: www.immunise.health.gov.au

Asthma Friendly Schools

Program

Department of Health and Ageing

The Asthma Friendly Schools program contributes to the development of safer, healthier and more supportive school environments for students with asthma. For a school to gain Asthma Friendly status they need to fulfil the program's eight essential criteria including:

- Contributing to the development of safer, healthier and more supportive school environments for students with asthma
 - Providing asthma awareness training for school staff to enhance their confidence and capacity to respond to an asthma incident
 - Enabling school staff to provide asthma education to students and information to parents and carers
 - Improving self-management skills in students with asthma to enable them to participate fully in daily activities including regular exercise and sport
- Providing for the establishment of quality sustainable practices for the management of asthma in Australian schools.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Asthma Friendly Schools program is funded by the Department of Health and Ageing and is managed through the Asthma Foundations located in each state and territory.

Find out more at: <http://asthmafriendlyschools.org.au/home/index.php>

National Healthy School Canteens Project

Project

Department of Health and Ageing

The National Healthy School Canteens Project aims to assist school canteen managers to provide healthy food choices. The project includes the development of a nationally consistent food categorisation system to guide the selection of food and beverages for sale within school canteens, and the development of training resources to assist canteen managers to make appropriate menu choices.

Participation, eligibility and access

The National Healthy School Canteens Project is managed by the Department of Health and Ageing, and is being undertaken by Flinders University from April 2008 to April 2010.

Find out more at: www.nhsc.com.au

Family Planning and Sexual and Reproductive Health

Program

Department of Health and Ageing

The Family Planning and Sexual and Reproductive Health program provides funding to six organisations with a focus on providing education and training for health professionals and community members. The program provides information on national trends, referral services, and practical parenting support within the context of family planning and sexual and reproductive health, as well as general information.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Health and Ageing provides funding to several non-government organisations to deliver these services.

Find out more at: <http://www.nfpprog.com/>
<http://www.pregnancysupport.com.au/>
<http://www.ffhd.org.au/>
<http://www.shfpa.org.au/>
<http://www.mcwh.com.au/>
<http://www.carolinechisholmsociety.com.au/>

Improving sexual health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth demonstration projects

Program

Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

\$3.6 million has been allocated over three years from 2008-09 to fund six demonstration projects in a range of urban, regional and remote communities to improve the sexual health and reduce the risk-taking behaviour of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare will evaluate the six demonstration projects. To do this, the institute has visited the six demonstration project sites and consulted with project staff to develop an evaluation framework that will enable the collection of data from the commencement of the projects and maximise the potential learning from the demonstration projects which could then inform future practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sexual health.

Participation, eligibility and access

One-off funding has been provided to a range of organisations with a demonstrated capacity to deliver sexual health programs to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth.

The National Pregnancy Support Helpline

Program

Department of Health and Ageing

The National Pregnancy Support Helpline provides counselling and support to women, their partners or families, who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy or are uncertain about continuing with a pregnancy. The helpline offers free, confidential and professional counselling, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The helpline offers non-directive counselling on all three options in relation to pregnancy, including proceeding with the pregnancy and raising the child, proceeding with the pregnancy and adopting, and terminating the pregnancy.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Health and Ageing has contracted McKesson Asia Pacific Pty Limited to operate the helpline. Trained nurses, social workers and psychologists offer free, confidential and non-directive counselling and information. All helpline counsellors have undertaken specific training in non-directive pregnancy counselling.

Find out more at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/phd-pregnancy-helpline>

Indigenous Mothers Accommodation Fund

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Indigenous Mothers Accommodation Fund provides for the construction of a 24 bed accommodation facility for pregnant Indigenous women from remote areas. Once operational, the facility will provide ante-natal and post-natal care, referral services, accommodation, advice, education and support.

Participation, eligibility and access

This program is delivered using contracted non-government service providers.

Find out more at: <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/families/Pages/MothersAccommodationFund.aspx>

Community Service Obligation Program

Program

Department of Health and Ageing

The Community Service Obligation Program offers access to hearing services to all special needs clients including young Australians under the age of 21.

Participation, eligibility and access

Australian Hearing provides hearing services under a contractual agreement with the Department of Health and Ageing.

Find out more at: www.hearing.com.au

National Auslan Interpreter Booking and Payment Service

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The National Auslan Interpreter Booking and Payment Service provides National Accreditation Authority Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) accredited Auslan interpreters to deaf Auslan users attending private medical consultations. The service is free of charge and provides interpreters for general practitioners, specialists and a range of other private health care providers. Consultations that occur in private or public hospitals are not covered by the service. The service provides interpreting services for both deaf adults and children and will also accommodate situations where there is a deaf adult and a hearing child, or a hearing parent and a deaf child, attending a private medical consultation.

Participation, eligibility and access

The NABS service operates a specialist call centre in Brisbane that provides a single point of contact Australia wide, to book an Auslan Interpreter to attend a private medical consultation.

Find out more at:

www.nabs.org.au

Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care Program

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

On 10 February 2006, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to jointly fund and develop a \$244 million program aimed at achieving a net reduction in the number of younger people with disability living in residential aged care. The initial priority is to focus on people aged less than 50 years.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Council of Australian Governments agreed that the state and territory governments would manage the program on a day-to-day basis, as agreed in signed bilateral agreements made with the Australian Government.

Find out more at:

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/people/ypdracp/Pages/default.aspx>

Helping Children with Autism

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Australian Government's Helping Children with Autism package recognises the importance of diagnosis and early intervention treatments and services for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), along with the need for positive partnerships between their families and schools. The package is being delivered by the departments of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (lead agency); Health and Ageing; and Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

The package includes support for older children with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder. The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) is implementing two initiatives under this package—professional development for teachers and school staff, and workshops and information sessions for parents of school-aged children with an ASD. Approximately 1,800 school staff and 5,800 parents/carers will benefit from these initiatives.

In addition, the Department of Health and Ageing has made new Medicare items available for children aged under 13 years (for diagnosis and treatment planning) and under 15 years (for treatment).

Participation, eligibility and access

DEEWR has entered into a services contract with the Australian Autism Education and Training Consortium (AAETC) to develop and deliver these initiatives nationally.

The delivery model is multi-layered to provide a national program that is tailored to local needs and contexts.

A National Education & Training Team will develop national sets of materials for both components. These materials will complement initiatives and services already available in each state and territory that aim to support schools and families.

Regional Education & Training Teams will deliver the professional development in locations across Australia, in metropolitan, regional and rural areas.

At the local level, all participants will have access to support and mentoring.

'Virtual' networking and support will also be available with online learning and resources to complement the face-to-face professional development and workshops/information sessions. Online versions of materials will be available to those who are unable to attend the face-to-face professional development or workshops/information sessions.

Find out more at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/HelpingChildrenwithAutism/Pages/HelpingChildrenwithAutism.aspx>

Respite Support for Carers of Young People with a Severe or Profound Disability Program

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

This program provides immediate and short-term respite to carers of young people with a severe or profound disability. The program assists:

- carers of young people with a severe or profound disability where the care recipient is under 30 years of age
- carers who experience significant stress in caring for a person with a disability where the care recipient is under 65 years of age.

Participation, eligibility and access

The program is delivered through the national network of 55 Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres located across Australia.

Find out more at: <http://www.facsia.gov.au/sa/carers/progserv/Pages/default.aspx>

Rheumatic Fever Strategy**Program**

Department of Health and Ageing

As part of the New Directions: An equal start in life for Indigenous children policy, the Australian Government is implementing a Rheumatic Fever Strategy. The strategy continues funding for the acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease register and control program in the Northern Territory. The program has also established new register and control program sites in Queensland and Western Australia. These programs will focus on providing proper diagnosis and improving access to necessary antibiotics. A National Coordination Unit is also being established.

Participation, eligibility and access

The program is being delivered through the Northern Territory, Western Australian and Queensland state health departments with the support of the National Coordination Unit.

Human Growth Hormone Program**Program**

Department of Health and Ageing

Human Growth Hormone is supplied to eligible children under special arrangements. The hormone is not provided via the usual Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme arrangements, but is available as a Pharmaceutical Benefit under Section 100 of the National Health Act 1953.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Human Growth Hormone Program is delivered by the Department of Health and Ageing with the assistance of the Growth Hormone Advisory Committee. To be eligible to receive Human Growth Hormone, each patient is initially assessed under the Guidelines for the Availability of Human Growth Hormone initiative, and then every subsequent six months.

Find out more at: www.health.gov.au/hgh

Type 1 Diabetes Insulin Pump Program**Initiative/Scheme**

Department of Health and Ageing

The 2008–09 Budget introduced a new subsidy for insulin pumps for young people up to 18 years of age with Type 1 Diabetes. The Type 1 Diabetes Insulin Pump Program is designed to assist in the provision of insulin pumps and associated consumables by providing a means-tested subsidy of between \$500 and \$2,500. The subsidy extends the options for families who do not have access to alternative means of reimbursement.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation delivers this initiative on behalf of the Australian Government. Centrelink provides applicants with an Income Statement as part of the application process for the program.

Find out more at: <http://www.jdrf.org.au>

Paediatric Medicines Advisory Group

Policy responsibility

Department of Health and Ageing

To oversee the work relating to the consideration of the regulation, evaluation and listing of medicines for paediatric use, the Department of Health and Ageing has established the Paediatric Medicines Advisory Group (Advisory Group). The Advisory Group's role is to identify medication needs in the paediatric health setting and the issues that need to be addressed in order to enable priority medicines to be available to children.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Paediatric Medicines Advisory Group also works with the pharmaceutical industry and regulatory bodies to facilitate the assessment of these medicines for registration and subsidisation purposes in Australia.

Find out more at:

www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/nmp-pmag

Healthy Children

Program

Department of Health and Ageing

The National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health will provide funding to state and territory governments to deliver interventions for children from birth to 16 years of age. These interventions will aim to increase physical activity and improve nutrition through a range of settings such as child care centres, preschools, schools, multi-disciplinary services sites and through family based interventions.

Participation, eligibility and access

The National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health is delivered by the states and territories with funds provided by the Australian Government. Funds will be available from July 2011.

Healthy for Life**Program**

Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

The Healthy for Life program commenced in 2005-06 as a budget measure offering \$102.4m over four years and has since been made an ongoing program.

The program uses a population health approach and a quality improvement model to enhance the capacity of primary health care services. Its aim is to improve the quality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child and maternal health services, men's health and chronic disease care. The program also has a focus on increasing participation in the Indigenous health workforce.

The design of the Healthy for Life program allows health services to review their current service delivery in child and maternal health, chronic disease and where appropriate, men's health, to identify priority action areas for improvement. The program is implemented in two phases, with phase one focusing on supporting services to gather and analyse information about their existing child and maternal health, men's health and chronic disease activity. This information is used to establish a baseline, which then informs the development of a proposal identifying gaps in service delivery and priority areas for action. Phase two involves implementation of the proposal developed during phase one.

Participation, eligibility and access

Primary health care providers who are either the primary service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people or who have a majority of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander clients attending their service were eligible to apply via tender to join the Healthy for Life program. The majority of service providers are Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Care Services, complemented by Divisions of General Practice and state government health services.

Find out more at: <http://www.health.gov.au/healthyforlife>

National Women's Health Policy**Policy responsibility**

Department of Health and Ageing

A National Women's Health Policy is being developed during 2009–10 which will have a focus on health across the lifecourse. Consultations are underway with a number of women's health organisations, including the representatives of younger women who participated in the National Women's Health Policy Roundtable at Parliament House on 12 March 2009. These organisations will provide submissions to inform the development of the policy, while broader community consultation will also take place later in the year. The policy is expected to be finalised in 2010.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Health and Ageing is responsible for the development of the National Women's Health Policy.

Find out more at: www.health.gov.au/womenshealthpolicy

National Men's Health Policy

Policy responsibility

Department of Health and Ageing

The National Men's Health Policy is being developed during 2009, and will have a focus on health throughout life. Consultation forums have been held in all states and territories and a National Men's Health Roundtable was held at Parliament House on 19 March 2009. Young men have participated in the consultations, and their specific health and wellbeing needs are being considered as part of the development of the policy. The policy is expected to be finalised in late 2009.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Health and Ageing is responsible for the development of the National Men's Health Policy.

Find out more at:

www.health.gov.au/menshealthpolicy

National Alcohol Strategy

Policy responsibility

Department of Health and Ageing

Many young people consume alcohol at levels that put them at risk of alcohol-related harm. Australia's framework for addressing alcohol-related harm is the National Alcohol Strategy 2006–2009. The priority areas are intoxication, public safety and amenity, health impacts, and cultural place and availability with identified actions, including reducing harmful consumption by young people. Australia has also endorsed the World Health Organisation's Regional Strategy to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm, and is contributing to that organisation's work in developing a global strategy on alcohol. Both these processes have identified young people as a high-risk group for alcohol-related harm.

Participation, eligibility and access

Responsibility for implementing the National Alcohol Strategy is spread across jurisdictions and across portfolios and stakeholder groups.

Find out more at:

<http://www.alcohol.gov.au/internet/alcohol/publishing.nsf/Content/nas-06-09>

Australian Alcohol Guidelines

Resource

Department of Health and Ageing

The new Australian Alcohol Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking are intended to establish the evidence base for future policies and community materials on reducing the health risks of drinking alcohol. Young people will be a priority group for the communication of these new guidelines.

Participation, eligibility and access

The development of the Australian Alcohol Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking is delivered by the Australian Government through the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Find out more at:

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/>
www.alcohol.gov.au

National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre

Initiative/Scheme

Department of Health and Ageing

The National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre aims to reduce the use of cannabis in Australia by providing the community with evidence-based information on cannabis and related harms. The centre supports services delivering treatment to those with cannabis problems. Specifically in the area of youth, the centre plans to work with key sporting organisations to promote cannabis prevention messages among young people, particularly in raising awareness of the effects of cannabis on sporting performance.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Health and Ageing funds the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre at the University of New South Wales to operate and manage the consortium which makes up the National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre. Consortium members include The National Drug Research Institute, Australian Institute of Criminology, Lifeline, Orygen Research Centre, Ted Noffs Foundation and the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction.

Find out more at: <http://ncpic.org.au/>

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Substance Use Program

Program

Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

The Department of Health and Ageing funds the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Substance Use Program to support Indigenous substance use services across Australia. In 2009-10 the program is supporting more than 105 services. A number of these organisations provide youth specific or family focused programs.

In addition, the Australian Government is building on this program by investing up to \$100 million to enhance alcohol and other drug services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Australia, particularly in remote and regional communities, through two Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) measures announced in 2006 and 2007. Funding provided by the Australian Government is contributing to the establishment of new and upgraded residential rehabilitation services, day centres and sobering up shelters; increased workforce capacity; new models of service delivery including outreach services; and providing services to support individuals leaving rehabilitation and returning to their communities.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Substance Use Program is administered by the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

Illicit Drugs in Sport Program

Program

Department of Health and Ageing

The Illicit Drugs in Sport Program will include testing and education for athletes in non-professional sports. The program aims to deter use of illicit drugs by athletes and to promote sport as a healthy lifestyle choice.

Participation, eligibility and access

A website is likely to be established once the program is launched.

Addressing Indigenous Needs—National Illicit Drug Strategy—Capacity Building in Indigenous Communities Initiative

Project

Department of Health and Ageing

The Addressing Indigenous Needs—National Illicit Drug Strategy—Capacity Building in Indigenous Communities Initiative funds a number of projects including research, substance diversion programs, research projects, safe environments for young people impacted by drugs and alcohol, and community support groups.

Participation, eligibility and access

These projects are delivered by non-government organisations including Aboriginal Health Services with a stand-alone project being delivered by the Queensland Police Service.

Petrol Sniffing Prevention Program

Program

Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

The Petrol Sniffing Strategy is a comprehensive regional approach to address the problem of petrol sniffing in the remote areas of Australia. The strategy is currently being implemented by four Australian Government departments.

The Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health is responsible for a range of petrol sniffing prevention activities within the Petrol Sniffing Strategy and these are carried out under the Petrol Sniffing Prevention Program. The program involves the roll-out of Opal fuel, as well as communication, treatment and rehabilitation and data collection activities.

A small amount of funding from the rollout of Opal fuel has been previously used to support several one-off small youth diversionary projects aimed at reducing petrol sniffing. Evidence has shown that young people aged between 15 and 24 represent the largest group of petrol sniffers across regions surveyed in Australia.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Health and Ageing is responsible for activities under the Petrol Sniffing Prevention Program.

Find out more at:

www.health.gov.au/petrolsniffingprevention

2007 Australian National Children's Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey

Research

Department of Health and Ageing

The 2007 National Children's Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey measured food and nutrient intake, physical activity and physical measurements in a sample of 4,487 Australian children aged 2 to 16. The results of the survey have been referred to the Preventative Health Taskforce for inclusion in the development of a National Preventative Health Strategy.

Participation, eligibility and access

This survey was jointly funded by the Department of Health and Ageing, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Australian Food and Grocery Council. The survey was undertaken by the Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organisation (CSIRO) and the University of South Australia.

Find out more at: www.health.gov.au/nutritionmonitoring

Expansion of the Health Risk Survey

Research

Department of Health and Ageing

The National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health provides funding for the expansion of the Health Risk Survey to cover adults, children and Indigenous Australians approximately every five years with the ability to collect objective bio-medical measures.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Government provides own purpose funding for this research, and this will fund the procurement of survey implementation and management services. Survey participants will be chosen at random from the Australian population.

Find out more at: **A website will be established in late 2009**

Review of Australian Dietary Guidelines

Resource

Department of Health and Ageing

In partnership with the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Department of Health and Ageing is undertaking a review of national dietary intake recommendations, including the Core Food Groups, the Australian Dietary Guidelines for infants, children, adolescents, adults, older Australians and pregnant and breastfeeding women, and the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating. The Dietary Guidelines for infants, children and adolescents will specifically address dietary requirements and healthy eating recommendations for those aged 0 to 18 years.

Participation, eligibility and access

The National Health and Medical Research Council administers contracts advertised by open tender for various components of the review. The successful tender for the first two components of the review was led by the Dietitians Association of Australia. The reviews included the Core Food Groups and the Systematic Literature Review of the Australian Dietary Guidelines.

Find out more at: www.nhmrc.gov.au/your_health/healthy/nutrition/review.htm

Shared Responsibility Agreements

Project

Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

To achieve better outcomes for communities, families and individuals the Department of Health and Ageing has contributed to some 57 Shared Responsibility Agreements and six Regional Partnership Agreements. Shared Responsibility Agreements and Regional Partnership Agreements provide complementary health services to Indigenous communities, and usually have a mutual obligation component. These projects are managed by state and territory offices, with over-arching responsibility being taken by Central Office. The key health-related priorities for these agreements include nutrition, substance use, environmental health, chronic disease, infrastructure, aged care, child health and parenting, and social and emotional well-being.

Shared Responsibility Agreements can also have a particular project focus, such as school-age children or young people in general.

Participation, eligibility and access

Most Shared Responsibility Agreements involve a number of government departments and non-government agencies, as well as Indigenous communities.

Find out more at: <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au>

<http://www.health.gov.au>

Novelty contact lens safety information

Campaign

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

In recognition of the increase in popularity of non-prescription contact lenses, also known as cosmetic lenses, novelty lenses, crazy lenses, fancy lenses or fashion lenses, in 2007 the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission produced a production which highlighted the risks associated with their use. The misuse of non-prescription contact lenses can cause eye harm ranging from mild infection to blindness, and this publication offered safety guidelines for using novelty lenses.

Participation, eligibility and access

The publication can be downloaded from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's website, or hard copies can be requested by calling the commission's Infocentre on 1300 302 502.

Find out more at: <http://www.accc.gov.au/content/index.phtml?itemId=804931>

National Suicide Prevention Strategy

Program

Department of Health and Ageing

The Australian Government's National Suicide Prevention Strategy promotes suicide prevention activities across the Australian population, as well as for specific at-risk groups.

Its goal is to reduce deaths by suicide and reduce suicidal behaviour by:

- adopting a whole-of-community approach to suicide prevention to extend and enhance public understanding of suicide and its causes
- increasing support and care available to people, families and communities affected by suicide or suicidal behaviour by providing better support systems.

Participation, eligibility and access

The National Suicide Prevention Strategy is delivered through a range of national and community-based projects that deliver universal suicide prevention projects and interventions targeted at specific population groups identified as being at higher risk of suicide. The strategy is supported by a number of resources including the Living Is For Everyone Framework. The Australian Suicide Prevention Advisory Council which was established in September 2008 will also provide a forum for expert service providers, researchers and clinicians to share expertise, contribute to national decision-making processes and identify community needs and priorities for the National Suicide Prevention Strategy.

Find out more at:

www.livingisforeveryone.com.au

The Can Do Initiative: Managing Mental Health and Substance Use in General Practice

Initiative/Scheme

Department of Health and Ageing

The Can Do initiative aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of General Practitioners in identifying and managing patients who suffer from one or more disorders, and increase networking between General Practitioners and other relevant health professionals. The initiative includes modules that target specific population groups, including for young people, families and carers. These modules encompass a three unit training package that seeks to improve the capacity of key stakeholders in recognising and responding to young people who are experiencing mental health, alcohol and other drugs issues.

The three units are titled: 'Young people, mental health and substance use – where do we start?', 'Young People, mental health and substance use – how can we help?', and 'Families and carers – how do we support and include them?'.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Health and Ageing funds the Australian General Practice Network to coordinate and administer the Can Do Initiative.

Find out more at:

<http://www.agpncando.com/ypfc.htm>

MyTime Peer Support Program

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

MyTime Peer Support program assists parents and carers of young children under school age with a disability or chronic medical condition. This program provides peer support groups for parents and carers of young children with disability or chronic medical condition.

Participation, eligibility and access

MyTime groups are provided free of charge for eligible families. People can access the service by visiting the MyTime website, or contacting local group facilitators. Contact details can be found in local directories.

Find out more at: <http://www.mytime.net.au/index.php/faqs/about-mytime>

National Strategy on Body Image and voluntary Industry Code of Conduct

Project

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

In November 2008, the Minister for Youth, the Hon Kate Ellis MP, announced the development of a National Strategy on Body Image including a voluntary Industry Code of Conduct on body image. A National Advisory Group on Body Image was established, made up of a range of health, youth, media and fashion industry experts to provide advice on the development of the strategy.

Participation, eligibility and access

On 27 October 2009, the Minister for Youth, the Hon Kate Ellis MP, accepted the advisory group's proposed National Strategy on Body Image.

Find out more at: <http://www.youth.gov.au/bodyimage.html>

keys2drive

Program

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

keys2drive is a national road safety initiative that aims to help learner drivers become safer solo drivers. Under the program, learner drivers and their supervising driver receive one free driving lesson from an accredited instructor. During this lesson, information and strategies for managing the first stages of solo driving are provided to the learner and the supervisor. A website is also available which contains driver and trainer modules to help young drivers and their supervisors consolidate and build on what they learn in the free lesson. The pilot program was trialled in Tasmania from June to August 2009. A phased national rollout is now planned with a Victorian launch expected in October 2009, followed by implementation in NSW.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Government has committed \$17 million over five years to support the keys2drive education program, being developed by the Australian Automobile Association. These funds are being administered by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government through a funding agreement with the Australian Automobile Association.

Find out more at: <http://www.keys2drive.info/>

Seatbelts on Regional School Buses Program

Program

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

The Seatbelts on Regional School Buses Program aims to increase the number of school buses equipped with seatbelts for students in rural and regional areas. The program offers a subsidy to applicants with a current school bus contracted on a recognised rural or regional bus route. This allows applicants to fit lap or sash seatbelts and perform any other associated engineering work including installing wheelchair restraint systems into eligible school buses. The bus route must be identified as either high risk or have a section where the speed limit exceeds 80 kilometres per hour.

Participation, eligibility and access

Eligible applicants can receive a subsidy of up to \$25,000 per bus. To be eligible for this, applicants must be a bus operator with an existing contract with a state or territory government to provide school bus services on a recognised rural and regional school bus route. State, territory and local governments are not eligible to apply. Applicants also need to be licensed and accredited by a state or territory government to provide the services.

Find out more at:

<http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/safety/seatbeltsforkids>

Prevention, Diversion, Rehabilitation and Restorative Justice Program

Program

Attorney General's Department

The Prevention, Diversion, Rehabilitation and Restorative Justice Program funds projects that divert Indigenous Australians, including youth, away from contact with the criminal justice system. While the program targets the broader community, some of its services are specifically aimed at youth. This includes projects that address youth engaged in petrol sniffing. Projects specifically aimed at youth include:

- Prevention and justice support projects aimed at reducing relapse into criminal behaviour and to assist in the rehabilitation of incarcerated Indigenous Australians, particularly youth. The program also aims to support incarcerated individuals to return to, and reintegrate into the community.
- The focus of restorative justice is to support culturally appropriate alternatives to conventional sentencing procedures that recognise and strengthen community-driven justice responses. Projects explore areas of restorative justice, such as reintegration into the community and resolving pay-back issues.

Community patrols assist at-risk Indigenous Australians, including intoxicated people, juveniles, victims of violence and the homeless to reduce their adverse contact with the criminal justice system. The purpose of this program is to support community safety by patrolling the streets, and/or local community areas, and to provide transport to a place of safety or where the immediate needs may be addressed.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Attorney-General's Department provides annual grant funding to external service providers to deliver projects under this program. Applications for funding are advertised by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs in December each year, and the program is also advertised along with other Australian Government programs through the annual eSub Common Funding Round. Applications can also be made throughout the year.

Find out more at: http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Indigenouslylawandnativetitle_Indigenouslylawprograms_Theprevention,diversionandrehabilitationprogram

Northern Territory Mobile Outreach Service

Project

Department of Health and Ageing

The Northern Territory (NT) Mobile Outreach Service (MOS) currently provides counselling, support, professional development and community education to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and their families affected by sexual assault related trauma in remote communities and town camps in the NT. Through the 2009-10 Budget measure *Closing the Gap—Northern Territory Indigenous health and related services*, the Australian Government is providing a further \$9.388 million to expand the size and scope of MOS to enable it to respond to any form of child abuse-related trauma, in addition to sexual assault.

In 2009-10, \$4.165 million has been provided for MOS expansion. This additional funding will also improve access to forensic sexual assault medical examinations of children in remote communities, and expand primary health care workforce capacity. Implementation of this program is in the context of the broader *Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement* between the Australian and NT Governments.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Mobile Outreach Service is delivered for the Australian Government by the Northern Territory Government's Department of Health and Families, Sexual Assault Referral Centre. The service is available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people aged 0 to 17 and their families and communities, where sexual assault has occurred or is suspected to have occurred, or where problem sexual behaviour is of concern.

Find out more at: http://www.health.nt.gov.au/Children_Youth_and_Families/Sexual_Assault_Referral_Centre/index.aspx

ThinkUKnow

Initiative/Scheme

Australian Federal Police

ThinkUKnow is a partnership between the Australian Federal Police and Microsoft Australia. It aims to raise awareness among parents, carers and teachers of how young people use technology, the potential risks and how to help their children have a safe online experience.

Participation, eligibility and access

Face-to-face presentations are delivered by trained volunteers from the Australian Federal Police and Microsoft Australia.

Find out more at: www.thinkuknow.org.au

National Missing Persons Week

Campaign

Australian Federal Police

National Missing Persons Week is delivered by the National Missing Persons Coordination Centre and aims to raise awareness about the issues and impacts of missing persons, including the significant number of young Australians reported missing.

Participation, eligibility and access

The National Missing Persons Coordination Centre is funded by the Australian Government through the Australian Federal Police and aims to reduce the incidence and impact of missing persons in Australia.

Find out more at: <http://www.missingpersons.gov.au/home/>

Family Violence Partnerships Program

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Family Violence Partnerships Program supports projects and initiatives that aim to bring about a sustainable reduction in, and prevention of, Indigenous family violence and child abuse through the enhancement of existing, or the establishment of new services/initiatives in partnership with states and territories throughout Australia.

Projects funded under the Family Violence Partnerships Program work across the spectrum providing education and awareness of family violence through services to victims and perpetrators. These range from the establishment of safe houses, night patrols, counselling services, support workers, perpetrator programs and education programs.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Family Violence Partnerships Program is delivered through non-government service providers funded in partnership with state and territory governments. Funding is provided for projects and initiatives that aim to develop a sustainable reduction in, and prevention of, Indigenous family violence and child abuse through the enhancement of existing, or establishment of new services/initiatives.

Find out more at: <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/families/ifvp/Pages/default.aspx>

Family Violence and Regional Activities Program

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Family Violence and Regional Activities Program supports projects identified by Indigenous communities as a local priority to address family violence, sexual assault, child abuse and/or child protection. The program has a focus on projects that reflect the importance of protecting women and children and breaking the cycle of violence, including initiatives to address causal issues, such as recognition/healing/grieving projects as well as programs which address the perpetrators of violence.

Participation, eligibility and access

Interventions that can be funded under the FVRAP need to target one or more of the following groups:

- victims
- perpetrators
- children
- women
- men.

Projects are not limited to one intervention but may take a holistic approach, for example provide education and awareness workshops, counselling for victims and provide a program for perpetrators.

Find out more at: <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/evaluation/fvraps/Pages/default.aspx>

Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment

Policy responsibility

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Australian Government Recovery Assistance Package provides immediate, short-term financial assistance to individuals adversely affected by a major disaster. This assistance can be made available for natural and man-made disasters occurring onshore or offshore. The AGDRP provides \$1,000 payment for each eligible adult and \$400 for each child. This payment is delivered through Centrelink.

Participation, eligibility and access

Individuals are eligible to receive an Australia Government Disaster Recovery Payment if they are an Australian resident who has been adversely affected by a disaster, and are aged at least 16 or receiving a social security payment.

Find out more at: http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/disaster_relief.htm

Complex Case Support

Program

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

The Complex Case Support program is designed to deliver specialised and intensive case management to recently arrived humanitarian entrants where pre-migration experiences, such as severe torture and trauma, significant medical conditions and/or crisis events after arrival in Australia, present significant barriers to successful settlement. The service provides additional support to the small number of humanitarian entrants who have extensive needs beyond the scope of existing settlement services, including young people who face challenges that impact on their ability and motivation to engage with the broader community.

Participation, eligibility and access

A panel of service providers was established to deliver Complex Case Support services on a needs basis. Two of the 38 agencies on the panel specialise in youth issues.

Find out more at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/delivering-assistance/government-programs/settlement-programs/ccs.htm>

Reconnecting People Assistance Package

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Reconnecting People Assistance Package provides assistance to Australian citizens or permanent residents who have been adversely affected as a direct result of inappropriate immigration detention. The package supports eligible individuals in re-establishing their lives and reconnecting with families and communities. Those eligible to receive assistance under this package may be offered one, or a combination of services, based on the individual's circumstances. Assistance can include support from a Family Liaison Officer; reasonable out-of-pocket health care expenses; help to find somewhere to live and assistance for rent or other household expenses; money for food, clothes or other immediate necessities; and help travelling home within Australia after detention.

Participation, eligibility and access

To be eligible to receive assistance under this package, the individual (adult, child, partner/spouse) must have been an Australian citizen or an Australian permanent resident who was adversely affected by their inappropriate immigration detention.

Find out more at:

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/about/publicationsarticles/corp/BudgetPAES/budget2008-09/BudgetStatements/Pages/FaHCSIAOutcomes.aspx>

Expressing yourself, having fun and being active

The Australian Government plays a key role in the promotion and development of sports, arts and culture in Australia.

Investment in these areas has wide ranging benefits for Australian society. Encouraging young people to express themselves creatively not only enriches their lives but can lead to professional involvement in the arts.

Sporting culture has long been an integral part of the Australian psyche, and Australia's sporting achievements have fostered a sense of pride in its citizens. At the local level, many young people have developed key life skills through participation in local sporting programs. These include the development of leaderships skills, social skills, self-confidence and a sense of achievement.

Youth is a time of emerging responsibility and accountability and the Government understands its role in supporting young people to express their sense of creativity, camaraderie and fun.

That is why the Government offers a range of programs which provide opportunities for young people to participate in cultural, artistic and sporting activities.

Youth-specific activities

Activities included in this section are those Australian Government activities directed specifically at young people aged between 12 and 25 years. Where activities are targeted at young people slightly outside this age bracket (e.g. 15 to 28) they are also considered youth specific.

Australian Football League— Indigenous Sport and Youth Development

Project

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Australian Government and the Australian Football League form a partnership to deliver three AFL-related projects for young Indigenous people including the:

- AFL All Stars Ambassadors for Life Mentoring Program which provides Indigenous youths from around Australia with positive AFL role models as mentors to help them develop life skills and lead active healthy lifestyles.
- AFL Club Fostership Program which provides diversionary activities for at-risk youth, promotes healthy active lifestyle messages and encourages increased school attendance.
- Wadeye/Daly River Region AFL Program which helps expand Australian football training and development opportunities for Indigenous youth in the Northern Territory community of Wadeye.

Participation, eligibility and access

Under the AFL All Stars Ambassadors for Life Mentoring Program, Indigenous AFL players who have undergone leadership training provided by the AFL are each mentoring at least three Indigenous young men. Each participant is mentored for a minimum of 12 months. Thirty six current AFL players have undergone leadership and mentoring training and are now mentoring more than 100 young Indigenous men from around Australia.

Under the AFL Club Fostership Program, participating AFL clubs establish links with selected Indigenous communities, primarily in the Northern Territory, where they deliver football-related activities. The AFL clubs involved visit their partner communities three times each year. Community members are also given the opportunity to visit their AFL club.

Find out more at: <http://www.afl.com.au/programs/tabid/14340/default.aspx>

Alternative activities to combat petrol sniffing and substance misuse on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands (Indigenous Sport and Youth Development)

Project

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Through a Regional Partnership Agreement, the Australian Government is funding activities to combat substance abuse and petrol sniffing in the APY Lands. These activities include structured inter-community sports competitions across APY communities, including training and development for local people to coach, umpire and run sporting activities and structured competitions locally, regular multi-sports activities for young people throughout the year, and recreational activities such as horse riding, BMX riding and motocross activities.

Participation, eligibility and access

Services are delivered by the South Australian National Football League via funding agreements. Funding from a number of sources is provided through a Regional Partnership Agreement. Structured inter-community sports competitions are being delivered by the South Australian National Football League in the communities of Indulkana, Mimili, Fregon, Pukatja, Anilayna, Amata, Murputja and Pipalyatjara.

Expansion of Australian Football League Activities in the Kimberley region of Western Australia (Indigenous Sport and Youth Development)

Project

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

This project will help expand Australian football training and development opportunities for Indigenous youth in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

The project aims to encourage healthy active lifestyles, build community capacity and leadership skills and provide diversionary activities to combat substance abuse. This will be achieved by increasing the opportunities for Indigenous people across the Kimberley region to be involved in AFL activities, and assisting people from diverse backgrounds to connect at local football clubs.

Participation, eligibility and access

This project is managed through the Australian Government's Kununurra Indigenous Coordination Centre. Services will be delivered by the West Australian Football Commission via a funding agreement.

Youth Arts Theatre**Program**

Australia Council

Youth Arts grants provide three-year funding to youth theatre companies which develop and present the voices and stories of young people. The program also offers professional development pathways with the potential to help young people become artists or arts workers.

Participation, eligibility and access

Organisations who have a track record in creating theatre work with young people in a collaborative way apply to this category. Young people participate in all aspects of the theatre making process. The funding is a contribution to the organisation's 2009–11 program. The next opportunity for organisations to apply will be in June 2011.

Find out more at: http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grants/program_-_youth_arts_-_theatre

New Work Young Artists Initiative Theatre**Program**

Australia Council

The New Work Young Artists Initiative grants support either the creative development or production of new contemporary theatre work. Funding is provided for one-off projects and can include a new production of an existing text.

Participation, eligibility and access

This category provides an opportunity for young professional artists up to and including 26 years of age to secure funding for their work without having to compete with more established artists, as this category is assessed separately from the general New Work categories. There are two open grant rounds per year.

Find out more at: http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grants/new_work_theatre

Opportunities for Young and Emerging Artists**Initiative**

Australia Council

Opportunities for Young and Emerging Artists is a government initiative that provides \$6.6 million over four years from 2008–09 to build skills and experience for young and emerging artists. The initiative includes grants programs, mentorships, artist-run initiatives, residencies, awards and the development of an online community for young artists.

Participation, eligibility and access

Funding for these projects is through open grant rounds.

Find out more at: [http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/the_arts/features/\\$6.6m_program_for_young_and_emerging_artists](http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/the_arts/features/$6.6m_program_for_young_and_emerging_artists)

Skills and arts development grants—Music

Program
Australia Council

Skills and arts development grants support skills development and projects for professional artists and arts workers or other participants. The music board supports music education projects that link practising artists with school-aged students through grants. The two types of skills and arts development grants are grants for individuals and groups (established and emerging), and grants for organisations.

Participation, eligibility and access

Applications for the grants are accepted from organisations for projects that engage school students with music and professional musicians in their community. Applicants may request between \$10,000 and \$20,000 from the music board for costs towards collaborations with schools and professional musicians. The board encourages projects that provide funding from their own or other sources to the project.

Find out more at: http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grants/skills_and_arts_development_-_music3

ArtStart

Program
Australia Council

ArtStart is a government initiative that provides \$9.6 million over four years from 2009–10 to help artists establish their professional practice or gain employment as an artist. ArtStart will provide grants of \$10,000 to recent arts training graduates as a contribution towards the costs of establishing a practice as a professional artist.

Participation, eligibility and access

Funding for these projects is through open grant rounds.

Find out more at: www.australiacouncil.gov.au/artstart

New Visions/New Voices

Initiative
Australia Council

The New Visions/New Voices Festival is an intensive week-long development of new plays and musicals for children and young audiences at the John F. Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts in Washington DC, USA. A biennial event, New Visions/New Voices culminates in a weekend festival of staged readings and discussions with theatre professionals from across the USA. The Australia Council and the Kennedy Centre jointly support an Australian writer/director team and an independent Australian dramaturg to participate.

Participation, eligibility and access

Organisations and dramaturgs with a history of creating theatre for young audiences are eligible to apply.

Find out more at: <http://www.kennedy-center.org/education/nvvnv.html>

International strategy for theatre for young people

Initiative

Australia Council

The primary purpose of this initiative is to assist Australian theatre companies and artists with exportable work to develop international markets and reach young audiences.

Participation, eligibility and access

Theatre companies with a track record in creating high quality theatre for young audiences are assisted with funding, promotional opportunities, and skills training to facilitate their international touring.

Key Organisations Theatre

Program

Australia Council

There are established key organisations of the Theatre Board that create work for young audiences, and others that create work with young people. Young People and the Arts Australia is the national advocacy body for all youth activities and is also a Key Organisation of the Theatre Board.

Participation, eligibility and access

Organisations are required to be significantly established to be eligible to apply. The next opportunity to apply will be in June 2012.

Find out more at:

<http://www.yaq.org.au/program/spark/spark/index>

Community Festivals for Education Engagement Program

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Community Festivals for Education Engagement Program provides a range of activities over a two to nine-day period promoting improved school attendance and retention, Year 12 completion and living a healthy drug-free lifestyle. Community Festivals for Education Engagement has a strong Indigenous focus. Activities which form part of the festival include music, song writing and story telling based on Aboriginal cultures and Aboriginal languages, as well as workshops, concerts and cultural activities that promote education. Other activities include promoting better health, culture and potential vocational pathways, meeting and learning from role models, story dance, film, singing, writing, sport and art in high energy settings and youth friendly programs.

Participation, eligibility and access

Festivals are delivered under a contract arrangement with five separate organisations. The Australian Government also provides financial assistance to help Indigenous students and their parents, carer or teachers to participate and attend. Priority will be given to supporting secondary students, particularly those from remote communities.

Find out more at:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Indigenous/Schooling/Programs/Pages/CommunityFestivals.aspx>

Kirk Robson Awards— Community Partnerships

Program

Australia Council

The Kirk Robson Awards acknowledge the leadership of artists and arts workers aged 30 and under in community cultural development, including in the areas of inclusiveness, consensus, self-determination, reconciliation and social justice.

Participation, eligibility and access

The awards are offered on an annual basis. There is a nomination process and self nomination is not permitted.

Find out more at: http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grants/kirk_robson_awards_-_community_partnerships

Bundanon Trust

Program

Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Australian Government established Bundanon Trust as a wholly owned Australian Government company limited by guarantee, with the company holding the gift as a charitable trust. The Bundanon Trust provides a variety of programs for young artists including day and residential programs for primary and secondary schools, Artist in Residence programs, a public arts program, strategic initiatives and special projects, environmental and architectural educational programs, architectural tours, visits from TAFE students, children's art workshops and outreach programs for young people at risk.

Participation, eligibility and access

Bundanon operates a residential education program for children and adults and presents a dynamic, on-site, public program, including concerts and special events, open days and group visits, allowing thousands of people to experience Bundanon every year.

Find out more at: www.bundanon.com.au

Young Members events

Event

National Gallery of Australia

The National Gallery of Australia holds a series of regular events aimed at its Young Members groups, including gallery tours, wine tastings and music events.

Participation, eligibility and access

Young Members events are delivered by National Gallery of Australia staff.

Find out more at: <http://nga.gov.au/calendar/>

Deadly Vibe Magazine**Resource**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Deadly Vibe is a sports and entertainment magazine which advocates healthy lifestyles, Indigenous pride and a responsible and positive outlook on life. *Deadly Vibe* features positive stories about Indigenous Australians focusing on optimistic and encouraging attitudes, strong role models and relevant and constructive information.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Government has contributed funding to assist with distribution of the magazine and the provision of educational material since 1997.

Find out more at: <http://www.vibe.com.au/>

jtv docs**Program**

Screen Australia

Triple J's jtv docs is a joint initiative of ABC TV and Screen Australia that seeks fresh approaches to half-hour and one-hour documentaries that extend the boundaries of visual program making. These are fresh works with new perspectives on the world around us, be they historical, political, social or personal. The program is now in its fourth year.

Participation, eligibility and access

jtv docs is a national initiative open to directors under 35. The documentaries screen on ABC1 and ABC2, and have cross-platform potential via the triple jtv website.

Find out more at: www.abc.net.au/jtv/docs/

Australia-Indonesia Institute: Schools Exchange Small Grants Program**Program**

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The Australia-Indonesia Institute: Schools Exchange Small Grants Program assists Australian schools to bring Indonesian artists, musicians, and primary and secondary teachers to visit their school and community. The program aims to develop teaching skills and resources to improve Australian students' Asian language ability.

Participation, eligibility and access

Applications may be submitted at any time throughout the year, however, the Board of the Australia-Indonesia Institute will only consider applications for the Schools Exchange Small Grants Program at its regular meetings, which are usually held in July, November and March. Enquiries concerning this program should be directed to: ausindonesia.institute@dfat.gov.au

Find out more at: www.dfat.gov.au/aia/schools_exchange_small_grants_program.html

Australia-Indonesia Institute: Australia- Indonesia Youth Exchange Program

Program

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The Australia-Indonesia Institute operates the Australia-Indonesia Youth Exchange Program. Participants in the program visit towns and rural areas in each country and engage in a wide range of activities including cultural programs and work placements. The program aims to provide wider opportunities for young people from Indonesia and Australia to appreciate the culture, development and way of life of each other's country, establish strong ongoing links and improve their language skills.

Participation, eligibility and access

Applicants for the Australia-Indonesia Youth Exchange Program must be undertaking tertiary studies or be employed in one of the following areas: agriculture, arts, music, Asian studies, economics, business, international relations, education, engineering, science, environmental management, journalism, media, information and communications technology, law, health, politics, sports, tourism and hospitality.

Applicants must be aged between 21 and 25. Once the application round has closed, 18 young Australians and 18 young Indonesians are chosen to take part in the program.

Find out more at: http://www.dfat.gov.au/aii/scholarship_program/youth_exchange_program.html

National Youth Week

Event

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

National Youth Week is the largest celebration of young people on the Australian calendar and has run annually since 2000 as a jointly funded initiative of the Australian, state, territory and local governments.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Government hosts a national launch and partially funds state and territory activities during National Youth Week.

Find out more at: <http://www.youthweek.com/>

Non youth-specific activities

Activities included in this section are Australian Government activities that are targeted at the general population, but have a significant impact on the 12 to 25 age group, either through a high participation rate or through a direct impact on education, health, family and living situations.

Sports Facilities

Project

Department of Health and Ageing

The Australian Government is supporting participation in grass roots and elite level sport, as well as recreation activities, through a number of sport and recreation infrastructure projects. The government has provided funding of \$20.9 million over two years to provide equipment and to make improvements to 94 sport and recreation facilities. The upgrades of the facilities will improve the functionality of the facilities and will encourage greater involvement from a range of community and sporting groups.

Participation, eligibility and access

Services are delivered by a range of sport and recreation clubs, organisations and local councils. Funding Agreements are negotiated with each organisation through the Department of Health and Ageing.

Find out more at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/sport-funding>

Community Street Soccer

Project

Department of Health and Ageing

The Australian Government has provided funding of \$3 million over three years to develop the Community Street Soccer program. The program will involve 3,000 participants in 30 communities across Australia over three years. The initiative uses grassroots sport to reconnect people who have disengaged from mainstream society.

Participation, eligibility and access

Services are delivered by a not-for-profit non-government organisation through a funding agreement with the Department of Health and Ageing.

Find out more at: http://www.minister.dcita.gov.au/brandis/media/media_releases/2007/140

Healthy Active Australia Community and Schools Grants Program

Program

Department of Health and Ageing

The Healthy Active Australia Community and Schools Grants Program aims to encourage sustainable physical activity and healthy eating projects in community and schools across Australia from 2007–08 to 2009–10.

Participation, eligibility and access

One-off funding has been provided to government and non-government schools, preschools, child care centres, community organisations and peak bodies to run local projects that promote healthy, active lifestyles.

Find out more at: <http://www.healthyactive.gov.au>

Walk Safely to School Day**Program**

Department of Health and Ageing

Walk Safely to School Day is an annual national event that promotes walking as a means of getting to school. Whilst primarily aimed at primary school-aged children, the message also reaches high school students. The Pedestrian Council of Australia organises a national communications campaign to raise awareness of the event and encourage participation. The event is advertised in local and national newspapers and via community services advertisements. The Pedestrian Council of Australia also provides some resources for schools on its website.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Health and Ageing provides funding support to the Pedestrian Council of Australia under the Australian Better Health Initiative.

Find out more at:www.walk.com.au**Indigenous Sport and Recreation Program****Program**

Department of Health and Ageing

The Indigenous Sport and Recreation Program provides funding to community groups, the Australian Sports Commission and other organisations for programs and services across Australia which increase the active participation of Indigenous Australians of all ages in sport and recreational activities.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Health and Ageing provides funding to community groups and organisations through an annual submission process (which closes around mid-February each year), and through coordinated government responses intended to achieve better outcomes for communities, families and individuals. The annual submission process is a competitive process whereby individuals, community groups or organisations apply for funding to undertake activities that promote the active participation of Indigenous Australians in sport and recreational activities.

Find out more at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/sport-indigprograms>
<http://www.ausport.gov.au/participating/all/indigenous>

National arts training organisations

Education and training

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts provides support for seven national arts training organisations to prepare young people for careers in theatre, dance, music, circus and performing arts. This training is delivered by the Australian Ballet School, the Australian National Academy of Music, the Australian Youth Orchestra, the Flying Fruit Fly Circus, the National Aboriginal and Islander Skills Development Association, the National Institute of Circus Arts and the National Institute of Dramatic Art. These organisations provide a broad range of vocational performing arts training for primary, secondary and post-secondary students, including short-courses and TAFE and university accredited courses.

Participation, eligibility and access

Funding is provided through the Australian Government's Cultural Development Program and is administered through annual Australian Government funding agreements.

Find out more at:

www.australianballetschool.com.au

www.anam.com.au

www.ayo.com.au

www.fruitflycircus.com.au

www.naisda.com.au

www.nica.edu.au

www.nida.edu.au

Regional Arts Fund

Program

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Regional Arts Fund provides grants to regional arts organisations to provide cultural activities in communities across regional, remote and isolated parts of Australia. The program also assists the professional development of, and provides employment opportunities for, artists based in regional areas and provides opportunities for community members to learn arts and broader skills.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Regional Arts Fund is delivered by the peak regional arts organisation in each state and by arts departments in the territories. Regionally based artists, arts workers and organisations can apply for professional development assistance and creative arts projects involving community participants in regional and remote Australia. Eligibility and selection criteria vary from state to state.

Find out more at:

http://www.arts.gov.au/arts/regional_arts_fund

Playing Australia

Program

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Playing Australia is the Australian Government's national touring program for the performing arts and provides grants to organisations to tour live Australian works to regional and remote areas. It is designed to assist the touring of performing arts across state and territory boundaries where this is currently not commercially viable and there is a demonstrated public demand.

Participation, eligibility and access

Participation in the Playing Australia program is determined through open grant rounds. There are two funding rounds each year and these are advertised nationally.

Find out more at: www.arts.gov.au/arts/playing_australia

Contemporary Music Touring Program

Program

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Contemporary Music Touring Program provides grants to bands and musical ensembles to tour live Australian music to regional and remote areas.

Participation, eligibility and access

Funding for organisations to participate in this program is allocated through open grant rounds.

Find out more at: www.arts.gov.au/cmtp

Festivals Australia

Program

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Festivals Australia program provides grants to community festivals in regional and remote areas for new cultural activities. The program prioritises and promotes regional and remote area touring, which may include transporting artists to, from, or around those regions.

Participation, eligibility and access

Funding for organisations to participate in this program is through open grant rounds.

Find out more at: www.arts.gov.au/festivals_australia

Australian Children's Literature Alliance

Initiative/Scheme

Australia Council

The Australian Children's Literature Alliance is a new initiative funded by the Australia Council for the Arts' Literature Board, with administrative support provided by the State Library of Victoria where it is currently based. The Australian Children's Literature Alliance brings together representatives from all the major children's and young adult literature organisations in Australia, with the aim of coordinating national programs and events which encourage young Australians to engage with books and literature.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Alliance is located in the State Library of Victoria and will receive six months of funding from the Australia Council for the Arts' Literature Board to support the new organisation during its period of recruitment and incorporation.

Find out more at: http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/news/news_items/new_alliance_promotes_writing_for_kids

Write in Your Face**Initiative/Scheme**

Australia Council

The Write in Your Face initiative supports emerging forms of writing practice by young writers, or organisations working with young writers. Write in Your Face provides grants to individuals and organisations who are using language in innovative ways. This may involve writing for zines, e-zines, comics, multimedia, multi-artforms or cross-media works, websites, live performances and spoken word.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Write in Your Face initiative is funded by the Literature Board of the Australia Council for the Arts and is delivered by Express Media. Application forms can be downloaded from the Write in Your Face website.

Find out more at: <http://www.expressmedia.org.au/projects.php>

Young People and the Arts strategy**Strategy**

Australia Council

The Young People and the Arts publication is part of the Australia Council for the Arts' Cultural Engagement Framework and provides an essential guide to the council's policy on supporting and promoting artistic and creative work by, for, and with, young people and children.

Participation, eligibility and access

This publication can be downloaded via the Australia Council website.

Find out more at: http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/about_us/strategiespolicies2/young_people_and_policies/cultural_engagement_frameworkthe_arts_policy

Big Screen**Program**

National Film and Sound Archive

Big Screen is a national travelling film festival presenting contemporary, classic and archival Australian films to audiences across regional and rural Australia. While the program aims to provide screening opportunities for the whole community, young people make up part of the Big Screen demographic, especially given the close, ongoing association with the National Film and Sound Archive's School Screen program.

Participation, eligibility and access

Big Screen is delivered by the National Film and Sound Archive.

Black Screen**Program**

National Film and Sound Archive

Black Screen is an innovative national screening program that provides Indigenous communities and the broader Australian public with greater access to, and awareness of, Indigenous films.

Participation, eligibility and access

Black Screen is delivered by the National Film and Sound Archive.

Find out more at: <http://www.nfsa.gov.au/services/national/blackscreen.html>

Australianscreen online**Resource**

National Film and Sound Archive

Australianscreen online is a promotional and educational resource providing worldwide online access to Australian film and television history. The website contains information about, and excerpts from, over 1,300 Australian feature films, documentaries, television programs, newsreels, short films, animation and home movies produced over the last 100 years. It includes teachers' notes that identify and describe the educational values of many of the film clips. Film clips can be downloaded from the australianscreen website.

Participation, eligibility and access

Australianscreen online is delivered by the National Film and Sound Archive.

Find out more at:
<http://australianscreen.com>
Arc programming**Program**

National Film and Sound Archive

The National Film and Sound Archive's Arc screening program and other cultural programs have a deliberate focus on youth audiences, with the aim of advancing appreciation and interest in Australia's audiovisual cultural heritage. Young people are encouraged to participate in Australia's audiovisual heritage through screenings that appeal to a youth audience.

Participation, eligibility and access

Arc programming is delivered by the National Film and Sound Archive.

Find out more at:
http://www.nfsa.gov.au/whats_on/arc/index.html
**Indigenous
Broadcasting Program****Program**

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Indigenous Broadcasting Program provides funding support to address the broadcasting needs of Indigenous people living in remote, regional and urban areas of Australia. Indigenous broadcasting services promote and maintain local traditional languages and give Indigenous people the capacity to produce and broadcast culturally relevant programs. Indigenous broadcasting is also an important method for disseminating health, education and justice information to Indigenous communities.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Indigenous Broadcasting Program is delivered through an annual competitive funding program. Funding is provided for projects undertaken by organisations through a program funding agreement.

Find out more at:
<http://www.arts.gov.au/indigenous/broadcasting>

Indigenous Contemporary Music Action Plan

Strategy

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Indigenous Contemporary Music Action Plan provides a framework for supporting Indigenous contemporary music nationally and aims to improve the coordination of support so that the sector grows stronger. The Action Plan highlights several strategic areas and one of these is maximising opportunities for young and emerging Indigenous musicians.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Indigenous Contemporary Music Action Plan provides a strategy paper which serves as a framework for jurisdictions to develop initiatives using both existing and new programs and support mechanisms.

Find out more at: http://www.cmc.gov.au/working_groups/contemporary_music_development/indigenous_contemporary_music_initiatives

Indigenous Culture Support

Program

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Indigenous Culture Support program provides support for the maintenance and continued development of Indigenous culture at a community level. The program assists participation by people in a wide range of Indigenous cultural activities throughout Australia and enables the transmission of cultural knowledge across age groups.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Indigenous Culture Support program is delivered through an annual competitive funding program. Funding is provided for projects undertaken by organisations through a program funding agreement.

Find out more at: www.arts.gov.au/indigenous

Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records

Program

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records program assists the maintenance and revival of Australian Indigenous languages as living systems of knowledge shared by communities and passed down from generation to generation. It aims to address the increasing loss of Australia's Indigenous languages by providing funding to support community-based projects by language groups, language research and the development and coordination of language resources.

Participation, eligibility and access

Funding is provided for projects undertaken by organisations through a program funding agreement.

Find out more at: www.arts.gov.au/indigenous

Breakthrough**Program**

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Breakthrough program will provide five contemporary Indigenous musicians or groups with the funds to produce a broadcast quality recording of their original music. High quality recordings will help these artists reach a broader Australian audience and break into the international market.

Participation, eligibility and access

Services will be delivered through a program funding agreement which will provide funding of up to \$25,000 per successful applicant. Applicants are chosen by the Breakthrough selection panel.

Find out more at:www.arts.gov.au/indigenous/breakthrough**Political cartoon competition****Project**

National Museum of Australia

The political cartoon competition run in conjunction with the broader National Museum of Australia's yearly Behind The Lines cartoon competition forms part of an exhibition which tours nationally. The exhibition is open to all members of the public.

Participation, eligibility and access

Primary and secondary school students around Australia are able to view this exhibition and participate in a cartoon competition, with the finished cartoons being exhibited and loaded on to the NMA's website. Prizes are also awarded to the best entries.

Find out more at:http://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/past_exhibitions/behind_the_lines/**Student resources webpage****Resource**

Tourism Australia

Tourism Australia has designed a page on its corporate website to provide information for teachers and students studying tourism and related disciplines. The information available relates to research, current marketing activities and general information on Australia.

Participation, eligibility and access

The website is delivered by Tourism Australia.

Find out more at:<http://www.tourism.australia.com/Research.asp?sub=0416>

Student volunteer program

Program

Tourism Australia

Tourism Australia provides opportunities for students studying tourism, marketing or communication and public relations to gain valuable industry experience by undertaking volunteer work placements in the business units of the Sydney office. Students must be Australian residents enrolled in an Australian university and in the final year of their relevant degree.

Participation, eligibility and access

This program is delivered by Tourism Australia.

Find out more at:

<http://www.tourism.australia.com/AboutUs.asp?lang=EN&sub=0312&al=387>

My Australia magazine

Campaign

Tourism Australia

Tourism Australia has, as part of its domestic tourism strategy, produced a one-off magazine supplement promoting domestic tourism to singles and couples without children aged between 20 and 39. The *My Australia* magazine was distributed in May and June 2009 within the following magazines:

- Marie Claire
- Men's Health
- Women's Health
- OK Magazine
- Cosmopolitan (NSW/Vic).

Participation, eligibility and access

The *My Australia* magazine was delivered by Tourism Australia's contracted media agency, and listed magazines.

Pathways, Work and Money

Youth is a time of great opportunity, but also significant challenge. The transitions that young people make from school to higher education, training and/or work are some of the most critical in determining their later life outcomes.

The Government understands that for many young Australians it is not as simple as just walking into a training course or a job. That is why the Australian Government provides a wide range of activities to support young people to engage with education and training, to transition and participate productively in the workforce and to realise their potential.

The Government also provides resources to help young people understand and effectively manage their money, including tax, superannuation and consumer protection.

Youth-specific activities

Activities included in this section are those Australian Government activities directed specifically at young people aged between 12 and 25 years. Where activities are targeted at young people slightly outside this age bracket (e.g. 15 to 28) they are also considered youth specific.

Youth Allowance

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Youth Allowance provides assistance for young people who are studying full-time, undertaking a full-time Australian Apprenticeship or training and/or looking for work. It may also provide assistance for young people who are ill or temporarily incapacitated.

Youth Allowance allows young people to stay on the one payment as they move between looking for work, studying, training or undertaking an Australian Apprenticeship as long as obligations are met.

Participation, eligibility and access

Centrelink delivers income support payments for recipients on behalf of DEEWR.

There are different eligibility and participation requirements for Youth Allowance recipients depending on whether they are studying, an Apprentice or looking for work, however all recipients of Youth Allowance need to be Australian residents who are in Australia at the time of lodging the claim and meet income and assets tests, including the Parental Income and Assets Tests and Family Actual Means Test. The assessment, under Youth Allowance, of a family's ability to support their young people provides an approach to ensure that payments are kept at a level appropriate to a family's need for income support.

Students and Apprentices must be aged between 16 and 24 years of age and job seekers between 16 and 20 years. A student who was in receipt of Youth Allowance before they turned 25 may remain on the payment after turning 25, until they finish their course. Independent young people aged 15 may also be eligible for Youth Allowance.

To qualify for Youth Allowance (other) a person must be unemployed, aged under 21, looking for work or combining part-time study with job search, or undertaking any other approved activity, or temporarily incapacitated for work or study.

From 1 July 2009, to receive Youth Allowance (other) people under 21 years of age without year 12 or equivalent will usually need to:

- participate in education and training full-time, or
- participate full-time (i.e. for at least 25 hours per week) in part-time study or training, in combination with other approved activities, until they attain year 12 or an equivalent Certificate Level II qualification.

Job seekers already in receipt of Youth Allowance before 1 July 2009 who do not have year 12 or equivalent qualification will transition to the new requirements between 1 January 2010 and 30 June 2010.

Find out more at:

http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/youth_allow.htm

http://www.deewr.gov.au/student_income_support

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/Pages/newsitem_ChangestoYouthAllowance.aspx

FIDO website**Resource**

Australian Securities and Investment Commission

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission provides a number of resources for young people including the FIDO website which features a youth portal. The youth portal is aimed at young Australians and covers information on budgeting, debt, super, investing, insurance and scams.

The Australian Securities and Investment Commission also provides a number of publications for young people on purchasing a car, credit cards, insurance and superannuation. The Australian Securities and Investment Commission has also developed a wide range of curriculum resources.

Participation, eligibility and access

This program is delivered by the website and through ASIC publications.

Find out more at:

<http://www.fido.gov.au/fido/fido.nsf/byHeadline/Young%20Investor>

<http://www.fido.gov.au/fido/fido.nsf/byHeadline/Teacher%20resources>

The National Green Jobs Corps**Program**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The National Green Jobs Corps which commences on 1 January 2010 is part of the 50 000 New Green Jobs and Training Places to build a stronger and greener economy initiative announced by the Prime Minister on 30 July 2009. The program will help to equip young Australians with the skills to fill employment opportunities in emerging green and climate change related industries.

Participation, eligibility and access

National Green Jobs Corps will offer 10 000 places for Australians aged 17 to 24 years to gain a combination of environmental work experience, skills development and accredited training.

National Green Jobs Corps will be open to Australian citizens who are:

- receiving income support payments (NSA, YA (O), PP) and not working 15 hours or more per week;
- Disability Support Pension recipients with an assessed work capacity of 15 hours per week or more;
- Aged 17 to 20 years and not in receipt of income support payments and not fully employed for more than 15 hours per week or in full time education.

Participation in the program is for 26 weeks and includes 130 hours of accredited training.

Note that National Green Jobs Corps is separate to, but complements, the Green Corps activities available under Job Services Australia which are available to all job seekers.

For further information please email NationalGreenJobsCorps@deewr.gov.au.

Find out more at:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/JobsandTraining/Pages/newgreenjobs.aspx>

Vocational Development**Project**

Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism

The project aims to attract Indigenous students from the Tropical North Queensland region to work in the tourism industry. In conjunction with planned employment activities in the region, activities will be designed and delivered to engage Indigenous youth in the region with employment and education opportunities in tourism.

Participation, eligibility and access

Up to 50 students, selected from participants at the career workshops, will be given the opportunity to experience being a tourist and gain a personalised look at what delivering a quality tourism experience and running a successful business involves. These experiences will be provided by Indigenous tourism operators and/or operators who have a demonstrated history of being supportive of Indigenous participation in tourism.

Funding is provided by Department of Resources Energy and Tourism. The project has been contracted to Tourism Queensland, in conjunction with Tourism Tropical North Queensland, to implement measures, including the Vocational Development initiative.

**Indigenous Youth
Connections Program****Program**

Department of Defence

As part of the Australian Defence Force Indigenous Employment Strategy, the Department of Defence is developing a program to engage and positively influence school-aged Indigenous young people to consider careers in Defence Force as a career option. The aim is to address the barriers to recruitment caused in the main by cultural and geographical issues. This program will:

- align Defence with existing programs within the community (public and private sector) that already engage Indigenous youth in activities that promote self-esteem, develop useful skills and break the cycle of youth unemployment
- promote existing Defence programs applicable to youth within the Indigenous community
- develop Defence-specific programs for Indigenous youth
- conduct events with a Defence focus for Indigenous youth
- provide a mentoring program for Indigenous students expressing an interest in a Defence career.

Participation, eligibility and access

The program is delivered by The Department of Defence in conjunction with public and private Indigenous youth programs.

Find out more at:**indigenous.affairs@defence.gov.au**

Career Advice Australia— Local Community Partnerships—Career and Transition Support

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Local Community Partnerships under the Career and Transition Support component of Career Advice Australia facilitates the delivery of enhanced career and transition support to young people. These transitions may include access to further education, training or employment.

The Local Community Partnerships scheme will cease on 31 December 2009. From 1 January 2010, new youth career and transitions programs will be in place under the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions. Please refer to the entry on the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions for more information.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Career Transition and Support program is implemented by not for profit, incorporated, community based and locally operated organisations through funding agreements. To be eligible for the program young people must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident aged between 13 and 19.

Find out more at: <http://www.careeradviceaustralia.gov.au/industry/default.htm>.

Career Advice Australia— Regional Industry Career Advisers

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Career Advice Australia is an Australian Government initiative that helps young people aged 13 to 19 to connect with their futures. Because Australia is a large and diverse nation and no two regions are the same, Career Advice Australia includes a nationwide network of Regional Industry Career Advisers.

Regional Industry Career Advisers keep up-to-date with regional industry developments, local career opportunities and regional skills needs. They then ensure this information to Local Community Partnerships and schools.

Regional Industry Career Advisers maintain contacts with appropriate businesses and industry bodies and use these relationships to encourage more employers to get involved in programs such as Adopt a School and Structured Workplace Learning.

The Regional Industry Career Advisers program will cease on 31 December 2009.

From 1 January 2010, new youth career and transitions programs will be in place under the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions. Please refer to the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions entry for more information.

Participation, eligibility and access

Fifty-seven service regions have been established to ensure that young people, parents, schools and local business have access to expert industry career advice.

Regional Industry Career Specialists are employed in conjunction with Local Community Partnerships who assess the information and opportunities already being delivered in local communities. They then look for ways to help schools and youth providers build on and improve these services.

Find out more at: www.careeradviceaustralia.gov.au

Career Development

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Australian Government has a range of programs and policies in place that provide young people with a diverse range of learning opportunities to keep them engaged and focused on planning their future pathways. These include:

- the Job Guide, a career information resource that provides helpful hints on how to choose an occupation and assists young people to identify career options
- Myfuture, Australia's national online career information system, developed in partnership with the states and territories
- career information products including the publications *Parents Talking Career Choices, Year 12 – What Next?* and *School Subjects You Like and Jobs They Can Lead To*
- Career Information Centres which are 'one-stop shops' providing a comprehensive free career information service to all Australians.

Participation, eligibility and access

Organisations such as business, government, education providers and community organisations are working together in partnership to help people make successful transitions.

Find out more at:

www.myfuture.edu.au
www.jobguide.deewr.gov.au
www.deewr.gov.au/careerdevelopment

Young Workers Toolkit

Initiative

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Young Workers' Toolkit (the Toolkit) was announced in *Forward with Fairness for Australia's Young Workers*. The Toolkit will provide key information for young people about employment and workplace relations issues. It will deal with common questions and issues that young people confront at work every day.

The Toolkit will be distributed through organisations such as TAFE, Centrelink and Fair Work Australia offices and online through the Fair Work Australia website.

Find out more at: http://www.alp.org.au/download/now/071115__forward_with_fairness_for_australias_young_workers_xx.pdf

National Code of Practice for Young Workers

Initiative

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The National Code of Practice for Young Workers (the Code) was announced in *Forward with Fairness for Australia's Young Workers*. The Government has committed to working with the states and territories and other stakeholders to develop the Code. The Code will be voluntary and will deal with matters such as rostering arrangements for children during school hours, training and mentoring in the workplace, and safety for young people at work.

Find out more at: http://www.alp.org.au/download/now/071115__forward_with_fairness_for_australias_young_workers_xx.pdf

Youth-related Research Projects

Research

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Melbourne Institute is contracted to conduct social policy research for the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. Recent youth-related projects include research into employment outcomes of youth entering the labour market and wage transitions of apprentices.

Participation, eligibility and access

Findings from these reports will be publicly available via the Melbourne Institute's website from approximately the end of March 2010.

Find out more at: <http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/>

Don't Get Ripped Off

Campaign

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations—
Fair Work Ombudsman

The Fair Work Ombudsman produces fact sheets and other information products targeted at youth. The *Don't Get Ripped Off* campaign was targeted at young people and helped young people understand their workplace rights including:

- correct rates of pay
- accurate time and wages record-keeping and issue of timely pay slips
- avoidance of unfair workplace practices such as delayed starts and unpaid training
- steps to resolving workplace disputes and issues.

Participation, eligibility and access

Resources produced as part of the *Don't Get Ripped Off* campaign are available at the Fair Work Ombudsman's website.

Find out more at: <http://www.wo.gov.au/asp/index.asp?sid=7407&page=audits-campaigns-current-view&cid=5386&id=1027> (media release)
<http://www.wo.gov.au/data/portal/00007407/content/50220001234758970220.pdf> (fact sheet)

Fair Work Week 2010

Event

Fair Work Ombudsman

Fair Work Week will be a week-long education and compliance campaign which aims to make a difference to the working conditions of young workers aged 15 to 21 by enhancing their awareness of their workplace rights and protections. This will be achieved through explaining the role and functions of Fair Work Ombudsman. The week will also provide an ideal opportunity to promote the new modern awards and National Employment Standards that will be introduced on 1 January 2010, and to ensure both young people and their employers can access information about these important legislative changes.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Fair Work Week 2010 event will be aimed at young workers and their employers in at risk employment sectors such as hospitality, retail trade and call centres.

Find out more at: www.fairwork.gov.au

Fair Work Ombudsman Website and Infoline

Resource

Fair Work Ombudsman

The Fair Work Ombudsman's website contains information designed to specifically assist young workers, with links to information for apprentices, trainees, employees under 21, and casual workers, as well as to the Ombudsman's new Best Practice Guides. The website provides a range of information on pay rates and conditions and allows people to lodge complaints online which will be investigated by a Fair Work Inspector. The website also prominently displays the infoline number through which people can seek information or lodge complaints.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Fair Work Ombudsman's website and Infoline offers free access to key information for young workers, apprentices, trainees, and casuals, as well as all employers, employees, employer organisations, trade unions and members of the public.

Find out more at: www.fairwork.gov.au or 13 13 94

Best Practice Guides

Resource

Fair Work Ombudsman

The Fair Work Ombudsman produces a series of Best Practice Guides for the public. These include *A guide for young workers* and *An employer's guide to employing young workers*.

Participation, eligibility and access

Young workers, apprentices, trainees, and casuals, as well as all employers, employees, employer organisations, trade unions and members of the public can all access these guides. They can be opened via the link to Best Practice Guides.

Find out more at: www.fairwork.gov.au

Non youth-specific activities

Activities included in this section are Australian Government activities that are targeted at the general population, but have a significant impact on the 12 to 25 age group, either through a high participation rate or through a direct impact on education, health, family and living situations.

General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme

Assistance scheme

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme is a basic safety net scheme to assist employees who have lost their employment as a result of the insolvency of their employer and are owed certain employee entitlements.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations administers the scheme in accordance with the General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme Operational Arrangements. An individual's eligibility for assistance under the scheme is determined in accordance with these Operational Arrangements, which are available through the department's website.

Under the scheme, eligible employees may be able to access assistance for:

- up to three months unpaid wages for the period prior to the appointment of the insolvency practitioner (including amounts deducted from the employee's wages, such as for superannuation, but not passed on to the employee's superannuation fund)
- unpaid annual leave
- unpaid long service leave
- up to a maximum of five weeks unpaid payment in lieu of notice
- up to a maximum of 16 weeks unpaid redundancy entitlement.

Find out more at:

www.deewr.gov.au/geers

Newstart Allowance**Program**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Newstart Allowance is a means tested income support payment for unemployed people of workforce age while they look for work. In return for financial support, recipients are required to demonstrate that they are actively looking for work, or undertaking activities to improve their work prospects, such as further study, training or approved voluntary work. It is designed to provide a strong safety net for people who require financial assistance while looking for work.

Participation, eligibility and access

Centrelink delivers income support payments for recipients on behalf of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

A person may be eligible for Newstart Allowance if they are unemployed, aged between 21 and the Age Pension age, are looking for paid work and are prepared to enter into an Employment Pathway Plan.

For more information and the most up to date eligibility requirements for the Newstart Allowance please see website below.

Find out more at: <http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/newstart.htm>.

Disability Support Pension**Income support**

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Disability Support Pension provides assistance for people who have a permanent physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment. The Disability Support Pension is designed to give people an adequate means of support if they are unable to work for at least 15 hours per week at or above the relevant minimum wage, independent of a program of support.

Participation, eligibility and access

The delivery of the Disability Support Pension is undertaken by Centrelink. People whose impairments are assessed at 20 points or more under the Impairment Table included in the Social Security Act 1991, and who have a continuing inability to work 15 hours or more per week for the next two years, or are unable to undertake training that would equip them for work within the next two years, are eligible for the pension. To claim the Disability Support Pension a person must be over 16 and under the aged pension age at date of claim lodgement.

Find out more at: [http:// www.fahcsia.gov.au/guides_acts/sslaw/ssa/ssa_title.html](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/guides_acts/sslaw/ssa/ssa_title.html)

Child Disability Assistance Payment

Income supplement

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Child Disability Assistance Payment is a \$1000 annual payment made to recipients of care whose carers receive the Carer Allowance. The payment can be used to assist families in purchasing aids, therapies or respite that they require for their child with disability. The payment also helps carers to purchase assistance that best suits the needs of the family.

Participation, eligibility and access

The payment is made by Centrelink to carers who receives a Carer Allowance (child), for each child with disability in their care. The payment is made annually in July and is not subject to income tax, nor does it count as income for social security or family assistance purposes. The delivery of the Child Disability Assistance Payment is undertaken by Centrelink.

Parenting Payment

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Parenting Payment provides income support for people who have sole or primary responsibility for the care of a young child or children.

Participation, eligibility and access

Centrelink delivers income support payments for recipients on behalf of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

A person may be eligible for Parenting Payment if they are the principal carer of a dependent child aged less than six (if the person is partnered) or less than eight (if the person is single), are an Australian resident and currently residing in Australia, have income and assets below a certain level, and satisfy part-time participation requirements once their youngest child turns six.

Transitional provisions are in place for people who were receiving payment immediately prior to 1 July 2006. These parents are able to receive Parenting Payment until their youngest child turns 16. These parents have participation requirements once their youngest child turns seven.

Exemptions from participation requirements may be available to principal carers in specific circumstances, such as where the person is the principal carer of four or more children, is a registered and active foster carer or is caring for a child with disability.

For more information and the most up to date eligibility requirements for the Parenting Payment please see website below.

Find out more at:

<http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/parenting.htm>

Sickness Allowance

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Sickness Allowance is a means tested income support payment available for people aged 21 or over but under Age Pension age, and who are temporarily incapacitated for work or full-time study and have a job or course of study to return to.

The allowance provides direct income support and assistance for people during a period of sickness in order to help them maintain a connection to the workforce and/or study.

Participation, eligibility and access

Centrelink delivers income support payments for recipients on behalf of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

A person may be eligible for Sickness Allowance if they are aged 21 or over but under Age Pension age, are temporarily incapacitated for work (or full-time study and on Austudy or ABSTUDY) and have a job or full-time study to which they can return, and, supply a medical certificate from a qualified medical practitioner.

Sickness Allowance is not payable to Youth Allowance recipients who become incapacitated for study.

For more information and the most up to date eligibility requirements for the Sickness Allowance please see website below.

Find out more at: <http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/sickness.htm>

Carer Allowance

Income supplement

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Carer Allowance is an income supplement available to people who provide daily care and attention in a private home to a person who has a disability or severe medical condition or who is frail aged.

Participation, eligibility and access

The delivery of the Carer Allowance is undertaken by Centrelink. Information about Carer Allowance can be found by visiting local Centrelink offices, going to the Centrelink website or by telephone.

Find out more at: <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/carers/payments/Pages/ChildDisabilityAssistancePayment.aspx>.

Carer Adjustment Payment Scheme

Scheme

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Carer Adjustment Payment provides one-off financial assistance of up to \$10,000 to families who are not eligible for income support, but who are experiencing a period of significant adjustment as a result of changed care needs following a catastrophic event involving a child aged 0 to 6. The Carer Adjustment Payment is scheduled to cease 31 December 2009.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs makes an assessment of a family's eligibility for this payment with the input of an independent expert panel. The payment is delivered by Centrelink. Information about Carer Adjustment Payment can be found by visiting local Centrelink offices, going to the Centrelink website or by telephone.

Find out more at:

<http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/cap.htm>

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/carers/payments/CarerAdjustmentPayment/Pages/default.aspx>

Carer Payment

Income support

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Carer Payment is an income support payment for people who, because of their caring responsibilities, are unable to support themselves through substantial paid employment. The Carer Payment is subject to income and assets tests and is paid at the same rate as other social security pensions. There is an adult stream and a child stream of within the Carer Payment.

Participation, eligibility and access

To receive the Carer Payment, a carer must be an Australian resident, personally provide constant care in the home of the care receiver, and meet an income and assets test.

To be eligible for the Carer Payment (adult) a person must be providing constant care to a care receiver aged over 16 years who has been assessed using the Adult Disability Assessment Tool.

To qualify for Carer Payment (child) for a child or children under 16, a carer must be caring for one child with severe disability or a severe medical condition, two or more children with disability or a medical condition, or a disabled adult and one or more children with disability or a medical condition.

The Carer Payment (child) is available for short-term or episodic care for periods of at least three months but less than six months.

The delivery of the Carer Payment is undertaken by Centrelink. Information about Carer Payment can be found by visiting local Centrelink offices, going to the Centrelink website or by telephone.

Find out more at:

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/fahcsinternet.nsf/disabilities/carers-benefits_payments.htm

Carer Supplement**Income supplement**

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and
Indigenous Affairs

The Carer Supplement is a \$600 annual payment made in July each year to eligible carers.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Carer Supplement is paid to people who are recipients of the Carer Allowance or Carer Payment, both the Wife Pension and Carer Allowance, both the Department of Veterans' Affairs Partner Service Pension and Carer Allowance, or the Department of Veterans' Affairs Carer Service pension.

Find out more at: <http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/disabilities/carersbenefits-payments.htm>

Crisis Payment**Income supplement**

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and
Indigenous Affairs

The Crisis Payment is one-off payment designed to help people who are in severe financial hardship. To qualify for a Crisis Payment an individual must be receiving a social security pension or benefit, and be experiencing severe financial hardship on the day a claim is made.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Crisis Payment is available to people in the following circumstances:

- extreme circumstance forcing departure from home
- remaining in home after removal of family member due to domestic or family violence
- release from gaol or psychiatric confinement
- arrival in Australia for the first time by Humanitarian Entrants on a qualifying humanitarian visa.

The Crisis Payment is different from an Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment. To be eligible for the payment, applicants cannot have already received an Australian Disaster Recovery Payment for the same event. The delivery of the payment is undertaken by Centrelink.

Find out more at: <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/about/benefits/Pages/Crisispayment.aspx>

Special Benefit

Income support

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Special Benefit provides assistance to eligible people in severe financial need due to circumstances outside their control.

Participation, eligibility and access

To qualify for a Special Benefit a person must:

- be in financial hardship
- be unable to earn a sufficient livelihood for themselves and their dependants by reason of age, physical or mental disability or domestic circumstances or for any other reason over which the person has no control
- not be receiving or entitled to a Social Security income support payment or a Service Pension
- not be able to receive any other ongoing support
- be a permanent Australian resident or the holder of an approved visa
- be residing in Australia during the period of payment except under certain circumstances.

Newly arrived residents generally have a two-year waiting period before they are eligible for a Special Benefit, although this may be waived in certain circumstances.

An individual can receive a Special Benefit when:

- they cannot get another payment from Centrelink because they are too young or too old, or because they have not lived in Australia long enough
- they are caring for a sick or disabled person and do not qualify for the Carer Payment,
- they have suffered a substantial change in circumstances beyond their control during the two year newly arrived residents waiting period.

The delivery of Special Benefit is undertaken by Centrelink.

Find out more at:

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/about/benefits/Pages/Specialbenefit.aspx>

Financial Literacy Education and Training

Program

Australian Securities and Investment Commission

The Australian Securities and Investment Commission will support financial literacy education and training through a range of approaches, programs and resources delivered nationally in schools and vocational education and training sectors. In 2009-10 individual programs will be developed across the school sector, along with some vocational education and training projects, to provide an evidence base for future work.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Securities and Investment Commission supports financial literacy through the three resource websites listed below. It has also created an online professional learning capacity which is available for teachers across Australia to access.

Find out more at: <http://www.financialliteracy.edu.au/> <http://www.understandingmoney.gov.au/> <http://www.mceetya.edu.au/mceetya/default.asp?id=14429>

Financial Literacy within a pilot Graduate program

Program

Australian Securities and Investment Commission

The Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations has funded the Oz Help Foundation to run a mentoring and graduate program, with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission contributing to the financial literacy component. Australian Government agencies participating in this program include the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, the Department of the Treasury, Centrelink, and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Participants from the private sector include the legal firm Minter Ellison.

Participation, eligibility and access

This program is delivered in partnership with the OzHelp Foundation and government agencies.

Australian Apprenticeships Roundtable

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Roundtable provides a forum for Australian apprentices to inform the Minister and government about issues affecting their training and careers. This is the only forum that gives a voice specifically to Australian apprentices as key users of the national training system.

The Roundtable comprises a broad range of Australian apprentices drawn from a range of trade and non-trade apprentices and trainees from large, medium and small enterprises, including Group Training Organisations.

A further Roundtable is proposed for 2010.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Government funds all activities associated with the Roundtable including travel and accommodation if necessary. A contractor facilitates meetings and associated professional development.

Find out more at: http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/Roundtable_2008/Round_Table_new.asp

Australian Apprenticeships Access Program

Program

Department of Education, Employment, and Workplace Relations

The Australian Apprenticeships Access Program assists eligible job seekers to obtain and retain an Australian Apprenticeship or employment, by providing basic skills required for a particular industry and general work skills such as communication, time management, organisation, teamwork and occupational health and safety.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Government has contracts in place with brokers to deliver the Australian Apprenticeships Access Program across Australia. The training component of the program is delivered by providers who are registered training organisations.

The program is provided at no cost to participants. Each year, 9,500 base program places are available nationally, with an additional 5,500 places made available during 2009–10 to support vulnerable job seekers aged 19 to 24 years who are most likely to be affected by the impact of the global recession on the labour market, and workers aged 25 years and over who are made redundant.

The 2009-10 Budget provides an additional \$33.7 million to support these additional Access Program places as well as program enhancements over three years.

Find out more at:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/AccessProgram>

Indigenous Pre Recruitment Course

Program

Department of Defence

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs are working in partnership with the Department of Defence to deliver a Pre Employment program for Indigenous young people to prepare them for the Australian Defence Force Recruiting process. Young Indigenous people will undergo training in numeracy and literacy, fitness, interview skills and an Indigenous Leadership course, as well as participating in familiarisation tours to bases and training establishments.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Indigenous Pre Recruitment Course is provided through the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations' Structured Training & Employment Project and the week-long Indigenous Leadership course is funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The Department of Defence also contributes to the program by providing Indigenous Australian Defence Force mentors and visits to bases and training establishments, while Defence Force Recruiting provides Careers Counselling activities.

Find out more at:

indigenous.affairs@defence.gov.au

Job Services Australia**Policy responsibility**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The new national employment services system Job Services Australia commenced on 1 July 2009. Job Services Australia represents an Australian Government investment of \$4.9 billion investment over three years. Under Job Services Australia, eligible job seekers will receive assistance tailored to their individual needs and level of disadvantage. Job Services Australia providers will provide training and skills development, work experience, and other assistance to help job seekers find employment. There is a greater focus on helping the most disadvantaged.

Participation, eligibility and access

Job Services Australia providers are organisations contracted by the Australian Government to provide employment services. These providers are located in more than 2300 towns, cities and rural sites around the country, and include 131 sites delivering specialist services to youth.

Find out more at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/JSA/Pages/default.aspx>.

Green Corps**Other—Work Experience Activity**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Green Corps is one of a range of Work Experience Activity types under Job Services Australia where job seekers can undertake activities that benefit Australia's natural environment and cultural heritage. While working on Green Corps activities, job seekers can help to conserve, preserve and restore the Australian environment, while also gaining new opportunities to enhance their skills.

Job Services Australia providers will ensure that Green Corps activities spend at least 80 per cent of the total activity time on environmental tasks, offer structured training to participating job seekers where appropriate and available, and provide relevant first aid or occupational health and safety training.

Participation, eligibility and access

With the introduction of Job Services Australia, Green Corps has been expanded and the opportunity to undertake a Green Corps Work Experience Activity placement is now available to job seekers of all ages, not just young people. Young people aged 15 to 17 can still volunteer to participate in Green Corps activities, while job seekers aged 18 to 49, who have completed approximately 12 months with a Job Services Australia provider, must participate in a Work Experience Activity over a 26 week period for every additional 12 months they receive services from Job Services Australia provider. In addition, job seekers registered with a Job Services Australia provider can volunteer to participate in Green Corps activities at any time, if both the job seeker and Job Services Australia provider agree it will be of benefit.

Some full-time students and young people aged between 15 and 20 who have significant issues preventing them from getting a job may be able to register directly with a Job Services Australia provider to get immediate help.

Find out more at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/JSA/Pages/default.aspx>.

Work for the Dole**Other—Work Experience Activity**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Work for the Dole is one of a range of Work Experience Activity types job seekers can undertake as part of Job Services Australia.

Participation in Work for the Dole activities provides job seekers with the opportunity to build skills and gain experience through activities which benefit local communities across Australia.

Work Experience Activities such as Work for the Dole provide flexible work experience opportunities for job seekers, and Work for the Dole activities are structured to enhance job seekers' employment prospects and vocational skills to encourage more active and effective participation in the workplace.

Participation, eligibility and access

Under Job Services Australia, all job seekers can participate in Work Experience Activities, including Work for the Dole.

Job seekers aged 18 to 49, who have completed approximately 12 months with a Job Services Australia provider, must participate in a Work Experience Activity over a 26 week period for every additional 12 months they receive services from a Job Services Australia provider.

Job seekers registered with a Job Services Australia provider can volunteer to participate in Work for the Dole activities at any time, if both the job seeker and Job Services Australia provider agree it will be of benefit.

Young people aged 15 and over who are not in full-time study or full-time work should be fully eligible to access services from Job Services Australia, and can register via Centrelink.

Young people aged between 15 and 20 who have significant issues preventing them from getting a job may be able to register directly with a Job Services Australia provider to get immediate help. Some full-time students can also access this immediate help.

While young people aged between 15 and 17 are not required to participate in Work for the Dole activities, they can volunteer to do so.

Find out more at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/JSA/Pages/default.aspx>.

New Enterprise Incentive Scheme**Activity**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Eligible job seekers who are interested in starting and running a small business can access assistance through the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme. The scheme provides accredited small business training, business advice and mentoring for eligible job seekers, as well as ongoing income support for up to 52 weeks.

Participation, eligibility and access

To apply to participate in the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme, people should contact their local Job Services Australia provider to discuss whether this is an appropriate activity for them and to get help to choose a scheme provider in their area.

Find out more at: www.deewr.gov.au/jobservicesaustralia.

Community Development Employment Projects program

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Community Development Employment Projects program aims to assist Indigenous job seekers to find sustainable employment and improve the economic and social well-being of their communities.

The program provides job seekers with a range of personalised training and support services designed to give them the skills needed to get a job, including vocational training, on-the-job work experience, English literacy and numeracy training, general work and life skills training, and mentoring support.

The Community Development Employment Project program providers work together with their communities to identify and deliver community development projects that support remote Indigenous communities to reach their economic and employment goals.

The program's information and referral services also help Indigenous people and their families to access other support services available in their region.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Community Development Employment Projects program is managed by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and delivered by contracted service providers nationally.

Find out more at: <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/families/Pages/cdep.aspx>

Job Capacity Account

Service

CRS Australia

CRS Australia provides Job Capacity Account services to job seekers who require short-term assistance and who have been referred for employment support from a Job Services Australia provider. CRS Australia has nearly 70 years of experience in vocational rehabilitation and uses evidence-based knowledge to provide six quality Job Capacity Account services to individuals and groups. These include the Managing Pain4Work and Fit2Work physical services, the Motivate4Work and Well4Work psychological services, and the Support4Work and Options4Work social services.

Participation, eligibility and access

Participants can access Job Capacity Account services by downloading a referral form from the website below, or by contacting CRS Australia on 1800 277 277.

Find out more at: <http://www.crsaustalia.gov.au/index.htm>

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Program

Department of Education, Employment, and Workplace Relations

Vocational Rehabilitation Services provides specialist employment assistance combined with vocational rehabilitation, to help people with a disability, injury or health condition find and retain sustainable employment in the open labour market. Job seekers must be aged between 14 and less than 65 years of age. Vocational Rehabilitation Services assist job seekers to understand, compensate for and manage their injury or disability by building work capacity and/or developing new work strategies to avoid re-injury. From 1 March 2010 new Disability Employment Services will replace VRS. The new services will ensure flexible, tailored assistance for job seekers with disability. There will be two demand-driven programs that will ensure that all eligible job seekers will be able to access the right service they need to find and retain a job, including ongoing support in the workplace if it is needed.

Participation, eligibility and access

Generally, a current and valid Job Capacity Assessment is required to access assistance from the Disability Employment Network, Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Stream 4 in Job Services Australia. Job seekers may be referred for a Job Capacity Assessment by an employment service provider through the direct registration process or by Centrelink.

Find out more at:

<http://www.workplace.gov.au/workplace/Programmes/VocationalRehabServices/>

Non-Vocational Rehabilitation Program

Program

CRS Australia

The Non-Vocational Rehabilitation Program is designed to improve an individual's capacity to live independently and maximise their social inclusion. The program provides services for people with disabilities who are not able to undertake employment in the immediate future. In 2008–09, 45 of the 78 projects carried out under the program were dedicated to young people.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Non-Vocational Rehabilitation Program is delivered directly by CRS Australia.

Find out more at:

http://www.crsaustalia.gov.au/list_of_our_services.htm

Job Capacity Assessment

Service

CRS Australia

The Job Capacity Assessment is an assessment of need for people with health conditions and disabilities. The assessment is aimed at determining participants work capacity, barriers to employment and intervention recommendations, and to refer them to an appropriate employment service provider. The assessment also assists Centrelink in assessing income support.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Job Capacity Assessment is delivered directly by staff of CRS Australia as a contracted service provider to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Find out more at:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/>

Working in Partnership program

Program

Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism

The Working in Partnership program aims to build long-term relationships between Indigenous communities and the mining industry by allowing industry, Indigenous and government stakeholders to meet in workshops to discuss issues of interest and ways to move forward.

The Working in Partnership Regional Workshops provide the main platform for the mining industry to engage with Indigenous stakeholders, including identifying opportunities for young people who may have an interest in becoming involved with the mining or related service industries. Funding is also provided to support discrete projects that further the aims of the Working in Partnership program, and these projects include support for training, information on employment pathways, and promoting cross-cultural understanding and respect.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism organises and hosts workshops in regional areas. Due to the specialised knowledge and skills required to conduct the regional workshops and regional committee meetings, the department outsources some of the research, planning and facilitation activities.

Find out more at: http://www.ret.gov.au/resources/resources_programs/working_in_partnership/Pages/WorkinginPartnership.aspx.

JobAccess

Service

Department of Education, Employment, and Workplace Relations

JobAccess is a website and telephone advisory service that provides information and advice on disability employment-related matters. JobAccess is designed to assist employers, job seekers and employees with disability, co-workers of people with disability and employment service providers.

Participation, eligibility and access

This service is delivered by a contracted non-government service provider.

Find out more at: www.jobaccess.gov.au/ or 1800 464 800

Fair Work Ombudsman Targeted Campaigns

Campaign

Fair Work Ombudsman

The Fair Work Ombudsman regularly conducts targeted education and compliance campaigns at a national, state and regional level, providing both educational assistance and compliance auditing of businesses. The targeted campaigns regularly focus specifically on young workers, or industries that typically employ young workers. For example, a Hospitality and Young Workers campaign recovered a combined total of in excess of \$1 million in entitlements on behalf of affected workers. Proactive compliance campaigns form a significant part of the Fair Work Ombudsman's education and compliance efforts each year.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Fair Work Ombudsman's campaign are aimed at employers and employees in targeted industries or regions that employ large numbers of young workers and casual staff. Information about these campaigns is also provided to youth contacts such as registered education providers and community centres.

Find out more at: www.fairwork.gov.au

Public Awareness Campaigns

Campaign

Fair Work Ombudsman

The Fair Work Ombudsman runs a series of public awareness campaigns each year. In March 2008 and 2009 the then-Workplace Ombudsman conducted the Don't Get Ripped Off campaign, through which some 65,000 fact sheets were distributed through registered education providers. In early 2009 the Workplace Ombudsman conducted the Facts for First Time Workers campaign aimed at 15 to 17-year-old secondary students, and in February 2009 the Workplace Ombudsman also ran information stalls at ten university orientation weeks with at least one such stall in each state and territory. The Summer Jobs campaign of 2008 targeted young workers in temporary jobs over the summer holiday period, and used online and traditional media to provide information about casual pay rates, minimum conditions of employment, workplace agreements and what to do when finishing a job. This information was delivered via an interactive PDF fact sheet on the Workplace Ombudsman's website, which resulted in a tenfold increase in the download rate of young worker information from the site. Feedback from the *Don't Get Ripped Off* campaign led to the *Working in Australia: what are my workplace rights?* campaign in September 2008 which specifically targeted international students. In 2010, the Ombudsman's major awareness campaign will centre upon Fair Work Week.

Participation, eligibility and access

These particular campaigns by the Fair Work Ombudsman were aimed at school-age and tertiary students, both domestic and international. Students across Australia were reached by the campaign through their educational institutions, online resources and the national news media.

Find out more at:

www.fairwork.gov.au

Disability Employment Assistance Program

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Australian Disability Enterprises are commercial businesses that provide employment for people with disability. There are over 600 Australian Disability Enterprises Australia-wide, providing real work for more than 20,000 people with disability in a supported environment. Employees of Australian Disability Enterprises enjoy the same working conditions as those in the general workforce.

Australian Disability Enterprises receive funding and support from the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to recognise their additional operating costs such as employing staff to support employees with disability.

Participation, eligibility and access

Services are delivered by not-for-profit and non-government organisations and Australian Disability Enterprises via funding agreements. Australian Disability Enterprises employ people with all types of disability and various support needs.

Find out more at:

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/people/Pages/EmploymentPeopleDisability.aspx>

National Disability Recruitment Coordinator

Service

Department of Education, Employment, and Workplace Relations

The National Disability Recruitment Coordinator service works to increase the employment of people with disability. The coordinator does this by promoting the benefits of hiring job seekers with disability. A key tool in this is the development of Memorandums of Understanding with large employers, which commit them to increasing their recruitment of people with disability. By working with large employers, the National Disability Recruitment Coordinator aims to create more employment opportunities for people with disability.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Government contracts Disability WORKS Australia to provide this service in every Australian state and territory. The National Disability Recruitment Coordinator provides a free, single, effective contact point for employers.

Find out more at: www.dwa.org.au

Disability Employment Network program

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Disability Employment Network program provides specialist assistance to job seekers with disability who require ongoing support to find and maintain employment. While the program does not specifically target youth, its members can assist school students with disability who have the capacity to work for a minimum of eight hours per week with intervention. The student must be of legal working age if they are working or intend to work part-time outside school hours. The program can also assist students who are in the last six months of school and considering their options post-school.

Participation, eligibility and access

Generally, a current and valid Job Capacity Assessment is required to access assistance from the Disability Employment Network. Job seekers may be referred for a Job Capacity Assessment by an employment service provider through the direct registration process or by Centrelink.

Find out more at: <http://www.workplace.gov.au/workplace/Programmes/DEN/DisabilityEmploymentNetwork.htm>

Auslan for Employment**Program**

Department of Education, Employment, and Workplace Relations

The Auslan for Employment program offers financial support to employers to assist with the cost of Auslan (Australian Sign Language) interpreting for deaf employees, deafness awareness training for co-workers, or having a co-worker undertaking a nationally accredited Auslan course. From 1 March 2010, the Auslan for Employment program will be replaced by the Employment Assistance Fund which will continue to provide financial assistance for Auslan interpreting for work-related activities and for job interviews.

Participation, eligibility and access

This program is delivered by the JobAccess service provider. Employers, employment service providers and individuals who are deaf may apply for assistance using the online application forms on the JobAccess website. Individuals who are deaf may receive financial assistance for Auslan interpreting for work-related activities, usually up to \$5,000 over a 12-month period. From 1 March 2010, this amount will increase to \$6,000 per annum. Eligibility for Auslan interpreting for work-related activities requires the deaf employee to be in employment for least 8 hours per week in a role that is expected to last for at least 13 weeks. Assistance is also available to job seekers who are deaf and require an Auslan interpreter at a job interviews.

Find out more at:www.jobaccess.gov.au**Workplace****Program****Modifications Scheme**

Department of Education, Employment, and Workplace Relations

The Workplace Modifications Scheme reimburses the costs involved in modifying the workplace, or purchasing special or adaptive equipment for eligible employees with disability. The scheme can also pay for necessary training in the use of the modification or equipment and can be used to purchase, lease or hire services, products or equipment. From 1 March 2010, the Workplace Modifications Scheme will be replaced by the Employment Assistance Fund, which will provide access to a greater range of work-related equipment and services for people with disability.

Participation, eligibility and access

All employers of people with disability are potentially eligible for reimbursement for the cost of workplace modifications. In order to qualify for assistance, an employer must employ a person with disability for at least eight hours a week in a job that is expected to last for at least three months. In addition, the employee will:

- have an ongoing disability that has lasted, or is likely to last, for two years or more
- have a disability that results in a limitation, restriction or impairment affecting their everyday activities that requires a work-related adjustment
- be an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- be employed under a legal industrial arrangement that complies with the minimum standards established by federal, state or territory law. From 1 March 2010, the Employment Assistance Fund will provide access to work-related equipment for job seekers with disability to help them find and prepare for a job.

Find out more at:http://www.jobaccess.gov.au/JOAC/Services/A-Z_list/Workplace_Modifications.htm

Wage Subsidy Scheme**Program**

Department of Education, Employment, and Workplace Relations

The Wage Subsidy Scheme provides a financial incentive to eligible employers when considering the employment of job seekers with disability or with other barriers to employment. Wage subsidies are payments made to employers to help cover the costs of paying wages in the first few months of employment of a person with disability or a person experiencing other barriers to employment. They also aim to increase the competitiveness of job seekers, including those with disability.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Wage Subsidy Scheme is available for job seekers registered with Disability Employment Network members or Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Find out more at: <http://www.jobaccess.gov.au/joac/home>.

Supported Wage System Scheme**Initiative/Scheme**

Department of Education, Employment, and Workplace Relations

The Supported Wage System scheme was introduced to improve employment opportunities for people with disability by providing an industrial system that enables the legal payment of a productivity based, or pro rata wage. The Australian Government contracts a panel of independent supported wage assessors to conduct productivity assessments for employers who wish to employ people with disability under the Supported Wage System provisions. There is no cost to employers for the assessment.

Participation, eligibility and access

Through the Supported Wage System, the Australian Government funds approved assessors to determine a worker's productivity, with the resulting wage being paid by the employer. This means that there is no cost to the employer for the assessment.

If a person with disability is starting work in a new job, their employer may also be eligible to receive a one-off payment to help offset the cost of employing that person.

Find out more at: http://www.jobaccess.gov.au/JOAC/ServiceProviders/Assisting_employers/Financial_help_and_wages/Supported_Wage_System/

Career Advice Australia—National Industry Career Specialists**Program**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The National Industry Career Specialists are part of the Career Advice Australia initiative. These specialists provide a national perspective on industry career information and skills needs. They form partnerships with key national bodies, such as Industry Skills Councils, industry groups, Group Training Australia and state and territory training authorities, and encourage these bodies to get involved in supporting young people in their transition through school and on to further study, training or work.

The National Industry Career Specialists support the Regional Industry Career Advisers by raising awareness of Career Advice Australia's programs, and how these activities can help employers meet their future workforce needs.

The National Industry Career Specialists program will cease on 31 December 2009. From 1 January 2010, new youth career and transitions programs will be in place under the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions. Please refer to the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions entry for more information.

Participation, eligibility and access

National Industry Career Specialists represent 10 industry sectors:

- Agri-Food
- Community Services and Health
- Construction and Property Services
- Electro Communications and Energy Utilities
- Government and Community Safety
- Innovation and Business
- Manufacturing
- Resources and Infrastructure Services
- Transport and Logistics.

Find out more at: www.careeradviceaustralia.gov.au

Advice

Advice

Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency

The Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency is a statutory authority within the portfolio of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Organisations reporting to the agency receive feedback and suggestions to assist them in improving their programs for women. This includes removing barriers in seven employment matters, six of which refer to both genders. Large employers of young people are among those that receive feedback from the agency and this includes retail companies, group training organisations, organisations with graduate programs and those with entry level roles in manufacturing and with call centre operations. The agency offers advice to these organisations on issues such as creating attractive conditions for casual staff, the importance of sex-based harassment training, attracting young people through attendance at career nights, offering cadetships and work experience placements, and reviewing entry tests.

Participation, eligibility and access

This service is delivered by the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency.

Find out more at: http://www.eowa.gov.au/About_EOWA.asp

Learning and skills development

There is growing awareness that adolescence and early adulthood are important times for brain development. There is growing awareness that adolescence and early adulthood are important times for brain development.

Access to, and participation in, quality education and training at this time is vital for optimum brain development in young people.

A quality education and training system also has important benefits for broader society. Australia's future depends on such a system to provide all students with the foundation skills, values, knowledge and understanding necessary for lifelong learning, employment and active participation in society.

The Australian Government recognises that times of economic downturn, like the current global financial crisis, can have a substantial impact on early school leavers and young people without year 12 or equivalent qualifications.

These people are at a high risk of being unemployed and remaining out of the workforce for long periods of time.

That is why the Australian Government is committed to making further investments in a wide range of programs to ensure that our education system continues to improve, engage students and compete in the global market.

Youth-specific activities

Activities included in this section are those Australian Government activities directed specifically at young people aged between 12 and 25 years. Where activities are targeted at young people slightly outside this age bracket (e.g. 15 to 28) they are also considered youth specific.

National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions

Initiative

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

At its meeting of 2 July 2009, the Council of Australian Governments agreed to a National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions. The National Partnership will drive longer-term reform to ensure that young people stay engaged in education and training.

The National Partnership comprises a Compact with Young Australians which includes a National Youth Participation Requirement, an entitlement to education or training places for 15 to 24-year-olds, and changes to Youth Allowance and Family Tax Benefit making education and training a precondition for these payments.

It also includes \$100 million in reward funding for progress towards an accelerated attainment target of 90% Year 12 or equivalent attainment for 20 to 24-year-olds by 2015 in recognition of just how critical educational achievement is to young Australians' futures.

The Australian Government will also provide continued funding of \$623 million over four years for improved youth career and transition arrangements. Under the National Partnership current programs will be consolidated and streamlined into four new elements to remove duplication and overlap and make services easier to access for young people. The four new elements to commence from 1 January 2010 are:

- **Maximising Engagement, Attainment and Successful Transitions**—\$106 million in funding to the states and territories to support the implementation of reforms in the areas of multiple learning pathways and mentoring;
- **National Career Development**—\$47 million in funding administered by the Commonwealth for the development of resources that can be undertaken at a national level for the benefit of all jurisdictions (e.g. The Job Guide);
- **School Business Community Partnership Brokers**—\$183 million in funding to improve community and business engagement with schools to extend learning beyond the classroom, increase student engagement, deepen learning experiences, lift attainment and improve educational outcomes.
- **Youth Connections**—\$287 million in funding to provide an improved safety net for youth at risk through the provision of tailored case management and support to help young people re-connect with education or training and build resilience, skills and attributes that promote positive choices and wellbeing.

The new career and transition program arrangements will build on the success of current programs and be informed by a range of evidence, including program evaluations, recent research reports and stakeholder feedback.

The new programs will initially be put in place by the Commonwealth until the states and territories achieve agreed reform outcomes under the National Partnership, at which point the funding and responsibility will be transferred to the states and territories.

Participation, eligibility and access

Participation, eligibility and access to the new programs under the National Partnership will be available at when the programs are operational.

Find out more at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/YouthAttainmentandTransitions/Pages/Home.aspx>

Compact with Young Australians

Initiative

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

In 2009, the Council of Australian Governments agreed to a Compact with Young Australians to communicate the importance of education and training for young people, particularly those who leave school early.

The Compact with Young Australians comprises a National Participation Requirement which requires young people aged up to 17 to be earning or learning. There is also an entitlement to education or training places for 15 to 24 year olds. The Compact will involve changes to Youth Allowance (Other) from 1 July 2009 and Family Tax Benefit Part A from 1 January 2010, making education and training a precondition for these payments.

The other significant target under the Compact is to bring forward the attainment target so that by 2015, 90 per cent of 20 to 24 year olds will have attained Year 12 or equivalent or a Certificate II or above.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Compact with Young Australians will be the foundation of a new National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions. This Partnership will ensure equitable access to education and training and drive longer-term reform to encourage young people to stay engaged in education and training and attain a year 12 or equivalent qualification.

Find out more at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/YouthAttainmentandTransitions/Pages/Home.aspx>

Digital Education Revolution

Initiative/Scheme

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Digital Education Revolution is aimed at creating sustainable and meaningful change to teaching and learning in Australian schools that will prepare students for further education, training and to live and work in a digital world.

Through the Digital Education Revolution, the Australian Government is providing \$2.2 billion over six years to:

- provide new information and communication technology (ICT equipment) for all secondary schools with students in years 9 to 12 through the National Secondary Schools Computer Fund
- support the establishment of high speed broadband connections in Australian schools
- collaborate with states and territories and Deans of Education to ensure new and continuing teachers have access to training in the use of information and communication technology that enables them to enrich student learning
- provide online curriculum tools and resources that support the national curriculum and specialist subjects such as languages
- enable parents to participate in their child's education through online learning and access
- support mechanisms to provide vital assistance for schools in the deployment of information and communications technology.

Participation, eligibility and access

The first three rounds of the National Secondary Schools Computer Fund were application-based and were finalised on 31 March 2009. The first round catered to schools that had a computer-to-student ratio of 1 computer to 8 students or worse. The following two rounds were designed to give all secondary schools in Australia the opportunity to apply for funding to reach a computer-to-student ratio of 1 computer to 2 students. The remainder of funding is aimed at reaching a 1 computer to 1 student ratio. These funding arrangements will be covered by a National Partnership, bilateral agreements and funding agreements.

Find out more at:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/DigitalEducationRevolution/Pages/default.aspx>.

Refugee Action Support Program

Research

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Refugee Action Support Program aims to increase awareness within selected schools and families of ways to achieve success in selected schools. It also aims to support the development of English literacy among children, parents and community members. The program has a particular focus on supporting adolescent refugees with English language, literacy and learning skills to ease the transition between the Intensive English Centre and mainstream high school.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Government has provided the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation with funding to establish the Refugee Action Support Program. Further information on the program is available at the website listed below.

Find out more at:

<http://www.alnf.org/programs/learning-to-read-and-write/refugee-action.php>

Sporting Chance Program**Project**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Sporting Chance Program uses sport as a vehicle to increase the level of engagement of Indigenous students in their schooling to improve their education, training and employment outcomes.

The program has two elements, incorporating school-based sports academies for secondary students and education engagement strategies for primary and secondary school students.

Participation, eligibility and access

The program is delivered in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Northern Territory and South Australian schools by a number of providers in partnership with state and territory governments, corporate Australia and sporting and other organisations. In 2009 a total of 17 providers will deliver 43 projects under the Sporting Chance Program. These projects encompass 38 school-based sports academies for some 3000 students, and five education engagement projects for some 5000 students.

Find out more at:<http://www.deewr.gov.au/SportingChance/>**Indigenous Youth Leadership Program****Program**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Indigenous Youth Leadership Program provides Indigenous young people, generally from remote and regional areas, with the opportunity to attend high performing secondary schools (government and non-government, day and boarding) and universities. Through educational achievement the program supports future employment outcomes and is contributing to the pool of future Indigenous leaders.

Participation, eligibility and access

A single Indigenous Youth Leadership Program Administrator was contracted through an open tender process in 2005 to deliver services from 2006 to 2009. In 2008, the administrator was joined by two other organisations to deliver an expanded program over 2008 and 2009. Through a Request for Applications for Funding, new Indigenous Youth Leadership Program Partnership Brokers will be contracted to deliver the main expansion of the program from 2010 to 2012.

Find out more at:<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Indigenous/Schooling/Programs/Pages/IYLP1.aspx>**Youth Pathways****Program**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Youth Pathways program delivers individual support for young people most at risk of not completing year 12 (or its equivalent) or transitioning from year 12 onto further education, training or work. The program is targeted at young people aged 13 to 19.

The Youth Pathways program will cease on 31 December 2009. From 1 January 2010, new youth career and transitions programs will be in place under the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions. Please refer to the entry on the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions for more information.

Participation, eligibility and access

Young people participating in Youth Pathways receive three phases of personalised and tailored assistance including the:

- assessment phase which establishes whether the young person is eligible for the program and helps them identify obstacles, needs and strengths, and then develops an individual transition plan that plan outlines strategies for overcoming obstacles
- assistance phase which delivers individualised case management and intensive support. A minimum of six hours of this assistance is delivered face to face
- ongoing support and guidance phase which provides regular contact with the participant to make sure they stay on track and continue to receive the support and guidance they need.

Find out more at: <http://www.careeradviceaustralia.gov.au/youthpathways/youth/default.htm>

Connections

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Connections program assists young people aged 13 to 19 who have become disconnected from mainstream schooling. The program aims to re-engage young people in education, training or employment, and is currently available to 3000 young people in 60 locations across Australia. Participants in the program receive individually-tailored, flexible accredited and non-accredited training, social and life skills training, career support and advice, and referral to appropriate specialist support services.

The Connections program will cease on 31 December 2009. From 1 January 2010, new youth career and transitions programs will be in place under the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions. Please refer to the entry on the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions for more information.

Participation, eligibility and access

Connections is delivered by contracted non-government service providers. Details of providers can be found at the website listed below.

Find out more at: <http://www.careeradviceaustralia.gov.au/connections/default.htm>.

Regional Education Liaison Officers

Service

Department of Defence

The Defence Community Organisation provides a broad range of individual and program-related services to the Australian Defence Force (ADF) community. These services aim to support ADF families to balance the demands of military service with personal and family commitments. Regional Education Liaison Officers are part of the service offered by the Defence Community Organisation. Officers are professionally trained teachers with an understanding of both the different state and territory education systems and the Defence lifestyle. They can advise Defence families and children on education issues, particularly related to relocating.

Participation, eligibility and access

Regional Education Liaison Officers provide a key link for families to access the type of support that meets the needs of their particular child. They are also linked to schools and education systems, working to raise the issues that affect Defence families and ensure that equity of educational opportunity is available to all mobile Defence children. Regional Education Liaison Officer services are provided directly to young people as well as their parents upon request.

Find out more at:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/dco>

Career Advice Australia— Local Community Partnerships— Structured Workplace Learning

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) is part of the Government's Career Advice Australia initiative. The SWL program puts young people in school either into real work in a real workplace or in a simulated workplace.

The benefits of SWL program include:

- businesses teaching young people about the required skills in the business sector
- students gaining an understanding of what it is like to be in the workforce
- students increasing their technical and employability skills
- students possibly gaining an actual qualification (depending on the placement) that is recognised by industry and education systems throughout Australia.

Local Community Partnerships will cease on 31 December 2009. From 1 January 2010, new youth career and transitions programs will be in place under the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions. Please refer to the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions entry for more information.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Structured Workplace Learning program is facilitated by Local Community Partnerships. Local Community Partnerships are not-for-profit, incorporated, community based and locally operated organisations which form partnerships with key groups in the community to help young people get access to quality career information, advice and training as they move through school and onto further study, training or work. Community groups which form partnerships under the scheme include schools, youth service providers, local industries, businesses, employer groups, career advisers, parents and other government agencies.

Find out more at: <http://www.careeradviceaustralia.gov.au/industry/default.htm>

Mentors for our Students

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The 2009 Mentors for our Students pilot program aims to engage young people in years 9–12 with recently retired tradespeople and professionals as mentors.

Mentors will work with young people to:

- encourage them to pursue careers associated with science, maths and engineering in areas of skill shortage
- enhance their industry knowledge and knowledge of the world of work
- support and inspire young people to make informed decisions and remain in school or training.

The one year pilot is being delivered through 25 Local Community Partnerships.

Local Community Partnerships will cease on 31 December 2009. From 1 January 2010, new youth career and transitions programs will be in place under the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions. Refer to the entry on National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions for more information.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Mentors for our Students program is facilitated by Local Community Partnerships which are not-for-profit, incorporated, community based and locally operated organisations.

Find out more at: <http://www.careeradviceaustralia.gov.au/>

Defence 2020

Program

Department of Defence

Defence 2020 is an educational program to help students investigate the relevance of defence issues to their own lives. It has been designed to increase students' awareness of the many and varied roles and responsibilities of the Australian Defence Force, as a significant national institution. Defence 2020 has been designed as a multi-media resource package and includes youth challenges, curriculum resources, magazine articles and a website.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Defence 2020 education and public awareness program is conducted by the team at Ryebuck Media Pty Ltd. The Youth Challenge program is staged in all states and territories throughout Australia. Information on the program can be found at the website below.

Find out more at: <http://www.defence2020.info/>

Young Achievement Australia

Program

Defence Materiel Organisation

Young Achievement Australia is a not-for-profit charitable institution which seeks to prepare young people to meet emerging social and economic challenges. It provides challenging and inspiring educational programs that promote lifelong learning and aim to foster leadership, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit in participants. The Defence Materiel Organisation is a sponsor of the Young Achievement Australia Business Skills Program and also provides mentoring to participants.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Business Skills Program™ is open to all young people over the age of 15. Programs are either run as an extra-curricular activity or at school/on campus. Participants are guided by comprehensive program manuals and experienced business and industry mentors.

Find out more at: www.yaa.org.au

National History Challenge

Project

National Museum of Australia and National Archives of Australia

The National Museum of Australia and the National Archives of Australia both sponsor categories in the National History Challenge which has different themes each year. Part of the challenge is an exhibition which encourages school children to research relevant topics and present their findings in the format of an exhibition or display.

Participation, eligibility and access

The National History Challenge is a research-based competition open to students in Years 5 to 12.

Find out more at: www.nma.gov.au

Mapping History

Program

National Library of Australia

The Mapping History program is aimed at students aged 13 to 18, and helps them to explore the role of the map in our society—as a source of information, beauty and sometimes deception. Through the program, students discover maps not only as geographic documents, but as historic objects offering evidence of social and political ideology.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Mapping History program is delivered by staff at the National Library of Australia.

Find out more at: <http://www.nla.gov.au/education/tours.html>

Online and Underground**Program**

National Library of Australia

Online and Underground is a program for school groups aged 13 to 18 involving both an online presentation and onsite tour. The program introduces students to services including union catalogues of image, music and text. Participants learn about digitised collections and significant material held at the National Library of Australia, including items held as part of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Memory of the World Program.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Online and Underground program is delivered by staff at the National Library of Australia.

Find out more at: <http://www.nla.gov.au/education/tours.html>

Thirst for Knowledge**Program**

National Library of Australia

The Thirst for Knowledge program is aimed at students aged 16 to 24, and offers them the chance to become library readers and learn how to improve research and information literacy skills with assistance from a Reference Librarian or education staff. This includes an ability to search and request material by accessing catalogues and eResources available either at the library or through its website.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Thirst for Knowledge program is delivered by staff at the National Library of Australia.

Find out more at: <http://www.nla.gov.au/education/tours.html>

Civics and Citizenship Education**Program**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Civics and Citizenship Education program promotes students' participation in Australia's democracy by equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and values which lead to an active and informed citizenship. The Civics and Citizenship Education program provides support for civics and citizenship education in schools, for example through national activities such as the National Schools Constitutional Convention, the Simpson Prize, and the National History Challenge competition.

Participation, eligibility and access

The National Schools Constitutional Convention is aimed at students in Years 11 and 12, the Simpson Prize targets students in Years 9 and 10, and the National History Challenge targets students from Year 5 onwards. The national civics and citizenship education website also supports civics and citizenship education in all schools.

Find out more at: www.civicsandcitizenship.edu.au

National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program aims to significantly increase the number of Australian students who undertake studies of the languages and cultures of Australia's Asian neighbours, namely China, Indonesia, Japan and Korea. This initiative recognises the importance of Asian languages and studies of Asia in ensuring that young Australians are equipped with the skills to allow them to compete in the globalised economy of the future.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Government has worked with key stakeholders, including state and territory government and non-government education authorities, embassies and the Asia Education Foundation, to develop the National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program and its implementation arrangements.

The program's funding is targeted in four ways:

- funding for state and territory government and non-government education authorities
- the Strategic Collaboration and Partnership Fund available to organisations, including universities, higher education providers, businesses and Asian communities
- a direct outreach program offered to schools known as Becoming Asia Literate: Grants to Schools, which is run by the Asia Education Foundation
- Australian Government National Projects.

Find out more at:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/NALSSP/Pages/default.aspx>

Secondary students study sessions

Program

National Gallery of Australia

Extended study sessions are conducted by educators from the National Gallery of Australia to create links between a gallery visit and classroom studies. Study sessions may include discussion tours, practical workshops, audiovisual presentations and films. In addition to those scheduled, other study days can be tailored to suit specific needs. Costs are nominal and bookings are essential.

Participation, eligibility and access

Secondary students study sessions are delivered by National Gallery of Australia staff.

Find out more at:

<http://nga.gov.au/Education/programs.cfm>

Registered Unit—Artbites**Program**

National Gallery of Australia

Artbites provides senior students with the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive study of works of art in the national collection and gain a greater understanding of the National Gallery of Australia's functions and services. It is offered in the format of Registered Units which can be reported on a student's Year 12 Certificate and Secondary College Record.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Registered Unit is conducted by National Gallery of Australia educators working with small groups of students for eight weeks. It requires participating students to be self-motivated, and attend weekly sessions.

Find out more at:<http://nga.gov.au/Education/youth.cfm>**Science awareness
policy development****Policy responsibility**

Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

The Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (Questacon) liaises with CSIRO and other portfolio science agencies in developing policy which will promote science and science-based careers to young people in the 14 to 19 age group. Policy is also informed through consultation with other portfolios and agencies.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department has responsibility for informing the development of policy relating to science awareness.

Find out more at:<https://grants.innovation.gov.au/SCOPE/Pages/Home.aspx>**Science Connections
Program****Program**

Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

The Science Connections Program supports a range of initiatives to encourage young people's interest and engagement in science, engineering, and technology. Young people are encouraged to consider continuing studies in science, mathematics and engineering beyond the compulsory years of schooling and to enter into science-based careers.

Participation, eligibility and access

Science Connections Program projects are delivered through a grants round associated with National Science Week and through funding to non-government and government providers of science awareness-raising initiatives. The television component of the program is delivered by Network Ten.

Find out more at:<https://grants.innovation.gov.au/SCOPE/Pages/Home.aspx>**Connected Classrooms****Program**

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation works with the New South Wales Department of Education and Training to deliver the Connected Classrooms program. The program provides a series of video conferencing presentations linked to a science-related theme, where scientists from the organisation deliver a presentation about their work and respond to students' questions.

Participation, eligibility and access

The New South Wales Department of Education and Training has responsibility for the administration of the Connected Classrooms program, while the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation is a participating organisation.

Find out more at: <http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/secondary/science/index.htm>

National Youth Science Forum

Event

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

The National Youth Science Forum is a twelve-day program run by the Australian National University for students moving into Year 12 who are thinking about a career in science, engineering or technology. The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation provides financial sponsorship and support, and also sends at least one representative to the forum to interact with the students on Sponsors' Days.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian National University works in partnership with a range of education, industry and government organisations to deliver the National Youth Science Forum.

Find out more at: <http://www.nysf.edu.au/>

BHP Billiton Science Awards

Program

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

The BHP Billiton Science Awards have been Australia's premier national science research competition for the last 27 years. The competition rewards students for creating innovative research projects and teachers for their contribution to science education. The competition draws on entries from around Australia.

Participation, eligibility and access

The BHP Billiton Science Awards are a partnership between BHP Billiton, CSIRO and the Australian Science Teachers' Association. The awards are also supported by the Grains Research & Development Corporation.

Find out more at: www.scienceawards.org.au/ <http://www.csiro.au/org/BHPBillitonScienceAwards.html>

CSIRO's Double Helix Science Club

Program

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

The Double Helix Science Club is a national science club for young people, offering a choice of two magazines, events at locations around Australia, a website and the opportunity to be involved in national projects supporting scientific research.

Participation, eligibility and access

Double Helix Science Club activities are delivered by the CSIRO.

Find out more at: <http://csiro.au/products/DoubleHelixClub.html>

CensusAtSchool**Project**

Australian Bureau of Statistics

CensusAtSchool provides a fun and stimulating learning environment for Australian students to interpret and critically evaluate data and information. The project aims to improve statistical literacy by helping students understand the world around them and assist them in making sensible, informed decisions. CensusAtSchool is delivered through an online data collection and analysis project, and is an innovative student-centred learning experience that provides students with access to real, raw data about themselves.

Participation, eligibility and access

CensusAtSchool is a free internet based data collection and analysis project, produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Find out more at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/censusatschool>

**Education Services
web pages****Service**

Australian Bureau of Statistics

The Australian Bureau of Statistics' Education Services web pages include statistical games and puzzles, real data, resources about collecting data, statistical analysis and Census information for students. The web pages also include resources for teachers, in the form of prepared classroom activities and professional development videos to improve the teaching of statistics across all subjects.

Participation, eligibility and access

These web pages are managed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Find out more at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/students>

**CSIRO Discovery
School Programs****Program**

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

The CSIRO Discovery Centre, located in Canberra, offers an interactive journey through the CSIRO as well as information on Australian science history. The CSIRO Discovery School Programs are designed specifically for schools visiting Canberra. The 90 minute programs focus on current CSIRO research and showcase modern science laboratories, interactive exhibits, hands-on science activities and education programs that encourage students to question, value ideas and seek explanations.

Participation, eligibility and access

The CSIRO Discovery School Programs offer two streams to choose from, entitled Discovering Science in Society and Hands On/Minds On. Further information on booking these school programs is available at the website provided below.

Find out more at: <http://www.csiro.au/places/Discovery.html>

CSIRO Science Education Centres

Program

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

CSIRO's Science Education Centres are the base for organisation's education outreach programs around Australia. Each centre provides interactive science education programs and science shows to schools throughout its region. CSIRO Science Education Centres are also the site of teacher professional development courses and many other science activities.

Participation, eligibility and access

The CSIRO Science Education Centres are located in each capital city and Townsville. The centre are supported by various partners including state and territory departments of education. Programs administered by the centres can be delivered in-house or through school visits. CSIRO Science Education Centre staff also regularly tour regional areas with over 360 000 students, teachers and other visitors accessing CSIRO's programs each year.

Find out more at: <http://csiro.au/resources/ExploreAndEducate.html> <http://csiro.au/csiro/channel/pchat.html>

Educational tours

Service

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation offers free guided tours of its facility for schools and universities. These are designed to meet syllabus outcomes and enhance students' understanding of nuclear science. The organisation's education officers tailor each tour to meet teacher and student needs, and a range of free teacher and student resources are also available.

Participation, eligibility and access

This service is delivered directly by Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation staff. Tour bookings must be made in advance.

Find out more at: http://www.ansto.gov.au/discovering_ansto/visiting_ansto/ansto_tours

Vrroom—Virtual Reading Room website

Project

National Archives of Australia

Vrroom is a selected collection of records from the National Archives of Australia that offer students a window into key events and significant themes of 20th century Australian history, while at the same time introducing them to primary source research. The records in Vrroom fall into nine broad topics, encompassing arts and recreation, health and welfare, international relations, labour and economics, our democracy, people and society, place and space, science and technology, and war and peace.

Participation, eligibility and access

Vrroom is delivered via the National Archives of Australia website. It is also delivered to registered educators via The Learning Federation website.

Find out more at: <http://vrroom.naa.gov.au/>

Facilitated School Tours**Program****National Archives of Australia**

Facilitated School Tours provide educator-led programs for schools that visit the National Archives in Canberra to connect the National Archives' collection with key moments in Australian history. Students are encouraged to reflect on Australian society and attitudes since Federation in 1901. Focus topics of the programs include Federation, democracy, individual rights and responsibilities, gender, conscription, Australian identity, immigration and Indigenous issues. Programs use inquiry and experiential learning strategies and include hands-on objects, role-play scenarios and document interrogation. The programs encourage participants to investigate, discover and research.

Find out more at: <http://www.naa.gov.au/learning/schools/visit/index.aspx>

School-based educational programs**Initiative****Parks Australia**

Parks Australia staff undertake educational activities with school groups across a number of Australian Government National Parks. The program aims to strengthen the relationship between schools and national parks.

The Australian Government's national parks are Booderee National Park, Kakadu National Park, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Christmas Island National Park, Pulu Keeling National Park, Norfolk Island National Park and the Australian National Botanic Gardens. See www.environment.gov.au/parks for more information.

Participation, eligibility and access

Students participating in these programs work with the school and Parks Australia staff.

Find out more at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/about/structure/pa/index.html>

BRIDGE**Program****Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

As a part of the work of the Australia-Indonesia Institute funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Australia-Indonesia Building Relationships through Intercultural Dialogue and Growing Engagement (BRIDGE) program aims to increase knowledge and understanding between Australia and Indonesia through school-to-school partnerships that link students in both countries.

Major activities in the BRIDGE program include:

- a visiting Indonesian teachers program
- development and provision of online resources and training to support sustainable school partnerships
- grants to support the implementation of school partnerships between Australian and Indonesian school communities.

Participation, eligibility and access

The BRIDGE project will occur over three years (from 2008–2010) and involve a total of 184 Australian and Indonesian teachers from 82 Australian and Indonesian schools. The Australia-Indonesia Institute has received funds from The Myer Foundation, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and AusAID to support this program.

Find out more at: http://www.dfat.gov.au/aii/bridge_program.html.

Careers at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

Resource

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

Staff from the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation deliver presentations to secondary students to promote the range of careers available within the organisation.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation's educational resources are free, and may be copied from the organisation's website as long as the organisation is acknowledged as the source. The organisation offers its Careers at ANSTO talks to secondary schools across Sydney and the Illawarra region.

Find out more at: http://www.ansto.gov.au/education_resources/years_7-10
<http://www.careersinscience.gov.au/>

Defence Work Experience Program

Program

Department of Defence

The national Defence Work Experience Program offers work experience placements to secondary and tertiary students at Defence sites around Australia. The key objective of the program is to foster community awareness and interest in the wide variety of career opportunities available within the Australian Defence Force and the Department of Defence. The program also contributes to developing skills in young people and easing the transition of students into the workplace.

Participation, eligibility and access

The program is delivered by the Department of Defence at capital city and regional Defence sites across Australia.

Find out more at: <http://www.defence.gov.au/workexperience/>

Work experience

Program

Geoscience Australia

Geoscience Australia provides work experience placements to secondary school, university and college students. Applicants can organise these placements through their school work experience coordinator, parents or by self nomination.

Participation, eligibility and access

The work experience program delivered by Geoscience Australia provides work experience placements to high school and college students where their school or college provides them with indemnity cover.

Geoscience Australia can also provide work experience opportunities to university students where work experience with an external organisation is a mandatory part of a student's course requirement and the university will provide them with indemnity cover in case of a work-related accident.

In cases where university students are seeking work experience without the assistance of their university, Geoscience Australia may offer them a work experience placement, however students will be responsible for organising and paying for their own indemnity cover before commencing work.

Find out more at: <http://www.ga.gov.au/jobs/temporary/workex.jsp>.
<http://www.ga.gov.au/jobs/>.

Work experience program**Program**

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation offers a variety of work experience placements to secondary school students interested in science chemistry, physics, laboratory or field work), engineering, information technology or human resources.

Participation, eligibility and access

The work experience program is delivered directly by Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation. Students interested in work experience at the organisation may complete an online application form, available from the website below.

Find out more at: http://matrix-dev.ansto.gov.au/discovering_ansto/careers_at_ansto/work_experience

Summer Art Scholarship**Program**

National Gallery of Australia

The National Gallery of Australia's Summer Art Scholarship is held in January of every year and offers an exciting, challenging and unforgettable experience for students entering year twelve. The scholarship offers students the opportunity to join the National Gallery of Australia team for a week to discover the collection, find out why works of art are acquired, how exhibitions take place, and what happens in a gallery behind the scenes.

Participation, eligibility and access

Applicants for the Summer Arts Scholarship undertake a highly competitive selection process which selects just two students from each state and territory to receive the scholarship. The scholarship involves working at the National Gallery of Australia for a week and is delivered by gallery staff. More information on the application process can be found on the website below.

Find out more at: <http://nga.gov.au/SummerArtScholarship/Index.cfm>

School Pathways Program—South Australia, Western Australia and the Hunter Region**Program**

Defence Materiel Organisation

The School Pathways Program will be implemented in South Australia, Western Australia and the Hunter Region of New South Wales and will focus on advanced technology, marine and manufacturing skills. The program will increase the pool of young people ready to move from school into further education, apprenticeships, and part-time work and study combinations in the defence industry. The program aims to ensure that when students leave school they have appropriate levels of knowledge in mathematics and science to pursue careers in the areas mentioned.

The program also aims to increase employer awareness of the options for recruiting young people and the value to business of doing so.

Participation, eligibility and access

The School Pathways Program will be delivered through education departments in South Australia and Western Australia via a National Partnership Agreement and through the Hunter Economic Development Corporation. The program will vary between the states to accommodate differences in the educational systems but will be based on a cluster arrangement involving lead and partner schools. The Hunter Region program will initially involve four pilot schools in 2010.

Find out more at: http://www.defence.gov.au/dmo/id/industry_skilling/

Indigenous Australian Engineering Summer School

Program

Defence Materiel Organisation

The Defence Materiel Organisation is a sponsor of the Indigenous Australian Engineering Summer School program. The Indigenous Australian Engineering Summer School is an annual five day live-in Summer School, featuring a combination of activities that will give 20 Indigenous students, male and female, entering into Years 10, 11 and 12, a taste of engineering as a university course and career. The Summer School was established 12 years ago and it aims to encourage young Indigenous people to consider a career in an engineering profession. The program offers hands-on and challenging academic activities, presentations and visits to Defence Materiel Organisation and Royal Australian Air Force facilities and other engineering projects.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment at the University of Newcastle is the administrator of the 2009 program. The program also receives assistance from the University's Wollotuka's School of Aboriginal Studies. Students selected to participate in the program stay at one of the University of Newcastle's on-campus accommodation facilities. Participants are supervised at all times by staff from the faculties, as well as by Indigenous peer-mentors. Students are selected to participate in the summer school on the basis of their interest in engineering related subjects (such as mathematics and science) and their personal initiative and outlook.

Find out more at: www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/engineering/events/indigenous-summer-school/2009-program.html

School-based apprenticeship

Initiative

Parks Australia

The school-based apprenticeship program for local indigenous youth offers apprentices the opportunity to study towards a conservation and land management certificate at TAFE and work one day a week in a participating National Park.

The Australian Government's national parks involved in this initiative are Booderee National Park, Kakadu National Park and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. See www.environment.gov.au/parks for more information.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Parks Australia school-based apprenticeship program is open to local indigenous youth, who work with school/TAFE and Parks Australia staff.

Find out more at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/about/structure/pa/index.html>

Junior Rangers**Initiative**

Parks Australia

The Junior Rangers initiative lets local school groups participate in conservation programs with Parks Australia staff and local Indigenous community members. The Australian Government parks involved in this program are Booderee National Park, Kakadu National Park and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

The Australian Government's national parks involved in this initiative are Booderee National Park, Kakadu National Park and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. See www.environment.gov.au/parks for more information.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Junior Rangers program is delivered by Parks Australia staff and local Indigenous community members.

Find out more at:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/about/structure/pa/index.html>
Australian Young Generation in Nuclear association**Program**

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation provides support to the Australian Young Generation in Nuclear association, which is an independent association open to young Australians working in the nuclear industry or with a professional interest in nuclear science and technology. By engaging and supporting young Australians today, Australian Young Generation in Nuclear is committed to ensuring all Australians continue to gain the maximum benefit from nuclear science and technology in the future.

Participation, eligibility and access

This program is supported by the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation.

School Screen**Program**

National Film and Sound Archive

School Screen is a national screen initiative aimed at schoolchildren aged 5 to 18. School Screen provides free shows to regional schools in local cinemas and offers school students the opportunity to view and discuss contemporary and classic features, short films and documentaries from throughout the region.

Participation, eligibility and access

The National Film and Sound Archive liaises with the relevant departments of education in each state, as well as teachers in individual high schools, to ensure that the School Screen program supports quality curriculum outcomes.

Find out more at:
<http://www.nfsa.gov.au/services/national/schoolscreen.html>
<http://www.nfsa.gov.au/services/national/ss-resources.html>

Indigenous Boarding Hostels Partnership

Program

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Indigenous Boarding Hostels Partnership provides accommodation for Indigenous students from remote communities so that they can attend secondary school in regional centres. The Indigenous Boarding Hostels Partnership offers Indigenous Australians living in remote areas the opportunity to relocate to major regional centres for education and training opportunities not otherwise available to them. The initiative will also provide much needed capital funding to boarding schools with strong track records of providing secondary schooling for Indigenous young people. Many of these schools are recording growing waiting lists for access to places for Indigenous people. The partnership also provides grants to create new places or carry out urgent upgrades of accommodation facilities to prevent a loss of existing boarding places.

Participation, eligibility and access

Boarding hostels situated near regional secondary schools will be built in partnership with the private sector (particularly the mining industry), the Indigenous Land Corporation and the state and territory and private education systems.

Find out more at:

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/housing/Pages/default.aspx>

Hostels for secondary students in regional Australia

Project

Indigenous Land Corporation

The Indigenous Land Corporation engages in strategic partnerships to develop a number of educational boarding facilities for Indigenous secondary students across northern Australia. The Indigenous Land Corporation is collaborating with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and potentially Aboriginal Hostels Limited to acquire the land and construct the hostels. Three hostels are to be built in the Northern Territory, one in Weipa, Queensland and Western Australia by 2012.

Participation, eligibility and access

Indigenous youth living in rural and remote regions currently face geographic and cultural barriers which limit their secondary schooling options. The hostels will provide safe and appropriate accommodation to facilitate Indigenous youth aged 13 to 18 access secondary education. It is anticipated that there will be accommodation for 120 youth in 2010–11 and 240 in 2011–12.

Find out more at:

<http://www.ilc.gov.au/site/page.cfm>.

National Centre of Indigenous Excellence

Service

Indigenous Land Corporation

The Indigenous Land Corporation is constructing the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence in Redfern, Sydney. The National Centre of Indigenous Excellence will provide accommodation facilities for Indigenous youth from remote and regional Australia, and access to a range of Indigenous educational, cultural and social services.

Participation, eligibility and access

The National Centre of Indigenous Excellence is governed by a board, while programs encompassing sport, art, education and culture will be managed together with partners—YMCA, the National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Association, the Exodus Foundation and the Lloyd McDermott Rugby Development Team.

Programs will be accessible to all youth; particularly Indigenous people from all over Australia will have access to the centre's programs, and it will also provide accommodation facilities for up to 130 people.

Find out more at: <http://www.ncie.org.au/>

Australian Vocational Student Prize and Prime Minister's Awards for Skills Excellence

Awards

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Australian Vocational Student Prize recognises and rewards outstanding senior secondary students undertaking vocational education and training (VET) in school programs or Australian School-based Apprenticeships. It is the vocational equivalent of the Australian Student Prize for academic achievement.

The Australian Vocational Student Prize promotes vocational education and training (VET) as a valuable and desirable pathway for students, equivalent to other secondary and tertiary education. The most exceptional recipients of the prize are selected to receive the Prime Minister's Award for Skills Excellence in Schools. Winners of this prestigious award include the highest achieving student in each state and territory, the highest achieving Indigenous student, and the highest achieving student by industry category.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Government administers the awards. Students are nominated by their schools and each winner receives a cash prize of \$2,000 and a certificate. Recipients of the Prime Minister's Award receive an additional \$2000 and a certificate.

Find out more at: http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/AustralianVocationalStudentsPrize/Pages/national_student_prize_for_vet.aspx
<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/Programs/PMASE/Pages/Overview.aspx>

WorldSkills Australia**Project**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

WorldSkills Australia aims to benchmark skills achievement in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector. WorldSkills Australia provides Australians aged 23 and under with the opportunity to gain new skills, compete against their peers in their chosen trade and fast track their skills and career development.

All Australian apprentices, trainees and VET students have the opportunity to compete in regional and national competitions, and if eligible, medallists can compete on the international stage in the Skill Olympics.

Participation, eligibility and access

WorkSkills Australia is a national, not-for-profit organisation, which receives funding from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. Details on competitions run by WorkSkills Australia can be found at the website below.

Find out more at: <http://www.worldskills.org.au>

Teaching and Learning Capital Fund for Vocational Education and Training**Program**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The \$500 million Teaching and Learning Capital Fund for Vocational Education and Training was announced in December 2008. This announcement was part of the \$4.7 billion nation-building infrastructure package. Under the program, funding is available in 2009–10 to support projects aimed at modernising and improving the quality of teaching and learning across the vocational education and training sector.

Participation, eligibility and access

Funding through the Teaching and Learning Capital Fund (VET) is delivered through specific allocations and open funding rounds. Details are available from the fund's website.

Find out more at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Skills/TLCF/Pages/Home.aspx>.

Indigenous Youth Mobility Program**Program**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Indigenous Youth Mobility Program provides accommodation, mentoring and other practical support for young people aged 16 to 24, generally from remote areas, who wish to access Australian Apprenticeships, vocational education and training and higher education. The focus is on qualifications that lead to sustainable employment in remote communities, including in nursing, teaching, business administration and accounting. As of July 2009, program participants can access these opportunities in 17 host locations, including Cairns, Townsville, Toowoomba, Rockhampton, Newcastle, Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, Canberra, Shepparton, Port Augusta, Adelaide, Perth, Port Hedland, Broome, Darwin, Alice Springs and Hobart.

Participation, eligibility and access

As of July 2009, the Indigenous Youth Mobility Program will be delivered in a 'one provider' service delivery model. As the result of a Request for Applications for Funding process, six providers will manage host locations for the 2009–12 funding period. Indigenous Youth Mobility Program providers offer safe and supported accommodation in host locations and support participants to complete qualifications in TAFE, at university, or through apprenticeships.

Find out more at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Indigenous/Schooling/Programs/Pages/YouthMobilityProgram.aspx>

Trade Training Centres in Schools Program

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Trade Training Centres in Schools Program is an important element of the Australian Government's Education Revolution. Trade Training Centres are being established in schools to help increase the proportion of students achieving Year 12 or an equivalent qualification, and to address skill shortages in traditional trades and emerging industries.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Trade Training Centres in Schools Program is delivered by the Australian Government in partnership with state, territory and non-government education authorities. Over the ten year life of the program, schools will have an opportunity to apply for funding to build new trade or vocational education and training facilities, or upgrade their existing facilities.

Find out more at: www.tradetrainingcentres.deewr.gov.au

Job Ready Certificate

Project

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

A Job Ready Certificate has been proposed to assess and report on the employability skills of students who have completed secondary school, have undertaken vocational education and training in schools and had on-the-job experience. As part of the development of this, consultations were held throughout Australia in early 2009 with participants invited from state training authorities, employers, school principals and unions.

Participation, eligibility and access

To be determined.

Find out more at: www.deewr.gov.au/jobreadycertificate

Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth

Research

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) track young people as they move from school into further study, work and other destinations. It uses large, nationally representative samples of young people to collect information about education and training, work, and social development. LSAY provides a rich source of information to help better understand young people and their transitions from school to post-school destinations, as well as exploring social outcomes, such as wellbeing. Information collected as part of LSAY covers a wide range of school and post-school topics, including student achievement, student aspirations, school retention, social background, attitudes to school, work experiences and what students are doing when they leave school. This includes vocational and higher education, employment, job seeking activity, and satisfaction with various aspects of their lives.

Participation, eligibility and access

LSAY is managed and funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, with support from state and territory governments. The National Centre for Vocational Education Research holds the current contract to provide analytical and reporting services for LSAY. The centre is undertaking this service for the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations in collaboration with the Australian National University's Social Policy Evaluation, Analysis and Research Centre. The annual telephone interviews are conducted by Wallis Consulting Group, under contract to the department.

All LSAY publications can be found in the publications section of the LSAY website.

Find out more at:

<http://www.lsay.edu.au/index.html>

Defence Technical Scholarships

Program

Department of Defence

The Department of Defence provides Year 11 and 12 students with a demonstrated interest in pursuing an Australian Defence Force technical trade career, an opportunity to receive a Defence Technical Scholarship (DTS). The DTS rewards technically-savvy students for staying on at school and enrolling in specific subjects. Year 11 recipients will receive \$2000, paid over two semesters and successful Year 12 students will receive \$3000, both paid over two semesters.

Participation, eligibility and access

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of an application process. Further information on this process, including key dates and eligibility criteria, is available at the website below.

Find out more at:

<http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/DTS>

Materiel Vocational Employment Scheme

Program

Defence Materiel Organisation

The Materiel Vocational Employment Scheme offers funded part-time study, employment and on the job development for TAFE students (who have already completed one year at TAFE), in relevant technical disciplines in which the Defence Materiel Organisation has an existing or pending skills shortage. Following their graduation from TAFE, participants gain a full-time position within the Defence Materiel Organisation. The program prepares students for a professional career in the Defence Materiel Organisation.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Materiel Vocational Employment Scheme offers TAFE students:

- the opportunity to work part time in arguably the largest project management and engineering organisations in Australia while they study
- a competitive salary
- financial support to help with the cost of their study
- excellent work experience opportunities
- funded personal and professional development opportunities
- exposure to a unique and diverse organisation
- a dedicated support team to help students through their study and adjust to the workplace.

The scheme is delivered directly by the Defence Materiel Organisation.

Find out more at: <http://www.defence.gov.au/dmo/careers/mves/index.cfm>

Foundation Diploma award course

Education and training

Australian Film Television Radio School

The Foundation Diploma award course is targeted at highly creative young people with an interest in working in the film industry, new media, or television broadcasting. A unique and intensely practical course, the one-year full time program is structured around a series of nine workshops led by experienced industry practitioners. The Foundation Diploma has been designed for creative students to explore their individual strengths and interests. Participants work in small collaborative groups and learn through practical applications. The course provides an opportunity to understand and learn about the specialisations that make up production activities across all media platforms.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Foundation Diploma is delivered by the Australian Film Television Radio School.

Find out more at: <http://www.aftrs.edu.au/courses/awardcourses/courselist/foundationdiploma.asp>

On-the-Job Training**Initiative/Scheme**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The On-the-Job Training initiative is an Australian Government election commitment that aims to increase the availability and quality of on-the-job training for students engaged in vocational education and training in schools. The proposal complements existing activities and other initiatives such as Trade Training Centres in Schools, Mentors for our Students and the Job Ready Certificate.

Participation, eligibility and access

Funds have been provided to state and territory governments for distribution to schools. Schools will receive up to \$10,000 each year to coordinate a minimum of 20 days on-the-job training per year for students in Years 9 to 12 who are participating in vocational education and training in schools.

From 1 January 2010, this funding will be incorporated into the new National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions. Please refer to the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions for more information.

Find out more at:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/YouthAttainmentandTransitions/Pages/Home.aspx>.

Equity Support Program**Project**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Equity Support Program (ESP) aims to increase the access and participation in higher education of domestic students from the following equity groups; low socio-economic status (SES) backgrounds, students from regional and remote areas, students with a disability and students from non-English speaking backgrounds. ESP funds can also be used to assist students in overcoming educational disadvantage associated with gender.

Participation, eligibility and access

To be eligible to receive ESP funds in any one year, eligible providers must provide a statement to the department (typically through the Institution Assessment Framework process) demonstrating that they are undertaking activities which assist domestic equity group students, consistent with the aims of the program, and meet all of the following criteria:

- (a) run outreach programs to attract equity group students to higher education
- (b) offer specialised support for equity group students to assist their progression through higher education
- (c) administer application and selection processes for the Commonwealth Scholarships Program and
- (d) establish an institutional equity scholarship program to complement the Commonwealth Scholarships Program.

All providers listed on Table A in section 16-15 of the Higher Education Support Act 2003 currently receive funding under this program.

The ESP will soon be replaced and incorporated into new funding arrangements announced in the 2009–10 Budget.

The new funding arrangements are intended to address Australia's historically poor record in increasing participation by low SES students. To provide focus, the Government has announced its ambition that, by 2020, 20 per cent of higher education enrolments at the undergraduate level will be of people from a low SES background.

The Government has allocated \$433 million in funding over the next four years to support the achievement of this ambition. The funding will be provided under the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program, which will comprise two elements:

Partnerships: Funding of \$108 million will be provided over four years for partnership activities. Universities will be granted funds to develop partnerships with low SES background schools, VET providers, community groups and other relevant stakeholders. The partnership activities may include, but are not limited to; scholarships, mentoring of teachers and students, curriculum and teaching support, or hands-on activities run by university staff in schools, all of which will help teachers raise the aspirations of their students.

Participation: \$325 million will be provided to universities as a financial incentive to expand their enrolments of low SES students, and to fund their intensive support needed to improve their completion and retention rates.

Over the next four years an additional 10,000 low socio-economic status students are expected to benefit from these measures. Over the next decade, an additional 126,000 low socio-economic status students will benefit.

Find out more at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Pages/TransformingAustraliasHESystem.aspx>

Indigenous Support Program

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Indigenous Support Program provides funding for activities which improve the access, participation, success and retention of Indigenous students in higher education. The types of activities supported under the program include the establishment of Indigenous Education Units, assistance with study skills, personal counselling and cultural awareness activities.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Indigenous Support Program provides funding to universities to assist them to meet the needs of their Indigenous students and to advance the goals of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Policy.

Find out more at:

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Indigenous/HigherEducation/Programs/Pages/indigenous_support_programme_isp.aspx

Internship program

Education and Training

Australian Law Reform Commission

The Australian Law Reform Commission's internship program provides an opportunity for students to increase their awareness of law reform issues by working within the commission's inquiry teams on a short-term basis. Interns work on a voluntary basis, for one day a week for one semester, or for four weeks full-time during semester or over the summer break. Working closely with commissioners and legal staff gives students hands-on experience of the processes of law reform.

Participation, eligibility and access

Internships are delivered by the Australian Law Reform Commission. Interns are selected on the basis of a competitive application and selection process, and details of this can be found at the Commission's website.

Find out more at:

<http://www.alrc.gov.au/work/internship/index.htm>

Cadetship program

Program

Geoscience Australia

Geoscience Australia offers cadetships to students who have done well in Year 12 maths and are at the beginning or part way through a Bachelor of Ocean and Geographic Sciences degree at the Australian National University. The program provides on-the-job training, supports academic development and provides experience in a diverse range of scientific disciplines. Work placements are undertaken in current key priority areas at Geoscience Australia. The cadetship program has been temporarily suspended for 2009.

Participation, eligibility and access

The cadetship program is delivered by Geoscience Australia.

Find out more at:

<http://www.ga.gov.au/jobs/cadetships/>

Materiel Graduate Scheme Program

Defence Materiel Organisation

The Defence Materiel Organisation's graduate program offers applicants with a relevant bachelors degree the opportunity to use the skills acquired at university to work on leading edge projects within the organisation. The program consists of three work rotations incorporating both on and off the job learning and development and assistance to achieve industry-based professional recognition. Applicants work with expert teams and mentors to implement major projects administered by the Australian Defence Force.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Materiel Graduate Scheme offers graduates three six-month work rotations within the Defence Materiel Organisation's establishments. Graduates have the chance to specialise in their chosen discipline, and gain extensive learning and development opportunities, and guaranteed employment within this dynamic project delivery organisation on successful completion of the program.

The scheme is directly delivered by the Defence Materiel Organisation.

Find out more at: <http://www.defence.gov.au/dmo/careers/graduate/index.cfm>

Materiel Cadetship Scheme Program

Defence Materiel Organisation

The Materiel Cadetship Scheme is a program in the Defence Materiel Organisation that supports undergraduates in relevant disciplines through the final years of their degree and prepares them for a professional career in the Defence Materiel Organisation. On successful completion of the Materiel Cadetship Scheme and attainment of an accredited degree in a relevant discipline, undergraduates will transition to the Materiel Graduate Scheme to continue their career in the Defence Materiel Organisation.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Materiel Cadetship Scheme offers undergraduate students:

- the opportunity to work in arguably the largest project management and engineering organisations in Australia
- a competitive salary while they study
- excellent work experience opportunities – with a minimum of six weeks each year
- funded personal and professional development opportunities
- exposure to a unique and diverse organisation
- opportunity to work on projects with leading edge technology
- great career opportunities
- automatic entry to Defence Materiel Organisation's Materiel Graduate Scheme on successful completion of their degree.

The scheme is delivered directly by the Defence Materiel Organisation.

Find out more at: <http://www.defence.gov.au/dmo/careers/ece/index.cfm>

University partnering**Initiative/Scheme**

Defence Materiel Organisation

The Defence Materiel Organisation works with universities and industry groups to increase the supply of qualified workers in critical disciplines. This involves working to encourage greater numbers of students into relevant tertiary courses and influencing course content to ensure graduates are suitably qualified.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Defence Materiel Organisation works with universities to achieve these aims through sponsorships, guest lectures, participation in curriculum development and participation in university events.

Graduate Recruitment Program**Initiative/Scheme**

Defence Science and Technology Organisation

The Defence Science and Technology Organisation undertakes a marketing strategy to attract high achieving graduates to fill specific ongoing positions within the organisation. Marketing strategies are implemented, initial screening of applicants is conducted and then a merit selection process occurs for specific positions identified by divisions.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Graduate Recruitment Program is undertaken by the Defence Science and Technology Organisation.

Find out more at:<http://www.dsto.defence.gov.au/grads/>**Summer Vacation Scholarship Program****Initiative/Scheme**

Defence Science and Technology Organisation

Each year, the Defence Science and Technology Organisation offers a limited number of scholarships over the university summer vacation period, allowing successful applicants to undertake a 12-week research project at one of the organisation's establishments. The primary objective of the scholarship is to provide promising tertiary students experience in research during the summer vacation period. The scholarship provides an opportunity for the students to further develop their skills and knowledge for educational purposes in a research environment important to their tertiary studies.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Summer Vacation Scholarship Program is offered at Defence Science and Technology Organisation sites throughout Australia. Selection is based primarily upon academic merit and the alignment between each student's course of study and the available projects. Students must be enrolled full time in the current and forthcoming academic years.

Find out more at:<http://www.dsto.defence.gov.au/careers>

Industry Experience Placements

Initiative/Scheme

Defence Science and Technology Organisation

The Defence Science and Technology Organisation offers Industry Experience Placements for university and TAFE students who are required to undertake work experience as a formal requirement of their degree or course. The Industry Experience Placements involve undertaking a fixed term placement on location at one of the organisation's main sites. Participants will be allocated a discrete project, which they will be expected to report on at the end of the placement.

Participation, eligibility and access

The selection of students will vary, depending on the host division's particular requirements. To be eligible to apply, students need to be undertaking the placement as a formal requirement of their tertiary degree, be an Australian citizen, and successfully undergo a security clearance.

Industry Experience Placements are generally organised by Defence Science and Technology Organisation divisions through university faculties. Limited placements may be posted among the job vacancies section, which is regularly updated. The length of the placements can vary.

Find out more at:

<http://www.dsto.defence.gov.au/careers>

Graduate Industry Placements

Initiative/Scheme

Defence Science and Technology Organisation

The Graduate Industry Placements program is a University of Adelaide initiative that places recent graduates into a company-sponsored scholarship for 12 months. This scholarship allows graduates to carry out project activity while studying for a Graduate Diploma in Business Enterprise or other relevant postgraduate award.

Participation, eligibility and access

The scheme is delivered directly by the Defence Science and Technology Organisation in conjunction with the University of Adelaide.

Find out more at:

<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/community-engagement/sip/gip/guidelines/>

Australian Defence Force Gap Year

Program

Department of Defence

The Australian Defence Force offers a Gap Year Program to Year 12 school leavers as an alternative to other options such as travelling, full-time employment and tertiary or vocational training. It offers a 'try before you buy' experience of military training and lifestyle for young people for up to 12 months, without any obligation to serve beyond the program. The program offers worthwhile training and employment within various career streams that are the same as those undertaken by full-time members of the Australian Defence Force. Participants also have the option of voluntarily transferring to full-time or part-time Australian Defence Force careers during their gap year should they choose. Those who complete their gap year and go on to complete a recognised tertiary or vocational qualification at a civilian institution may also receive a \$10,000 bonus if they re-join Australian Defence Force in a full-time capacity within five years of completing the original gap year.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Defence Force Gap Year Program is operated by the Navy, Army and Air Force. Defence Force Recruiting is responsible for publicising the program and attracting and selecting participants.

Find out more at: <http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/education/gapYear/default.aspx>

Traineeships

Initiative

Parks Australia

Parks Australia provides a structured employment opportunity within the Australian Public Service where local indigenous trainees are supported to complete formal qualifications whilst working within the APS and learning applicable skills for park management.

The Australian Government's national parks involved in this initiative are Booderee National Park, Kakadu National Park and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. See www.environment.gov.au/parks for more information.

Participation, eligibility and access

Parks Australia traineeships are delivered by Australian Public Service staff.

Find out more at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/about/structure/pa/index.html>

Non youth-specific activities

Activities included in this section are Australian Government activities that are targeted at the general population, but have a significant impact on the 12 to 25 age group, either through a high participation rate or through a direct impact on education, health, family and living situations.

Building the Education Revolution program

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

As part of the Australian Government's \$42 billion Nation Building—Economic Stimulus Plan, \$16.2 billion is being invested over three years for the Building the Education Revolution program to fund infrastructure projects at primary and secondary schools. This new funding will provide \$14.1 billion for the Primary Schools for the 21st Century initiative, \$821.8 million for the Science and Language Centres for 21st Secondary Schools project and \$1.3 billion for a National School Pride program.

The Building the Education Revolution program builds on the Government's commitment to deliver a world-class education to all Australian children. The funding provided will also help to stimulate national and local economies through the scale and pace of construction work undertaken.

Participation, eligibility and access

All Australian schools are eligible for Building the Education Revolution funding. Decisions regarding the facilities needed for a school are decided by education authorities in consultation with schools and their communities. For each program element, it is the responsibility of the relevant state or territory education authority to call for, and initially assess, proposals from schools within their jurisdictions and to submit lists and projects to the Commonwealth for approval.

Find out more at:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/schooling/buildingtheeducationrevolution/Pages/default.aspx>

Smarter Schools Low Socio-economic Status School Communities National Partnership

Initiative/Scheme

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The National Partnership will fund a range of reforms over seven years to support the education and wellbeing of students and schools in low socio-economic status school communities. The National Partnership will focus on evidence-based activities including:

- attracting high performing principals and teachers to participating low socio-economic schools
- providing funding for intensive learning activities and additional coaching for those students who are falling behind
- creating a strong network of parents, other schools, local communities and businesses to help students to successfully move onto work or further education
- providing incentives for individual schools to extend their reach through longer opening hours, after-school study support, sports and other activities to help keep students engaged in their studies.

Participation, eligibility and access

This initiative will be delivered by state and territory governments and non-government agencies, who will work with targeted disadvantaged schools in low socio-economic communities to improve educational outcomes for students.

Funding for individual schools will depend on a range of factors including the size of the school, the extent of reforms proposed or undertaken, and the level of state and territory contribution.

Find out more at: http://www.coag.gov.au/intergov_agreements/federal_financial_relations/index.cfm

Literacy and Numeracy National Partnerships

Initiative/Scheme

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership will fund a range of approaches to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for targeted students and schools.

These approaches will focus on:

- effective and evidence-based teaching of literacy and numeracy
- strong school leadership engagement with literacy and numeracy
- monitoring student and school literacy and numeracy performance to identify where support is needed.

The National Partnership has been formed with state and territory governments, and aims to ensure there are more students achieving above the national minimum standard in literacy and numeracy. This will allow Australian students to progress successfully through their schooling, actively participate in the workforce and contribute to their community in future years.

Participation, eligibility and access

This initiative will be delivered by state and territory governments and non-government agencies, who will work with targeted schools to improve outcomes for students.

Find out more at: http://www.coag.gov.au/intergov_agreements/federal_financial_relations/docs/national_partnership/national_partnership_on_literacy_and_numeracy.pdf

Literacy and numeracy pilot projects in Low SES Communities

Project

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

As the first step to improving practice in the key areas of teaching, leadership and the effective use of data, the Australian Government will invest \$41.03 million in 30 literacy and numeracy pilot initiatives.

The pilots have been carefully selected from proposals submitted by state and territory government and non-government education authorities and focus on either numeracy or literacy, or a combination of both. They will establish new ways of working together and sharing evidence of what works to deliver sustained literacy and numeracy improvement, particularly for those students most in need of support.

Participation, eligibility and access

Pilots will be conducted in low socio-economic school communities, many with high concentrations of students without basic literacy and numeracy skills. Selected Government, Catholic, and Independent schools in all states and territories are responsible for the delivery of these pilots. The pilots will run for up to two years and will commence some time in 2009, recognising the pressing need to assist those students most at risk of falling behind. A list of pilots funded under this initiative is available at the below website.

Find out more at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/LiteracyandNumeracyPilotProjects/Pages/Firststep-pilotinginnovativeevidence-basedapproaches.aspx>

National Curriculum

Policy responsibility

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Australian Government is committed to the development of a rigorous and world-class national curriculum from kindergarten to Year 12, beginning with the key learning areas of English, mathematics, the sciences and history. A second phase of work will involve the development of national curriculum in languages, geography and the arts.

Participation, eligibility and access

States and territories will be implementing national curriculum from 2011.

Find out more at: <http://www.acara.edu.au/default.asp>

Country Areas Program

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Primary and secondary school students can be educationally disadvantaged by geographical isolation. The Country Areas Program provides targeted funding to non-government education authorities in each state and the Northern Territory to help their schools improve student learning outcomes.

Participation, eligibility and access

Non-government primary and secondary schools are eligible for funding under the Country Areas Program provided that they are located in geographically isolated areas, or there are distance education facilities serving these areas. The program's funds are available for a wide range of projects, and more information on participation, eligibility and access for the program is available at the website below.

Find out more at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/Programs/CAP/Pages/default.aspx>

Assistance for Isolated Children

Initiative

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Assistance for Isolated Children scheme provides financial support to families in remote locations who have children that are unable to attend school on a daily basis.

The scheme provides allowances based upon the principle that all Australian children should have reasonable access to an appropriate government school and in recognition of the fact that geographically isolated families face additional costs to educate their children.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Assistance for Isolated Children scheme is administered by Centrelink on behalf of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. Claim forms and information on eligibility can be obtained through Centrelink.

Find out more at:

http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/isolated_children.htm

Capital Grants Program

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Australian Government works to improve educational outcomes by providing funding through the Capital Grants Program for the establishment and improvement of school capital infrastructure in non-government schools. A particular focus of the program is schools with the most educationally disadvantaged students. Australian Government capital grants are supplementary to funds provided by state and territory governments, non-government school authorities and school communities, which have primary responsibility for providing, maintaining and upgrading school facilities.

Participation, eligibility and access

Under this program, funds are provided for non-government schools through the Block Grant Authorities in each state and territory. Funding is delivered in accordance with program guidelines which require intended recipients to demonstrate a level of educational disadvantage. Evidence supporting further criteria such as financial need may also be required. Payments are made via state and territory treasuries to Block Grant Authorities who in turn pay the funds to schools as projects progress.

Recurrent Grants

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Australian Government is committed to supporting all young Australians to become successful learners, confident and creative individuals and active and informed citizens.

The Recurrent Grants Program helps non-government schools with the recurrent costs of school education so that they can offer an education program that supports students in realising their full potential..

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Government provides recurrent funding to schools as part of a funding partnership involving state and territory governments and parent communities.

Recurrent grants are paid to approved non-government schools and systems according to the levels of education and the locations for which the schools have been approved. Schools must be not-for-profit and must be registered by their state or territory education authority to provide a primary or secondary level of education. Funding is based on the full-time equivalent total of students, at rates that reflect the socio-economic profile of the school community and measure its capacity to support the school.

Non-government schools with Indigenous students making up over 80 per cent of their students, or remote schools with Indigenous students making up over 50 per cent of their students, are classified as Majority Indigenous Student Schools and as such are entitled to the maximum rate of funding.

Special schools (providing specialist education for students with disabilities) and Special Assistance Schools (catering for students with emotional, behavioural or social difficulties) are also entitled to the maximum rate of funding.

Approved non-government schools in regional and remote areas also receive additional funding due to their location. The funding is provided in recognition of the higher cost of delivering education services in regional and remote regions of Australia and the negative impact that this can have on student achievement levels..

Find out more at:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/RecurrentGrants/NonGovSchools/Pages/NonGovSchools.aspx>

Recurrent Assistance for Schools

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that all students are supported to reach their full potential, so that they leave school with a sound foundation for future education and training and for participating successfully in the workforce.

The Recurrent Grants Program helps both government and non-government schools with the recurrent costs of school education so that they can offer students an education program that supports students realising their full potential..

Participation, eligibility and access

State and Territory Governments have primary responsibility for government-provided education in Australia. As such, the Australian Government provides supplementary funding to state and territory governments through block grants calculated on a per student basis.

Recurrent grants are paid to approved non-government schools and systems according to the levels of education and the locations for which the schools have been approved. Funding amounts recognise the socio-economic profile of the school community and measure its capacity to support the school. Approved non-government schools in regional and remote areas also receive additional funding due to their location. The funding is provided in recognition of the higher cost of delivering education services in regional and remote regions of Australia and the negative impact that this can have on student achievement levels.

Find out more at:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/RecurrentGrants/Pages/home.aspx#Forms>

Short Term Emergency Assistance

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Short Term Emergency Assistance program provides assistance to non-government schools in the event of short-term unexpected emergencies. The emergency assistance funding is provided to enable schools to continue to operate education programs that support students reaching their full potential.

Participation, eligibility and access

Short Term Emergency Assistance funding can be provided to non-government schools in the event of an unexpected circumstance causing severe, temporary financial difficulty, in an environment where the school has exhausted all other sources of assistance and is capable of resuming operations in a satisfactory manner within two years of the financial assistance being provided. Schools must already be eligible to receive funding through the Recurrent Grant Program. Eligibility is assessed by way of application made to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Find out more at:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/Funding/Pages/ShortTermEmergencyAssistance.aspx>

Indigenous Supplementary Assistance Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Indigenous Supplementary Assistance is a new program which provides funding for schools to support the educational outcomes of their Indigenous students. Funding for eligible schools is based on the full-time equivalent total of Indigenous students (excluding Indigenous distance education students) who are receiving a primary or secondary level of education.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Government provides recurrent funding to schools as part of a funding partnership involving state and territory governments and parent communities. Indigenous Supplementary Assistance is paid to non-government schools that are eligible for the Recurrent Grants Program and that have at least one Indigenous student.

Find out more at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/RecurrentGrants/NonGovSchools/Pages/Indigenous.aspx>

Drought Assistance for Schools program

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Drought Assistance for Schools program provides funding to rural and remote schools in *Exceptional Circumstances* declared areas to assist with ongoing education expenses and the cost of educational activities such as student excursions, which may be cost prohibitive for families experiencing financial hardship as a result of drought.

Funding provided under the Drought Assistance for Schools program may be used to assist with the cost of items such as text books, uniforms, subject levies, excursions, student attendance at extra curricular activities and other educational activities which directly benefit students.

Exceptional Circumstances are rare and severe events outside those a farmer could normally be expected to manage using responsible farm management strategies. Events triggering an *Exceptional Circumstances* declaration have an impact so severe and prolonged that they are likely to occur only once in every 20 to 25 years. An area or region is declared as experiencing an *Exceptional Circumstances* event by the Australian Government Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. A list of the current *Exceptional Circumstances* declared areas and regions is available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at www.daff.gov.au.

Participation, eligibility and access

All rural and remote government and non-government schools providing primary or secondary level education which are located in *Exceptional Circumstances* declared areas may be entitled to assistance of up to a maximum of \$10,000 a year.

Each eligible school will receive a base entitlement of \$1,000 plus a per capita allowance of \$100 for every enrolled full-time equivalent student, up to a maximum of \$10,000. Drought assistance is provided in the form of a single annual payment. Further information is available in the *Drought Assistance Guidelines for Government Schools* and *Drought Assistance Guidelines for Non-Government Schools* available at the weblink below.

Schools that wish to query their eligibility can contact the Drought Assistance hotline on 1300 363 079.

Find out more at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/DroughtAssistanceforSchools/Pages/home.aspx>

Local Schools Working Together Program

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Local Schools Working Together Program encourages government, Catholic and Independent schools to work together to develop shared educational facilities that will broaden the benefit of government expenditure on capital infrastructure. Shared facilities create new opportunities for students who might not otherwise have access to such facilities. The theme of the program is *schools in partnership to achieve educational excellence and equity*. The partnership theme also extends to third parties such as local councils or businesses where the projects may feature broader community benefit.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Local Schools Working Together Program is part of the Australian Government's Education Revolution and will provide \$62.5 million towards the construction of approximately 25 shared educational facilities. Two funding rounds were offered in 2008-2009. Grant funds were provided to successful applicants to deliver the program.

Smarter Schools—Improving Teacher Quality National Partnership

National partnership

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Smarter Schools—Improving Teacher Quality National Partnership is a comprehensive package of reforms which targets crucial points in the teacher lifecycle to attract, train, place, develop and retain quality teachers and school leaders.

The Australian Government will work with the states and territories to deliver a number of national reforms, including the New Pathways into Teaching program for top university graduates, School Centres to support quality pre-service teacher education, and Quality Placements for the practical component of teacher education courses.

Participation, eligibility and access

The reforms will be delivered through partnerships between the Australian and state and territory governments. Some elements of the reforms will be delivered nationwide by the Australian Government and others by states and territories.

Find out more at:

www.coag.gov.au/coag_meeting_outcomes/2008-11-29/index.cfm

Improving the Practical Component of Teacher Education

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

As part of gaining tertiary teaching qualifications, students must undertake professional placement experiences to fulfil the practical component of their course requirements.

Through the Improving the Practical Component of Teacher Education program, the Government provides funding to universities to assist with the costs associated with the professional experience component of teacher education courses.

Universities can use their program grant to improve the quality of professional experience in relation to any of the following:

- its management and organisation
- partnerships and relationships with schools and other professional placement settings
- the student experience while on placement and the connections between school and campus-based study
- providing support for students undertaking placements in rural and remote Australia, Indigenous communities or difficult to staff schools
- providing support for students undertaking placements who have family, carer or employment commitments
- consulting state and territory governments and the non-government school sectors to align pre-service teacher education programs (including professional experience) with workforce planning needs.

Participation, eligibility and access

Improving the Practical Component of Teacher Education program grants are provided to universities in accordance with the grants guidelines.

Find out more at:

http://www.qualityteaching.deewr.gov.au/professional_experience/default.htm

Professional development for secondary school teachers

Event

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation holds professional development days for secondary school teachers at its Lucas Heights site. This provides teachers with an opportunity to directly engage with nuclear scientists and keep up to date with technological advances at the organisation.

Participation, eligibility and access

Professional development days are offered to physics, chemistry, biology, earth and environmental science teachers. The program is delivered by the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation in conjunction with the New South Wales Department of Education and Training.

Find out more at:

<http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/secondary/science/index.htm>

Improving Mathematics Education in Schools Project (2009–10)

Policy responsibility

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Australian Government is funding the Improving Mathematics Education in Schools Project which is being undertaken by the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute, in collaboration with business, industry and teacher professional associations.

The project will expand the successful BlueScopeSteel/Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute Illawarra Outreach Program model which links schools, local business and industry with other schools in low socio-economic regions. It will develop innovative school mathematics resources to support the implementation of national mathematics curriculum and develop innovative strategies to raise awareness of careers in the field of mathematics.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute will work with key stakeholders including state and territory government education authorities, the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers and businesses to expand the outreach program and develop related professional learning and teaching resources.

Find out more at:

<http://www.amsi.org.au/index.php/ice-em>

Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships are part of the Australian Government's broader Endeavour Awards, and provide opportunities for practising language teachers in Australian schools and trainee language teachers in Australian tertiary institutions to improve their language and cultural skills through intensive short-term study programs.

Study programs are held over a three-week period in January each year. Study programs may be held in Asia, Europe, Latin America or the Middle East. Destinations may vary from year to year, subject to identified need, Australian Government educational priorities and travel advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships are delivered through an annual competitive funding round. The Asia Education Foundation has been contracted by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations to manage the Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships program, and has developed a website to support successful applicants of the program.

Find out more at:

www.endeavour.deewr.gov.au/language_teachers_fellowships/

E-Security Education Package

Program

Department of Broadband, Communication and the Digital Economy

The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy, launched an E-security Education Package in June 2009. The Package is designed to raise the e-security awareness of Australian primary and secondary school students and help them to protect their personal and financial information online. The Package consists of two self-learning and interactive modules for students in years 3 and 9, also known as the Budd:e modules. The Package is a key component of the Australian Government's commitment to raise the e-security awareness of all Australian internet users.

Participation, eligibility and access

The E-Security Education Package is available free to all Australian schools through the Government's Stay Smart Online website or via a CD ROM that can be ordered online. The Package can also be found on the Learning Federation's educational resources portal, Scootle.

Find out more at:

www.dbcde.gov.au
www.staysmartonline.gov.au
www.scootle.edu.au

Parliament and Civics Education Rebate

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Parliament and Civics Education Rebate is a travel subsidy for schools bringing students more than 150 kilometres to Canberra as part of their civics and citizenship education. Schools must visit specified institutions and meet the requirements of the program as set out in the guidelines.

Participation, eligibility and access

The National Capital Educational Tourism Project, a non-government service provider, administers and promotes the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate. The rebate should be used by schools to reduce travel costs for individual students.

Find out more at:

www.ncetp.org.au/pacer/index.html
www.civicsandcitizenship.edu.au

Web access

Service

National Museum of Australia

The National Museum of Australia provides a range of online programs for children and young people including education resources for youth and education specialists.

Participation, eligibility and access

All content is developed, maintained and delivered by the National Museum of Australia.

Find out more at:

www.nma.gov.au

School programs

Program

National Museum of Australia

The National Museum of Australia provides a stimulating learning environment for all school levels from preschool to Year 12. The museum offers a suite of programs which include both online resources and programs delivered on site. Programs include Civics and Citizenship, Indigenous Australia, Australian Environment, and Understanding the Museum. The museum also provides school curriculum published in the *Studies of Society and Environment* magazine and has developed one-off programs with local schools on specific issues.

Participation, eligibility and access

These programs are delivered by National Museum of Australia staff. Online resources and content are developed by NMA staff.

Find out more at:

www.nma.gov.au

History Mysteries and Plenty Stories programs

Program

National Museum of Australia

The National Museum of Australia develops and presents a series of curriculum based resources for teachers. History Mysteries is an award winning resource kit that includes interactive multimedia, and an innovative Youth Challenge program that encourages students to investigate some of Australia's historical mysteries in their own communities. The Plenty Stories project is a comprehensive resource kit for teaching Indigenous studies in middle and upper primary.

Participation, eligibility and access

These programs are delivered by National Museum of Australia staff and available to schools across Australia.

Find out more at:

www.nma.gov.au

The Learning Federation— Scootle Program

Program

National Museum of Australia

The Learning Federation develops digital curriculum content for all Australian and New Zealand schools. The project is a collaborative initiative of all Australian and New Zealand governments. The National Museum of Australia is part of the pilot program, and is working alongside the Powerhouse and Melbourne Museums to develop a database of museum collections for schools to access online.

Participation, eligibility and access

This is an online program which enables Australian and New Zealand teachers to easily find learning materials and provide access to those resources for their students.

Find out more at:

<http://www.scootle.edu.au/ec/p/home>

Education programs**Program**

National Film and Sound Archive

The National Film and Sound Archive's education programs provide specialised and targeted access to the Archive's collection for primary and secondary school children, through the Canberra Visitor program.

Participation, eligibility and access

The National Film and Sound Archive's education programs are delivered by the institution's staff.

Find out more at:
<http://www.nfsa.gov.au/education/>
**Nuclear Matters
Exhibition: PowerHouse
Museum****Event**

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

The Sydney PowerHouse Museum hosts the interactive exhibition Nuclear Matters which aims to provide a greater public understanding of what nuclear science is and the role it plays in everyday lives. Nuclear Matters explores the science and technology behind nuclear technology and also changes in social attitudes to nuclear technology over the last century.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation provided sponsorship and expertise in the creation of the exhibition.

Find out more at:
<http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/exhibitions/nuclear.asp>
**Geoscience Australia
Education program****Program**

Geoscience Australia

Geoscience Australia promotes awareness of the field of geosciences, which includes all the sciences (geology, geophysics, and geochemistry) that study the structure, evolution and dynamics of the earth and its natural mineral and energy resources. Geoscience Australia provides schools with geoscience curricula, online teaching resources and free topic-focused education visits for schools, universities and special interest groups at its Education Centre in Canberra. The centre hosts specialised programs that contribute to youth science initiatives, including the National Youth Science Forum and the Siemens Science Experience.

The Education Centre also contributes to the CSIRO's Scientists in Schools program and provides access to free professional development programs for teachers, which encourages the teaching of Earth Sciences. Geoscience Australia also supports science-based activities during festivals such as National Science Week, Earth Science Week and the Australian Science Festival. These national competitions and events are developed to engage youth in learning about the field of Earth Sciences. All programs are offered free of charge and are open to members of the public.

Participation, eligibility and access

This program is delivered by Geoscience Australia Education staff.

Find out more at:
<http://www.ga.gov.au/education/education-centre.jsp>
<http://www.ga.gov.au/education/classroom-resources/index.jsp>
<http://www.ga.gov.au/education/ask-geoscientist/index.jsp>

Scientists in Schools

Program

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

The Scientists in Schools program promotes science education in primary and secondary schools, helps to engage and motivate students in their learning study of science, and increases awareness of the types and variety of exciting careers available in the sciences. The Scientists in Schools program has scientists working with teachers in flexible, professional partnerships. Participating agencies include the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation and the Defence Science and Technology Organisation. The program is also being extended into mathematics and indigenous education.

Participation, eligibility and access

The program is open to research scientists and engineers, postgraduate science and engineering students, and those involved in the applied sciences such as doctors, vets, park rangers etc.

The Scientists in Schools program is organised by CSIRO with funding from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, and delivered by scientists from a wide range of organisations.

Find out more at: <http://www.scientistsinschools.edu.au/index.htm> <http://csiro.au/resources/ScientistsInSchools.html>

CSIRO Discovery exhibition

Program

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

The CSIRO Discovery exhibition is a museum-quality showcase of CSIRO current research. It also offers an interactive journey through CSIRO and Australian science history. The aim of the exhibition is to demystify science by presenting it in an entertaining way. The exhibition educates people of all ages and presents science as a fascinating world of research and innovation. The CSIRO Discovery exhibition is home to a great range of public events and is also a working laboratory, offering the public a unique insight into science at work.

Participation, eligibility and access

The CSIRO Discovery exhibition is located in the Discovery complex on the CSIRO's Black Mountain research site in Canberra. The exhibition is open to the general public and to special group bookings.

Find out more at: <http://www.csiro.au/org/DiscoveryOV.html>.

Friends of Discovery

Program

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

The CSIRO Discovery exhibition operates a Friends of Discovery program. Members receive invitations to events and public programs, and multiple entries into the exhibition. Members' children are also eligible to be members of the FOD Squad where volunteers work with CSIRO Discovery staff during weekends and school holidays. The FOD Squad provides valuable work experience and exposure to CSIRO Discovery science.

Participation, eligibility and access

Membership information is available at the website below.

Find out more at: <http://www.csiro.au/products/pps7b.html>

Science by Email**Program**

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

Science by Email is a free, weekly e-newsletter providing the latest science news, fun activities and experiments, environmental insights, a quiz and details on upcoming events.

Participation, eligibility and access

Science by Email is a weekly e-newsletter that is sent to over 33 000 subscribers, over one third of whom are teachers. *Science by Email* is produced by CSIRO in partnership with credit union provider mecu, and the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

Find out more at: www.csiro.au/sciencemail.

InnovatED**Project**

IP Australia

InnovatED is a national school education program for students aged 9 to 13, which delivers information about innovation to Australian schools. It is an online program aimed at helping young Australians discover their own creativity and innovation by exploring the concepts of intellectual property in the classroom. The program includes resources and a website aimed at both teachers and students.

Participation, eligibility and access

InnovatED is delivered through a website and CD-ROM resources.

Find out more at: <http://www.innovated.gov.au/Innovated/html/i01.asp>

Improving School Enrolment and Attendance through Welfare Reform Measure (SEAM)**Program and evaluation**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Improving School Enrolment and Attendance through Welfare Reform Measure is an Australian Government initiative to trial the use of attaching conditions to income support payments with the aim of encouraging parents to ensure that their children of compulsory school age are:

- (a) enrolled in school and
- (b) attending school regularly.

The program uses possible suspension of income support payments supported by a case management approach and safeguards to protect the most vulnerable families, to encourage responsible parental behaviour in relation to the education of their children. In extreme cases income support payments may be cancelled, but this is expected to be a very rare occurrence. The measure is being trialed in six Northern Territory locations and will also be trialed in at least one metropolitan location in 2009–10.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations is responsible for the policy design of the measure and the administration and evaluation of the trials. The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has overarching responsibility for the Welfare Payments Reform agenda, of which this initiative is one part. Centrelink is delivering the trials on behalf of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Find out more at: <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/families/progserv/welfarereform/Pages/ImprovingSchoolEnrolmentAttendance.aspx>

Ambassadors Program

Service

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Ambassadors Program aims to promote the importance of education, including English literacy and numeracy, to Indigenous students, their parents and carers, and teachers. The ambassadors relate and share their own experiences of how they overcame barriers to success and provide inspiration and guidance to help students forge a positive pathway to the future. The role of the Indigenous education ambassadors is to promote the importance of education to Indigenous students and provide an Indigenous perspective on the role that education holds for Indigenous Australians in today's society as well as the benefits that it will hold for future generations. The ambassadors emphasise the important roles that Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, schools and parents can play in supporting Indigenous children to achieve their full potential at school.

Participation, eligibility and access

The program is delivered by the 27 volunteer ambassadors who visit schools, communities, educational project launches, educational forums, community festivals or any events which promotes the importance of education for Indigenous people.

Indigenous Outside School Hours Care Services and Enrichment Program

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Indigenous Outside School Hours Care and Enrichment programs provide care for Indigenous school children and teenagers. Enrichment programs operate from community venues and may provide supervised care, organised activities, homework centres and nutrition services.

Participation, eligibility and access

These programs are delivered through partnerships between the Australian Government and community and local government organisations. Non-mainstream Indigenous services are generally provided by not-for-profit organisations and are delivered mainly in rural and remote Indigenous communities, providing access to early childhood learning and child care which the market would otherwise fail to deliver.

Find out more at: http://www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Programs/ChildCareforServices/Operation/Child_Care_Handbook_2008-2009/Pages/Part1_2.aspx#t2_7

Budget Based Funded Crèches

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Crèches provide a flexible form of child care where other forms of child care are not available. They are designed to help support families while parents or carers move into the workforce as part of the wider welfare reforms being undertaken by the Australian Government. Crèches are centre-based and provide flexible child care for limited periods of time, for example while teenage parents attend secondary, vocational education or training activities. The aim is to assist income support recipients to participate in activities which will enable them to enter or re-enter the workforce.

Crèches established before 2008 were known as Jobs, Education and Training Crèches. These were set up to assist eligible unemployed parents wanting to undertake study, work or job search activities to help them enter or re-enter the workforce. New services are known as crèches as they will offer child care services to a broader group of clients.

Participation, eligibility and access

Budget Based Funded Crèches are operated by community organisations or educational institutions and are funded by the Australian Government. Parents who engage in specified educational, training or workforce related activities can access these crèche services.

Find out more at:

http://www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Programs/ChildCareforServices/Operation/Child_Care_Handbook_2008-2009

Removal of TAFE fees for Diplomas of Children's Services and Advanced Diplomas of Children's Services

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Australian Government has provided \$60.3 million to support an expected 8,000 new and existing child care workers to gain a vocational education and training qualification in early childhood. The funding will be used to remove regulated course fees for child care diplomas and advanced diplomas delivered by a TAFE institute or other government training provider, from 2009.

Participation, eligibility and access

From January 2009, the Australian Government will pay the regulated TAFE course fees for students enrolling in a Diploma of Children's Services or an Advanced Diploma of Children's Services at a TAFE institute or other government training provider. Students enrolling in child care courses at TAFE institutes generally incur upfront fees which can be quite substantial.

Find out more at:

http://www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Policy_Agenda/EarlyChildhoodWorkforce/Pages/RemovalofTAFEfees.aspx

Supplementary Recurrent Assistance

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Supplementary Recurrent Assistance provides supplementary per capita funding to eligible non-government Vocational Education and Training providers. It aims to assist providers to accelerate educational outcomes for Indigenous Australians beyond those which could reasonably be expected from mainstream and own-source funding alone. Supplementary Recurrent Assistance is intended to supplement mainstream funding, not substitute or replace it.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Government provides Supplementary Recurrent Assistance funding to eligible non-government Vocational Education and Training institutions to assist them to meet their recurrent costs.

Find out more at: http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/indigenous_education/policy_issues_reviews/indigenous_education_and_training_2005_2008.htm

Joint National Communications Project

Project

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Joint National Communications Project is the flagship project to improve the perception of vocational education and training within the Australian community and ultimately increase the flow of people into this type of education. Key target groups are young people leaving school who are not involved in vocational training and those who influence their participation in vocational education and training, such as teachers, career advisors and parents.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Joint National Communications Project is a combined government initiative.

Find out more at: <http://www.training.com.au/>

Intellectual property units of competency for the vocational and education sector

Project

IP Australia

IP Australia has funded the development of eight units of competency that cover a wide range of topics related to intellectual property. The units form part of the Business Services Training Package, and allow students at registered training organisations the option of including an intellectual property unit as part of their broader business studies.

Participation, eligibility and access

The intellectual property units are delivered by registered training organisations.

Find out more at: www.ipaustralia.gov.au

Indigenous Land Corporation's Training and Employment Initiative

Project

Indigenous Land Corporation

The Indigenous Land Corporation's Training and Employment Initiative will provide 530 certificate level training places and employment for up to 400 Indigenous graduates in the pastoral, tourism and resource sectors. Training places will also be provided in the Indigenous Land Corporation's businesses, including beef cattle and sheep production, horticulture, maintenance, transport and administration. These training places will be supported by residential training facilities to enable Indigenous training participants to be fully integrated into the day-to-day operation of tourism and pastoral businesses.

Participation, eligibility and access

Indigenous Land Corporation Traineeships are managed in partnership with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Group Training Organisations (GTOs) and Registered Training Organisations (RTOs). Trainees are provided with residential training facilities on the Indigenous Land Corporation businesses, and are given on-the-job mentoring to progress through the program to become Indigenous Land Corporation or mainstream employees. Trainees are encouraged to provide support as role models to other participants.

Find out more at: www.ilc.gov.au

Training Initiatives for Indigenous Adults in Regional and Remote Communities Program

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Training Initiatives for Indigenous Adults in Regional and Remote Communities Program identifies and supports practical, flexible and integrated projects to ensure Indigenous adults can access Vocational Education and Training opportunities that will open up employment opportunities, including Skilling Australia for the Future places.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Government provides matched funding to the states. Contracted non-government service providers are engaged through open grant rounds conducted by the states and territories.

Australian Training Awards

Awards

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Australian Training Awards is the peak national awards program for the Vocational Education and Training sector and recognises employers, Registered Training Organisations and individuals including vocational students, apprentices and trainees. The Australian Training Awards are the national finals of training awards held in every Australian state and territory each year. The aim of the awards is to recognise and promote excellence in skills development by Australian Apprentices and vocational students and highlight the provision of high quality, nationally recognised training.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Government funds the Australian Training Awards.

Find out more at: <http://australiantrainingawards.gov.au>

English as a Second Language—New Arrivals (ESL—NA)

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The English as a Second Language—New Arrivals program assists non-government education institutions, including Catholic and Independent schools, with the cost of delivering intensive English language tuition to eligible, newly-arrived migrant students. The program offers intensive assistance in learning English to primary and secondary students to enable them to participate fully in mainstream classroom activities.

Participation, eligibility and access

Non-government education providers in each state and territory are responsible for the administration of the English as a Second Language—New Arrivals program.

Find out more at: www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school_education/programmes_funding/programme_categories/special_needs_disadvantage/english_as_second_language_new_arrivals_programme/home.htm

School Languages Program

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The School Languages Program aims to help schools and school communities improve the learning outcomes of students from kindergarten to year 12 who are learning languages in schools or after-hours ethnic schools. Funding may be used to support languages education at any level from kindergarten to year 12, including Asian, European and Indigenous languages and Auslan.

Participation, eligibility and access

The School Languages Program is delivered through targeted funding agreements with state and territory non-government education authorities from 2009 to 2012.

A proportion of the program's funding is also provided under the National Projects element to support projects of national significance.

Find out more at: www.dest.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/C36476D9-4B4F-41D6-8714-4764DF589A4F/25532/SAA2008NGSchoolsAdminGuidelines2009Webversion10Mar.pdf

Workplace English Language and Literacy Program

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Workplace English Language and Literacy Program aims to assist workers with low literacy levels to improve their English language, literacy and numeracy skills so they can better participate in employment and training activities. Enterprises, or registered training organisations with enterprise support, can apply for program funding to provide workers with language, literacy and numeracy training integrated with vocational training.

From 2009–10 an additional 6000 Workplace English Language and Literacy Program places will be available over four years to Indigenous Employment Program participants.

Funding is also available for language literacy and numeracy resource development projects and strategic projects with a national focus.

Participation, eligibility and access

Under the Workplace English Language and Literacy Program, training must be delivered by suitably qualified trainers from a registered training organisation and be integrated with other workplace training using approved training packages where possible. Training is generally delivered at the workplace, usually by an enterprise-based trainer who works with the company's training manager to ensure the training is supported by both management and staff. Training for Indigenous Employment Program participants may be delivered in a workplace or at the premises of a registered training organisation.

Find out more at: www.deewr.gov.au/well

Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Child Care Fee Assistance

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The JET Child Care Fee Assistance program provides extra help with the cost of approved child care to support parents while they participate in study, work, or job search activities, including as part of an Employment Pathway Plan, to help them enter or re-enter the workforce. Parents who are under 20 years of age may be approved for child care fee assistance for the entire period it takes to complete their secondary education.

Jobs, Education and Training Child Care Fee Assistance can help meet the cost of child care by paying most of the 'gap fee' between the total fee charged by a provider and the amount covered by Child Care Benefit, for care related to JET Child Care Fee Assistance approved activities.

Participation, eligibility and access

For more information on this program, parents can contact the Family Assistance Office on 13 6150 or visit the Family Assistance Office website at www.familyassist.gov.au.

Find out more at:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Programs/ChildCareforServices/SupportFamilyCCS/Pages/JETCCFA.aspx>

Endeavour VET Outbound Mobility Program

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Endeavour VET Outbound Mobility Program aims to:

- increase the number of Australian vocational education and training students who undertake an international study opportunity, which could include a work placement, internship or volunteer project in their industry sector
- facilitate the outbound mobility of vocational education and training students by increasing the level of partnership activity between Australian education and training providers and industry and their international counterparts.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Endeavour VET Outbound Mobility Program is administered by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. Funding is distributed through an annual application process.

Find out more at:

http://www.endeavour.deewr.gov.au/outbound_mobility/

Vocational Education Broadband Network

Initiative/Scheme

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Australian Government has committed \$80 million for a high speed broadband network for the training sector. The Vocational Education Broadband Network will improve national infrastructure to complement the recently announced National Broadband Network initiative. The Vocational Education Broadband Network initiative will enhance the capacity and flexibility of the training sector and provide learners with more course offerings and speedy access to resources no matter where they are located.

Participation, eligibility and access

It is expected that the network will connect the main campuses of most TAFEs in Australia. The Vocational Education Broadband Network implementation approach is being developed in close consultation with state and territory governments.

Find out more at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Skills/VEN/Pages/VocationalEducationBroadbandNetwork.aspx>

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation apprenticeships

Program

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation offers apprentices the opportunity to learn a wide range of skills while rotating through workshops, drafting, maintenance, planning and quality control areas.

Participation, eligibility and access

The program is delivered directly by Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation in conjunction with TAFE NSW, Shire Group Training and Australian Business Limited.

Find out more at: http://www.ansto.gov.au/discovering_ansto/careers_at_ansto/apprenticeships

Professional Collaboration

Program

National Museum of Australia

The Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) and the National Museum of Australia have developed a partnership to provide opportunities for the institute's students to work on collaborative projects relating to education, community partnerships, training, media relationships, work placements and internships.

Participation, eligibility and access

These programs are delivered by National Museum of Australia staff through a bilateral agreement with the Canberra Institute of Technology.

Find out more at: www.nma.gov.au

Army Reserve Traineeship and Apprenticeship Program (ARTAP)

Program

Department of Defence

The Army Reserve Traineeship and Apprenticeship Program (ARTAP) is a scheme which allows young people to gain trade qualifications on a full-time basis with an external employer or a Group Training Organisation. The program combines the attainment of trade qualifications with military training so that participants have the opportunity to practice their trade skills as a member of the Army Reserve. Where a young person is accepted in the scheme, they agree to join and remain in the Army Reserve for the period of the apprenticeship or traineeship, while at the same time undertaking training with a Group Training Organisation under an established partnership agreement.

Traineeships are for a 12 month period and cover occupations such as Clerk, Stores/Warehousing positions and members of hospitality. Apprenticeships are approximately 4 years long and cover such trades as Vehicle Mechanic, Fitter Machinist, Electrical Technician, Metalsmith, Electrical and Plumber.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Army Reserve Traineeship and Apprenticeship Program is delivered by the Department of Defence, TAFE and employers and training organisations at Defence learning and commercial sites across Australia.

Find out more at: <http://www.defencejobs.gov.au>

HECS-HELP

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

HECS-HELP is available to eligible students enrolled in a Commonwealth supported higher education place. HECS-HELP provides a loan from the Australian Government for student contributions or a 20 per cent discount if a student pays all, or at least \$500 of their student contributions up-front.

Students apply for HECS-HELP through their higher education provider and the Australian Government pays the loan or discount amount direct to the higher education provider on the students' behalf. Students repay their loans through the taxation system once their repayment income reaches the minimum repayment threshold (\$43 151 for 2009–10, indexed annually) for compulsory repayment.

Participation, eligibility and access

HECS-HELP is governed by the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*. Australian citizens and holders of a permanent humanitarian visa are eligible for HECS-HELP.

Find out more at: <http://www.goingtouni.gov.au>

HECS- HELP Benefit

Initiative/Scheme

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The HECS-HELP Benefit reduces the compulsory HECS repayment—with a matching reduction in HELP debt—for particular graduates for a period of up to 260 weeks of eligible employment.

Participation, eligibility and access

Early childhood education teachers are eligible for the HECS-HELP Benefit if they work in areas of particular need. The maximum benefit for an early childhood education teacher is \$1662.40 for 2009–10 (indexed in later years). Eligible early childhood education teachers may receive the benefit as a reduction in their HELP debt if they do not have to make a compulsory HELP repayment.

Mathematics and science graduates who graduated from second semester 2008 onwards are eligible for the benefit if they take up related occupations, including teaching of these subjects in secondary school and primary school teaching. The maximum benefit for a mathematics or science graduate is \$1558.50 for 2009–10 (indexed in later years).

Students who graduate from an education or nursing course that is required for initial entry to work as a teacher or nurse from second semester 2009 onwards will be eligible for the benefit if they work in a teaching or nursing profession. The maximum benefit for an education or nursing graduate is \$1558.50 for 2009–10 income year (indexed in later years).

The Australian Taxation Office receives and assesses applications for the HECS-HELP Benefit.

Find out more at: <http://www.goingtouni.gov.au>

<http://www.ato.gov.au>

OS-HELP**Program**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

OS-HELP assists eligible Commonwealth supported undergraduate students to undertake part of the study towards their Australian higher education qualification overseas.

Students repay their OS-HELP loans through the taxation system once their repayment income reaches the minimum repayment threshold for compulsory repayment. In 2009–10, the threshold is \$43 151, and this is indexed annually.

Participation, eligibility and access

Higher education providers are responsible for the administration and selection process. The Australian Government funds providers to make cash loans to eligible students. Australian citizens and permanent humanitarian visa holders may receive a maximum of two OS-HELP loans over their life time if they meet the eligibility criteria. To be eligible, students must have completed 1 EFTSL (equivalent full-time student load) of their course and have units to the value of at least 0.5 EFTSL remaining on completion of their study outside Australia.

Find out more at:<http://www.goingtouni.gov.au>**FEE-HELP****Program**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

FEE-HELP is a loan scheme that assists eligible fee paying students to pay their tuition fees. FEE-HELP can cover all or part of a student's tuition fees.

Over their lifetime, a student may borrow up to \$85,062 (indexed annually) for general courses and \$106,328 (indexed annually) for medicine, dentistry and veterinary science courses. There is a loan fee of 20 per cent for FEE-HELP loans for undergraduate courses of study, however the FEE-HELP limit does not include the loan fee.

Students repay their loans through the taxation system once their repayment income reaches the minimum repayment threshold for compulsory repayment. In 2009–10, the threshold is \$43,151, and this is indexed annually. As a result of the phasing out of fee paying undergraduate places at public universities from 2009, FEE-HELP will in future primarily assist postgraduate students and undergraduate students at private higher education providers.

Participation, eligibility and access

The FEE-HELP loan scheme is governed by the Higher Education Support Act 2003. Students apply for FEE-HELP through their higher education provider. The Government pays the FEE-HELP loan amount to the higher education provider on the student's behalf. To be eligible, students must be Australian citizens or holders of a permanent humanitarian visa and be enrolled in a higher education award course at an approved higher education provider (or undertaking a unit of study through Open Universities Australia) or undertaking a bridging course for overseas trained professionals. FEE-HELP is also available to permanent residents for these bridging courses.

Find out more at:<http://www.goingtouni.gov.au>

Commonwealth Grant Scheme

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Commonwealth Grant Scheme supports the provision of undergraduate and some non-research postgraduate higher education places. The Australian Government provides funding to each eligible higher education provider for an agreed number of Commonwealth supported places in a given year. The amount that the Australian Government provides is determined by reference to the number of places in each funding (or discipline) cluster. In addition, higher education providers may receive funding through the regional, enabling, medical student, or transitional loadings under the scheme.

Participation, eligibility and access

To receive Commonwealth Grant Scheme funding, a provider must enter into a funding agreement with the Commonwealth. Providers may also be funded for places over and above their agreed load, currently by up to 10 per cent of total funding. Providers are responsible for allocating places to students based on the requirements of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*. These include a requirement that places be allocated on merit. Australian citizens, New Zealand citizens and permanent residents are eligible for Commonwealth supported places. Students are charged a student contribution for Commonwealth supported places.

Find out more at:

http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher_education/programmes_funding/general_funding/cgs/

Commonwealth Scholarships Program

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Commonwealth Scholarships Program aims to increase higher education participation by students from low socio-economic status backgrounds, particularly Indigenous students and students from regional and remote areas. Under the program, higher education providers assess applicants and approve scholarship recipients in accordance with broad guidelines as determined by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. The scholarships are not treated as income for Social Security and Veterans Affairs pensions and allowances, or for ABSTUDY.

As part of the 2009–10 Budget, the Government has announced two new scholarships for students starting from 1 January 2010. These are the Student Start-Up Scholarship, which will replace the Commonwealth Education Cost Scholarship, and the Relocation Scholarship, which will replace the Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship. The revised Commonwealth Scholarships program will enable eligible Indigenous students to access and participate in higher education and be administered by higher education providers. Current Commonwealth Scholarship recipients will have their entitlements maintained under grandfathering arrangements until their entitlements are consumed.

Participation, eligibility and access

Currently, scholarships are awarded through eligible higher education providers.

Find out more at:

http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher_education/programmes_funding/programme_categories/scholarships_awards_prizes/commonwealth_learning_scholarships_programme.htm

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Pages/TransformingAustraliasHESystem.aspx>

Education Investment Fund

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Education Investment Fund was announced in the 2008–09 Budget and is a major component of the Government's Education Revolution. The Education Investment Fund provides funding for projects that create or develop significant infrastructure in higher education institutions, research institutions, and vocational education and training providers.

Participation, eligibility and access

Funding through the Education Infrastructure Fund is delivered through open funding rounds. Details of these rounds are available from the website below.

Find out more at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/eif>

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

Policy responsibility

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency will oversee the development of strengthened quality assurance arrangements and protect the overall quality of the Australian higher education system. This agency will accredit providers, evaluate the performance of institutions and programs, encourage best practice, simplify current regulatory arrangements and provide greater national consistency.

Participation, eligibility and access

Responsibility for quality assurance in higher education is currently shared between the Australian Government, states and territories and higher education institutions.

The Australian Government will be consulting extensively with states and territories and the higher education sector to ensure that the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency is able to cut through some of the regulatory complexity and red tape that currently exists. The Government will work closely with states, territories and the higher education sector in the development of the new agency and the new quality assurance framework.

Find out more at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Pages/TransformingAustraliasHESystem.aspx>

Performance funding

Policy responsibility

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Higher education is central to achieving the Government's vision of a stronger and fairer nation. The Government is proposing a landmark reform agenda for higher education and research that will transform the scale, potential and quality of the nation's universities, and open the doors to higher education to a new generation of Australians. From 2012, the Government will introduce at-risk performance funding for universities.

Universities will enter into an agreement with the Government to meet institutional performance targets for participation, attainment, engagement and quality, which will be based on measures that include outcomes for under-represented groups. Universities will receive performance funding if they meet these targets.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Government proposes to introduce mission-based compacts with each university. During compact negotiations, universities will negotiate individual performance targets against system-wide indicators of performance which will be developed in close consultation with the sector. The initiative will provide up to \$135 million each year from 2012.

Find out more at: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Pages/TransformingAustraliasHESystem.aspx>

Australian Postgraduate Awards

Program

Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

The Australian Postgraduate Awards program aim to support postgraduate research training in the higher education sector, and provide financial support to domestic postgraduate students of exceptional research promise who undertake their higher degree by research at an eligible Australian higher education provider.

Awards are available for a period of two years for a Masters by research degree or three years, with a possible extension of six months, for a Doctorate by research degree. Award holders receive an annual stipend and may also be eligible for other allowances.

Participation, eligibility and access

Eligible Higher Education Providers are granted Commonwealth funding for continuing and new awards each year under the Australian Postgraduate Awards program. These providers administer funds to students in the form of a stipend. The 2009 Australian Postgraduate Awards' stipend is \$20,427 for full time students and this amount will be increased to \$22,500 in the 2010 Academic year.

Find out more at: http://www.innovation.gov.au/Section/Research/Pages/australian_postgraduate_awards_scheme.aspx

Cooperative Research Centres Program

Program

Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

The Cooperative Research Centres Program aims to deliver significant economic, environmental and social benefits to Australia by supporting end-user driven research partnerships between publicly funded researchers and research end-users to address clearly articulated major challenges that require medium to long-term collaborative research efforts.

The Cooperative Research Centres are required to have an end-user focused education and training program which at least includes a PhD program. This PhD program must complement the centres' other research programs to build engagement, innovation and research and development capacity within end-users.

Participation, eligibility and access

Cooperative Research Centres are selected and established following a highly competitive merit-based selection process. While the Minister may call for applications at any time, typically applications close in July each year. Once a Cooperative Research Centre commences operations, it will also initiate its education and training program.

Find out more at: <https://www.crc.gov.au>

The Australian Centre for Child Protection

Program

Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

Reflecting increasing community concern about child abuse and neglect, the University of South Australia and the Australian Government have established the Australian Centre for Child Protection. Core funding for the first decade of operation is being provided by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research. The Centre aims to establish a program of research that will expand the knowledge base around identifying, preventing and responding to child abuse and neglect.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Centre for Child Protection is funded under the provisions of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* to carry out research into child protection issues.

Find out more at: <http://www.unisa.edu.au/childprotection/>

Research Training Scheme

Program

Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

The Research Training Scheme aims to enhance the quality of research training provision in Australia and improve the responsiveness of Higher Education Providers to the needs of their research students. The scheme also encourages higher education providers to develop their own research training profiles, and works to ensure the relevance of research degree programs to labour market requirements while improving the efficiency and effectiveness of research training.

Under the scheme, grants are provided to eligible higher education providers to support research training for students undertaking Doctorate and Masters degrees by research.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Research Training Scheme provides yearly block grants, on a calendar year basis, to eligible Higher Education Providers to support research training for students undertaking postgraduate research degrees.

Find out more at: <http://www.innovation.gov.au/Section/Research/Pages/ResearchTrainingScheme.aspx>

Commercialisation Training Scheme

Program

Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

The Commercialisation Training Scheme aims to provide high quality research commercialisation training for the next generation of Australian researchers. This will equip them with the skills, knowledge and experience necessary to bring research-based ideas, inventions and innovations to market.

Participation, eligibility and access

Australian Government funding is provided through annual block grants to participating Higher Education Providers, who are responsible for identifying and selecting high quality Australian higher degree by research students. All applications for Commercialisation Training Scheme support should be made directly to a participating Higher Education Provider.

Find out more at: <http://www.innovation.gov.au/Section/Research/Pages/Commercialisation.aspx>

Disability Support Program Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Disability Support Program provides funding to eligible universities to undertake activities that assist in removing barriers to access for domestic students with disabilities. The aim of the program is to promote access and participation in higher education by students with a disability. The program has three components:

- **Additional Support for Students with a Disability** provides funding support to eligible universities to assist with high costs incurred in providing educational support and equipment to domestic students with disabilities with high cost needs, and encourage efficient and effective use of equipment and resources to support students with disabilities. Eligible providers may claim reimbursement for high costs incurred in providing appropriate educational support and equipment.
- **Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training** provides funding to maintain a website which provides information and other resources designed to promote inclusive practices for people with a disability.
- **Performance-Based Disability Support funding** encourages universities to implement strategies to attract and support domestic students with disabilities. Payment under this component is made to providers once funds have been allocated for the Additional Support for Students with a Disability initiative and the Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training component. Allocations are based on calculations of the number of students with disabilities enrolled at each higher education provider, as well as the retention and success of those students.

Find out more at: http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher_education/programmes_funding/programme_categories/special_needs_disadvantage/higher_education_disability_support_program.htm

ABSTUDY

Income support

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The purpose of the ABSTUDY scheme is to address the particular educational disadvantages faced by Indigenous Australians. ABSTUDY provides a means-tested living allowance and a range of supplementary benefits for Indigenous students and Australian Apprentices, to help them take up and remain in education and training.

Participation, eligibility and access

Centrelink administers income support payments for ABSTUDY recipients on behalf of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

To qualify for ABSTUDY, students must be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent according to the ABSTUDY definition of Aboriginality, and an Australian citizen. They must be studying an approved course at an approved institution, or undertaking a full-time Australian Apprenticeship.

Recipients need to meet certain means tests including personal, partner and parental income tests and personal and family assets tests.

For more information and the most up to date eligibility requirements on ABSTUDY please see the website below.

Find out more at: <http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/abstudy.htm>

Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme is available to higher education institutions and provides funding for supplementary tuition to Indigenous students. The program provides funding where Indigenous students are studying university award level courses, or some specified Australian Qualifications Framework accredited vocational education training courses at Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme funded institutions. Tuition is available only for subjects in a student's formal education program and is not usually available for basic literacy, numeracy, enabling and bridging courses.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Government provides funding to eligible higher education and non-government vocational education and training institutions which manage the tutorial support arrangements for their eligible students.

Find out more at: http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/indigenous_education/policy_issues_reviews/indigenous_education_and_training_2005_2008.htm

International student exchange programs

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Australian Government's international student exchange programs encourage young Australians to immerse themselves in the social and academic cultures of other countries, and provide opportunities for international students to study in and experience Australia. The programs particularly support international students from within Australia's region.

The programs also seek to support Australian higher education providers in further developing and diversifying their linkages with counterpart institutions overseas.

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations provides funding to Australian higher education providers to subsidise the costs for students participating in international student exchange programs.

Participation, eligibility and access

There are open grant rounds held each year for funding under the international student exchange programs.

Find out more at: http://www.endeavour.deewr.gov.au/student_exchanges_new

AusAID Scholarship Program

Program

AusAID

The Australian Government's overseas aid program aims to increase access to, and improve the quality of, education and training for people in partner countries. The AusAID Scholarship Program provides assistance in conducting distance and higher education, as well as providing assistance to strengthen educational institutions. Scholarship holders come from the Asia-Pacific region and Africa. The scholarships provide opportunities in education, research and professional development which support growth in the region and help to build enduring links at the individual, institutional and country levels.

Participation, eligibility and access

The AusAID Scholarship Program incorporates a number of different scholarships. These include:

- Australian Development Scholarships which aim to strengthen human resource capacity in Australia's partner countries to contribute to long-term development needs and promote greater stability within the Asia-Pacific region
- Australian Leadership Awards which aim to develop leadership, build partnerships and links, and address priority issues in the Asia-Pacific region. Australian Leadership Awards comprise both scholarships and fellowships.

Find out more at:

<http://www.ausaid.gov.au/scholar/default.cfm>

Endeavour Awards

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Endeavour Awards is the name given to the Australian Government's internationally competitive, merit-based scholarship program which provides opportunities for citizens of the Asia-Pacific, Middle East, Europe and the Americas to undertake study, research and professional development in Australia. Awards are also available for Australians to do the same abroad.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations administers the Endeavour Research Fellowships, Endeavour Research Fellowships for Indigenous Australians, Endeavour Cheung Kong Research Fellowships and the Prime Minister's Australia Asia Endeavour Awards.

Find out more at:

<http://www.endeavour.deewr.gov.au>

Prime Minister's Australia Asia Endeavour Awards

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Prime Minister's Australia Asia Endeavour Awards provide scholarships for the best and brightest university students from Australia and Asia. The awards offer postgraduates and undergraduates the unique opportunity to undertake not only international study and research, but also internships or work placements. The awards aim to build deep and enduring education and professional linkages between Australia and Asia. They also provide an opportunity for Australian universities and the Australian Government to work in partnership to identify and reward high calibre scholars.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Prime Minister's Australia Asia Endeavour Awards are administered by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. Funding is distributed through an annual application process.

Find out more at:

http://www.endeavour.deewr.gov.au/PMs_Awards/

Australian Learning and Teaching Council grants, awards and fellowships

Grants, awards and fellowships

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Australian Learning and Teaching Council manages a suite of grants, awards and fellowship programs designed to enhance the quality of learning and teaching in Australian universities. This has significant benefits for young people who may be studying at university, because it supports universities to work strategically to improve learning outcomes.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Learning and Teaching Council promotes and advances higher education teaching and learning through competitive grants, awards and fellowships.

Find out more at: www.altc.edu.au

Away from Base

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Away from Base program provides funding to eligible higher education and Vocational Education and Training institutions to meet the travel costs of eligible students or staff members who are required to be away from their normal place of residence as part of a 'mixed-mode' course of study. This includes funding for fares, meals and accommodation. A 'mixed-mode' course is a nationally accredited course that is delivered through a combination of distance education and face-to-face teaching for students who are based in their home communities and undertake occasional intensive study periods on campus.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Government provides funding to eligible higher education and Vocational Education and Training institutions which manage the travel arrangements for their eligible students.

Find out more at: http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/indigenous_education/policy_issues_reviews/indigenous_education_and_training_2005_2008.htm

Year in Industry

Program

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation's Year in Industry program offers students studying science, engineering, information technology or business courses full-time industrial experience placements for up to 12 months. This program is open to university students in their second last year of study.

Participation, eligibility and access

The program is delivered directly by Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation. Students may apply for the program where industrial practice is a mandatory part of their studies or where it is an elective subject.

Find out more at: http://www.ansto.gov.au/discovering_ansto/careers_at_ansto/intership_program

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation vacation study

Program

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation offers university students in their second last year of study the opportunity to participate in a 10 week industrial experience over the summer vacation period. Opportunities exist across the organisation for students studying science, engineering, information technology or business. Experienced professional, research or technical officers work with students throughout their placement.

Participation, eligibility and access

The program is delivered directly by the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation. Students may apply for the program where industrial practice is a mandatory part of their studies or where it is an elective subject.

Find out more at: http://www.ansto.gov.au/discovering_ansto/careers_at_ansto/internship_program

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation Graduate Development Program

Program

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation's Graduate Development Program is open to applicants with qualifications in an engineering or science-related field. The program is designed to encourage graduates to consider a career in the nuclear sciences and provides hands-on exposure to nuclear research and science. This is an important program because nuclear-specific science and engineering degrees are scarce in Australian universities. The program began in 2008 and graduates are now in their second year of the program.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Graduate Development Program includes two phases. The first is delivered directly by the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation. The second phase provides opportunities for partnerships with other organisations and agencies within and outside Australia.

Find out more at: http://www.ansto.gov.au/discovering_ansto/careers_at_ansto/pathway_programs.

Office of the Chief Executive Postgraduate Scholarship Program

Program

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

The CSIRO's Office of the Chief Executive Postgraduate Scholarship Program provides opportunities in science and engineering for outstanding graduates who enrol at Australian tertiary institutions as full-time postgraduate students. Graduates who receive the scholarship must be engaged in research which leads to the award of a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

Students undertaking a doctorate with CSIRO have access to world-class facilities and work alongside Australia's leading research scientists. PhD students at CSIRO are co-supervised by a university, allowing students to maintain and develop their university connections while being exposed to research in a working environment.

Participation, eligibility and access

CSIRO offers top-up and full scholarships through both the Postgraduate Scholarship Program and the National Research Flagships Program. Scholarships are available throughout the year and are advertised nationally in major newspapers and on CSIRO's Positions Vacant section of the website.

Find out more at: <http://www.csiro.au>.

Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme

Initiative/Scheme

Department of Health and Ageing

The Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme provides financial support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people studying one of the health-related disciplines listed below.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme is delivered nationally through a funding agreement with the Royal College of Nursing Australia.

Scholarships are offered to students of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent who are pursuing a course of study (or are intending to study) at either TAFE or university level in the following health related disciplines:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health worker (certificate IV and above)
- Alcohol and other drugs
- Allied health
- Dental/oral health
- Enrolled nursing
- Health service management
- Health promotion/prevention
- Medicine
- Mental health, and
- Registered nursing.

Please Note: Pharmacy students are not eligible for places in this scheme although there is a complementary program funded by the Department of Health and Ageing through the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Applications for the Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme are advertised annually, usually in June. Once advertised, application forms are available for download from the Royal College of Nursing Australia website.

Find out more at: www.rcna.org.au
scholarships@rcna.org.au
 Freecall: 1800 688 628

Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship Scheme

Scheme

Department of Health and Ageing

A range of nursing and allied health scholarship and support programs have been consolidated into one program as part of a 2009-10 Budget measure. These programs include the:

- Nurse Scholarship Program
- Rural Allied Health Undergraduate Scholarship Scheme
- Australian Rural and Remote Health Professional Scholarship Scheme
- Allied Health Clinical Placement Scholarships
- Retraining Scholarships for More Practice Nurses and Allied Health Workers in Metropolitan Areas
- Mental Health Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme.

This consolidation will assist scholarship applicants by making program design more consistent and delivery arrangements more efficient.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship Scheme is a national scholarship program, open to a broad range of health professional trainees and practitioners.

Find out more at:

<http://www.health.gov.au>

Skilling Australia Defence Industry Program

Program

Defence Materiel Organisation

The Skilling Australia Defence Industry Program aims to address the significant shortfall in workforce skills available to the defence industry to ensure that the Australian Defence Force has the capabilities it needs to defend Australia and its national interests. The program aims to:

1. Generate additional skilled positions,
2. Upskill exiting employees, and

Improve the quality and quantity of skills training in defence industries.

Participation, eligibility and access

The program is delivered by Defence Materiel Organisation—Industry Division (DMO). To be eligible for SADI funding a business must have an existing Defence contract or be able to prove a direct link to Defence projects. A business may also be eligible if they are able to demonstrate that they will be tendering for Defence work within 12 months of undertaking their nominated training.

While the SADI program targets a wide area of Australia's defence industry, its scope extends to apprenticeship and traineeship programs to support the generation of additional skilled positions.

Eligible applicants share funding responsibilities with the DMO. Funding is based on a reimbursement arrangement, received once the training has been undertaken. Contract administration and training completion are the responsibility of each organisation.

Find out more at:

www.defence.gov.au/dmo/id/sadi/index.cfm

National Film and Sound Archive Internship Program

Program

National Film and Sound Archive

The National Film and Sound Archive Internship Program supports final year and postgraduate students from Australian and overseas tertiary institutions in carrying out specific research projects relating to the archive's collections and programs, including Australia's historic and contemporary moving image and recorded sound.

Participation, eligibility and access

The National Film and Sound Archive Internship Program is delivered by the National Film and Sound Archive.

Find out more at: http://www.nfsa.gov.au/about_us/sar/internship-program.html.

Information services

Service

National Library of Australia

The National Library offers a range of information services including AskNow, which is a virtual reference service, as well as sessions on research skills, mapping and visual literacy, plays, art and poetry competitions.

Participation, eligibility and access

These information services are managed by staff at the National Library of Australia.

Find out more at: <http://www.asknow.gov.au/>
<http://www.nla.gov.au/education/tours.html>

Public programs

Program

National Museum of Australia

The National Museum of Australia develops and delivers a range of public programs to school-aged children during each school holiday period. Each set of programs is developed uniquely for each school holidays and may relate to the theme of the major temporary exhibition at the museum at the time, or relate to key aspects of the museum's extensive collection.

Participation, eligibility and access

These programs are offered to all children who visit the museum during school holidays.

Find out more at: www.nma.gov.au

Language, Literacy and Numeracy Program

Program

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Language, Literacy and Numeracy Program provides language, literacy and numeracy training for eligible job seekers whose skills are below the level considered necessary to secure sustainable employment or pursue further education and training. The Language, Literacy and Numeracy Program is available to people aged between 15 and 64 who are registered job seekers. Permanent residents whose first language is not English are also able to participate whether they receive income support or not (Visa conditions apply).

Participation, eligibility and access

Language, Literacy and Numeracy training services are delivered by Registered Training Organisations, including community and not-for-profit organisations, which are selected via a competitive tender process.

Find out more at: <http://www.llnp.deewr.gov.au/>

Indigenous Entry Level Recruitment Programme

Program

Australian Public Service Commission

The Indigenous Entry Level Recruitment Programme is a trainee development program designed to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians employed in the Australian Public Service. It looks to provide a pathway to employment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who may not hold formal qualifications or a working background relevant to employment in the public service.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Indigenous Entry Level Recruitment Programme is administered by the Australian Public Service Commission.

Find out more at: <http://www.apsc.gov.au/indigenoucareers/apprenticesandtrainees.htm>

Indigenous Graduate Programme

Program

Australian Public Service Commission

The Indigenous Graduate Recruitment Programme is part of the Australian Public Service Indigenous Employment Strategy. It is designed to increase the recruitment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island graduates to the Australian Public Service.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Indigenous Graduate Recruitment Programme is administered by the Australian Public Service Commission.

Find out more at: <http://www.apsc.gov.au/publiccalling/index.html>

Indigenous Cadetship Program

Program

Australian Public Service Commission

The Indigenous Cadetship Program is part of the Australian Public Service Indigenous Employment Strategy. It is designed to increase the recruitment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island applicants to the Australian Public Service. Indigenous cadets are offered a combination of full-time study and work placement.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Indigenous Cadetship Program is administered by the Australian Public Service in partnership with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations' National Indigenous Cadetship Project.

Find out more at:

<http://www.apsc.gov.au/publiccalling/index.html>

Graduate program

Program

Geoscience Australia

Geoscience Australia offers a year-long Graduate Program, with participants undertaking three rotations in different areas of the organisation. Two of the rotations are expected to be outside the participants' areas of expertise to encourage flexibility, scientific growth and versatility. The participants are also provided with an intensive Learning and Development Program to enhance their project management, presentation, writing and scientific skills. The program commences in January or February each year.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Graduate Program is delivered by the Graduate Coordinator within Geoscience Australia.

Find out more at:

<http://www.ga.gov.au/jobs/graduate/>

Adult Migrant English Program

Program

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

The Adult Migration Education Program is a national settlement program that provides English language tuition for eligible migrants and humanitarian entrants who do not have functional English. Functional English training assists migrants to settle successfully in Australia and provides the basic language skills necessary to deal with everyday social and work situations. The Adult Migrant English Program offers up to 510 hours of free English language tuition to eligible adult permanent migrants and humanitarian entrants. Eligibility may also extend to vulnerable youth aged 16 to 18 where there is no English as a second language place for them in the government school system.

Additional tuition is available through the Special Preparatory Program to humanitarian entrants with low levels of schooling or who have had difficult pre-migration experiences, such as torture and or trauma.

The Adult Migrant English Program is delivered nationally by 13 service providers with learning centres in more than 250 locations.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Adult Migrant English Program is delivered by 13 service providers and clients may choose from a range of learning options. These include full or part-time classroom tuition in formal or community-based settings, a distance learning course for clients to learn at home, with curriculum materials specifically designed for out-of-classroom learning supported by regular telephone contact with a qualified teacher, or the Home Tutor Scheme which provides language assistance by a trained volunteer, usually on a one-to-one basis, in the client's home.

Find out more at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/help-with-english/amep/>

Stepping Into Program

Program

Department of Defence

The Stepping Into program is an internship designed specifically for final-year tertiary students with a disability. The program provides 4 to 8 weeks of paid practical work experience for students who might otherwise face significant barriers to finding employment. Placements are available in areas including law, accounting, human resources, information technology and marketing.

Participation, eligibility and access

The program is coordinated by the Australian Employers' Network on Disability in conjunction with participating employers. The Department of Defence is a participating employer.

Find out more at: <http://www.aend.org.au>

A productive and sustainable Australia

The Australian Government has a role to create a sustainable, prosperous and fair Australia, with a strong economy, good health, sustainable living and prosperity for all Australians.

The global nature of today's world means that for continued and sustainable economic productivity, Australia needs to engage effectively with the broader world. This requires a knowledgeable and broad thinking population which is able to successfully negotiate a global world.

Australian Government activities which support a productive and sustainable Australia encompass a wide range of areas including environment, business and trade.

Youth-specific activities

Activities included in this section are those Australian Government activities directed specifically at young people aged between 12 and 25 years. Where activities are targeted at young people slightly outside this age bracket (e.g. 15 to 28) they are also considered youth specific.

Think Climate, Think Change Schools Competition

Competition

Department of Climate Change

The Australian Government Department of Climate Change is acting early to deliver a comprehensive and integrated suite of climate change policies and programs, built around three pillars: reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to the climate change we cannot avoid, and helping to shape a global solution.

To help young people understand and combat climate change, and to share their ideas, the Australian Government Department of Climate Change hosted the Think Climate, Think Change Schools Competition. Students enrolled in Australian schools and home-schools in grades 3 to 9 were asked to use their creative talents to answer the question, 'What does climate change mean to me?' Entries could be submitted in the form of short stories, rap lyrics or artwork.

A national winner, two runners-up and three highly commended entries were chosen from each category and announced by the Minister for Climate Change and Water and the Deputy Prime Minister at an awards ceremony in Canberra on Wednesday 12 August 2009.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Climate Change worked closely with an external education material development agency to create and distribute all material relating to the Think Climate, Think Change Schools Competition. Hard copy education resource packs containing competition information, entry forms and fast facts on climate change were sent to 11500 primary and secondary schools across Australia.

To be eligible, students must attend an Australian school or home school in grades 3 to 9, and enter as part of their class. Competition entries must be signed by a parent or guardian and submitted in the format prescribed in the terms and conditions of entry.

Competition details, entry forms and accompanying educational resource material are available on the website below.

Find out more at:

<http://www.forteachersforstudents.com.au/ClimateChange/>

CarbonKids

Program

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

CarbonKids is a school curriculum program currently in pilot phase, which aims to increase knowledge of climate change and promote individual actions by young people, teachers and the community. CarbonKids also includes the planting of trees and shrubs to demonstrate the value of biosequestration.

Participation, eligibility and access

This program is delivered directly by CSIRO with funding support of the pilot program from Shell.

Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative

Initiative

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative provides a framework for education for sustainability activities in schools and complements existing programs. It engages students, staff and members of the community in improving the management of their schools' resources and facilities—including energy, water, waste, biodiversity, landscape design, products and materials, and associated social and economic issues—and seeks to integrate these activities across the curriculum.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative is coordinated nationally by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and is implemented in schools by the states and territories in accordance with their education systems.

Find out more at:

www.environment.gov.au/education/aussi

Reef HQ Aquarium education programs

Program

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Reef HQ Aquarium is the world's largest living coral reef aquarium and the national education centre for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Through the provision of educational and informational services relating to the marine park, Reef HQ Aquarium ensures the community and stakeholders have a clear understanding of the value of the Great Barrier Reef, the threats to its sustainable future and their role in protecting it. Reef HQ Aquarium achieves this by providing world class living exhibits complemented by thematic and interactive educational experiences, which help to influence perceptions and promote environmentally appropriate behaviours. Age-specific Reef Education programs are targeted at youth.

Participation, eligibility and access

Reef HQ Aquarium's education programs are delivered directly by staff of The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is a Statutory Authority of the Australian Government and this program is funded through departmental appropriation from the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

Find out more at:

<http://www.reefhq.com.au/home>

<http://www.reefed.edu.au/home/reefhq>

<http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/>

Reef Guardian Schools Program

Program

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

The Reef Guardian Schools Program is an action based education program designed to engage young people in active environmental projects and initiatives. The program aims to foster awareness of best environmental practices within current and future reef users from an early age. The program develops partnerships with other government agencies, industry and community groups to deliver positive environmental outcomes and fosters stewardship among communities to help promote sustainable actions for the future of the Great Barrier Reef.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Reef Guardian Schools Program includes professional development for teachers, youth-based environmental eco challenges and educational products such as ReefBeat. The program also includes the distribution of \$20,000 in prizes to schools to support the continual development and implementation of Reef Guardian projects.

Find out more at: <http://www.reefed.edu.au>
<http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au>

Primary Industries Education Foundation

Program

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

The Primary Industries Education Foundation was established as a partnership between industry, government and education bodies.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Primary Industries Education Foundation promotes knowledge of primary industries and the available career choices by coordinating national activities in schools and providing quality resources for educators. Its membership includes the Australian Government, the National Farmers' Federation, Meat and Livestock Australia, the National Association of Agricultural Educators, the Australian Council of Deans (Agriculture) and Tocal College.

Find out more at: <http://www.primaryindustrieseducation.com.au/>

Austrade Education Programs—Exporting for the future

Program

Austrade

The Austrade Education Programs aim to increase community awareness of global business opportunities and issues through leadership in communities of teaching and learning practice. Austrade also provides a wide range of teaching and learning resources for university lecturers, school teachers, students and potential exporters. A variety of resources is available for use at home or in the classroom, including streamed video and audio clips, books, case studies, posters and activity sheets, web quests, market research information and overseas country fact sheets. These resources are available for download from the website and selected hardcopies are also available free of charge to teachers and university lecturers.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Austrade Education Programs are delivered by Austrade. Austrade mails resources directly to over 6,000 educators registered with the Education Programs Unit. The resources are designed for teachers to use in facilitating lessons, and students may also access the teaching resources electronically via the web site.

Find out more at: <http://www.austrade.gov.au/Student-centre/default.aspx>

The Young Professionals Program - Council on Australian-Arab Relations (CAAR) The Young Professionals Program

Program

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The Young Professionals Program, run by the Council on Australian-Arab Relations, provides opportunities for young Arab and Australian business people and/or university students to learn more about each other's contemporary society and business environment.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provides funding to the Council on Australian-Arab Relations. The council aims to promote mutual interests and a greater understanding between the peoples of Australia and the Arab world, and acceptance of each other's cultures, values, beliefs and diversity.

Find out more at: <http://www.dfat.gov.au/caar/index.html>

CSIRO Discovery—SPICE (Students Participating in Community Enterprises)

Service

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

CSIRO Discovery participates in the SPICE program. This program places students who are having difficulty connecting with their schools within a work experience placement of their choice. The combined support of a work placement, a business mentor and a volunteer home tutor reinforces the need for students to complete Year 10. This enables students to access individual career pathways and to make positive choices for their future.

Participation, eligibility and access

The SPICE program is an initiative of the Australian Capital Territory Government. CSIRO Discovery is a participating workplace.

Find out more at: <http://www.spice.org.au/index.asp>

Re-Engineering Australia Foundation

Program

Defence Materiel Organisation

The Defence Materiel Organisation is a national sponsor of the Re-Engineering Australia Foundation (REA). REA provides challenging educational programs in the areas of engineering and design with a focus on science, maths and technology. The Defence Materiel Organisation is involved in specific REA activities that promote engineering and project management as career paths among Australian high school students.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Defence Materiel Organisation works in partnership with a range of organisations to support the REA in delivering these activities.

Find out more at: www.rea.org.au

Creativity in Science and Technology Awards program(CREST)

Program

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

CSIRO's CreREativity in Science and Technology (CREST) Awards program encourages and supports students to choose, organise and undertake their own open-ended science or technology projects.

The awards are not a competition, but a program which focuses on the individual and encourages success and the development of skills as students pursue a topic of interest to them. It is for all students and can be offered to whole classes as part of the curriculum. The program provides a range of support material which encourages teachers to introduce and support open-ended work in their classrooms.

Participation, eligibility and access

The CREST program is available across Australia, and resources for the program are developed by the CSIRO. To participate in the program schools must register with the CREST office and pay the registration fee, details of which are available from the website below. Membership of the CREST program also includes personal advice and support for schools from the National CREST Office.

Find out more at: <http://www.csiro.au/resources/CrestAwards.html>

Non youth-specific activities

Activities included in this section are Australian Government activities that are targeted at the general population, but have a significant impact on the 12 to 25 age group, either through a high participation rate or through a direct impact on education, health, family and living situations.

Caring for our Country

Initiative

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Caring for our Country is an Australian Government initiative that seeks to achieve an environment that is healthy, protected, well managed and resilient. The initiative provides essential ecosystem services in a changing climate by focusing on six national priority areas: the National Reserve System, biodiversity and natural icons, coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats, sustainable farm practices, natural resource management in northern and remote Australia, and community skills, knowledge and engagement.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Caring for our Country initiative is delivered through cooperative arrangements with the states and territories and regional organisations as well as other groups and organisations that make submissions for funding through a competitive bid process.

Find out more at:

www.nrm.gov.au

Australia's Farming Future

Program

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Australia's Farming Future is the Australian Government's main climate change program for primary industries. The Community Networks and Capability Building component of the initiative focuses on increasing the leadership and representative capacity of certain target groups, including young people, to strengthen primary industry productivity and build rural, regional and remote community resilience to a changing climate.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Australia's Farming Future program is delivered through discretionary grants, projects, sponsorships, forums, and training and mentoring activities. Proposals may be called for annually, or in response to emerging issues.

Find out more at:

http://www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/australias-farming-future/community_networks_and_capacity_building

Collaborative Partnership for Farming and Fishing Health and Safety

Program

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

The Collaborative Partnership for Farming and Fishing Health and Safety invests in research and development to improve the physical and mental health of farming and fishing workers and their families, and improve the safety of the environment and work practices in farming and fishing industries. Projects are either commissioned by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation or by an open call process.

Participation, eligibility and access

The core partners in the delivery of this are the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, the Grains Research and Development Corporation, the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, the Sugar Research and Development Corporation and the Cotton Research and Development Corporation.

Find out more at:

www.rirdc.gov.au

Resilient Communities Program—Rural Leadership and Learning— included in the RIRDC Resilient Communities Program

Program

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation's Resilient Communities Program includes a focus on Rural Leadership and Learning. This program provides a range of leadership support activities include the Rural Women's Award, an undergraduate and postgraduate scholarship program, the Australian Rural Leadership Program, Heywire (primary sponsor is the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) and the Young Scientists Award (primary sponsor is Bureau of Research Sciences). The program's learning stream includes the Corporation's research and development program.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Resilient Communities Program is delivered by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation.

Find out more at:

http://www.rirdc.gov.au/programs/national-rural-issues/rirdc-leadership-program/rirdc-leadership-program_home.cfm

Provision of current weather, climate and water information

Service

Bureau of Meteorology

The availability of weather, climate and water information may have a significant influence on young people's ability to make decisions in relation to aspects of their lives that are affected by environmental conditions. These range from long-term decisions such as whether to relocate to another part of Australia for employment, to more immediate decisions such as those about involvement in outdoor activities. Information such as weather forecasts and climate statistics can play a vital role in informing young people's decisions on a range of timescales.

Participation, eligibility and access

Current weather, climate and water information is delivered directly by the Bureau of Meteorology.

Find out more at: www.bom.gov.au

Education

Service

Bureau of Meteorology

The Bureau of Meteorology has a role in educating young people about the nature of weather and climate, and in particular about Australia's climate and the natural hazards encountered in Australia. The Bureau also provides educational material which helps teachers and young people to understand the impacts of natural hazards that occur in their geographic area and hence cope more effectively during hazards such as severe thunderstorms and tropical cyclones.

While the Bureau of Meteorology recognises young people as learners, it is also clear that children, particularly in primary school, are strong influencers of their parents in coping with natural hazards. In recognition of this, the bureau has developed some more innovative public education approaches including the production of an online game called Stormwatchers which aims to increase cyclone awareness among children. This game was developed in association with several other Australian and state-based agencies.

Participation, eligibility and access

Education programs are directly delivered by the Bureau of Meteorology.

Find out more at: www.bom.gov.au

Jobs Fund**Policy responsibility**

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

The Jobs Fund aims to produce long-term improvements in communities affected by the global economic recession. This is a new initiative to support and create jobs and increase skills through innovative projects that build community infrastructure and increase social capital in communities across the country. Through the Jobs Fund, the Government will invest in one-off capital projects and provide seed funding for social enterprises. The Jobs Fund is a joint Government initiative consisting of three streams: the \$300 million Local Jobs stream, the \$200 million Get Communities Working stream and the \$150 million Infrastructure Employment Projects stream.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Jobs Fund first called for proposals on 22 May 2009. \$100 million was available in this first call for proposals under the Local Jobs and Get Communities Working streams. Funding is in the form of one-off grants for projects up to \$2 million and ready to commence from July 2009.

Find out more at:<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/Pages/JobsFund.aspx>**Local Employment Coordinators****Program**

Department of Education, Employment, and Workplace Relations

The Prime Minister has announced \$20 million for the engagement of Local Employment Coordinators in regions most affected by job losses. These coordinators will work directly with local government, business, and community organisations to help ensure that new national training programs are being properly delivered and identify and develop projects that might be funded through the Jobs Fund. The coordinators will also work to ensure that local infrastructure programs are being implemented in the best way possible to maximise local employment, and that new projects are brought forward.

Participation, eligibility and access

Local Employment Coordinators are located in nine priority areas:

- Canterbury-Bankstown and South Western Sydney
- The Illawarra, south of Sydney
- Ipswich-Logan in Queensland
- North and Western Adelaide
- South Eastern Melbourne
- South West Perth
- Northern Tasmania
- Richmond-Tweed and Clarence Valley
- Mid North Coast of NSW.

Find out more at:<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/Pages/JobsFund.aspx>

Workforce Innovation Program

Program

Department of Education, Employment, and Workplace Relations

The Workforce Innovation Program supports innovative industry-led pilot projects that help industry bodies and training organisations collaborate to apply workforce development solutions to meet labour and skills needs. It also supports projects which encourage workers to become more productive and pursue their career aspirations. The program is designed to assist industry stakeholders in increasing productivity by piloting workforce development solutions that help them innovate and better utilise emerging technologies and processes.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Workforce Innovation Program opens grant rounds on an ad hoc basis. Proposals for funding under the Workforce Innovation Program may be submitted to the program's mailbox at any time.

Find out more at: www.deewr.gov.au/wip

Business-School Connections

Initiative/Scheme

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

In response to the 2020 Summit proposal of 'a coordinated partnership program between Australia's top 200 public and private organisations and our schools, which could also include universities, research agencies and vocational education and training institutions' (Australia 2020 Summit Final Report, p.12), the Australian Government is considering a Business-School Connections Roundtable. The roundtable would consist of a small number of leaders from business who have demonstrated their commitment and expertise in supporting school communities. They would be charged with developing a practical strategy to foster more partnerships between schools and business.

Participation, eligibility and access

The delivery mechanism of the Business-School Connections initiative is yet to be determined.

Jobs Fund—heritage projects

Program

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Australian Government has committed \$60 million to heritage projects, as part of its \$650 million Jobs Fund overseen by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. This funding will be used to support high priority heritage projects while also generating jobs and providing economic stimulus, particularly in regional areas.

Participation, eligibility and access

Applications for this one-year program are received through a targeted and public call. All applications are assessed against Jobs Fund gateway and heritage criteria, which look at the location of projects in areas experiencing high or increased unemployment or economic vulnerability, and the delivery of positive heritage outcomes including ongoing direct and indirect social and economic benefits in the community. The capacity of the projects to create training opportunities is also assessed.

Find out more at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/programs/jobs-fund/index.html>

National Arts and Crafts Industry Support program

Program

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The National Arts and Crafts Industry Support program provides direct funding support to Indigenous art centres and art support and advocacy organisations. The program's overall objectives are to assist art centres to become stronger and to build a more sustainable Indigenous visual arts industry.

Participation, eligibility and access

The National Arts and Craft Industry Support program is delivered nationally through Indigenous Coordination Centres located in metropolitan and regional locations around the country.

Find out more at:

<http://www.arts.gov.au/indigenous/NACIS>

Australia-Japan Foundation

Program

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The Australia-Japan Foundation is a bilateral foundation which works to strengthen the relationship between Australia and Japan across a broad range of sectors including education, culture and business.

The Australia-Japan Foundation has identified youth activities as a potential area of interest in its annual Business Plan. The Foundation actively encourages grant applications from individuals and youth organisations which support its strategic objectives, including increasing understanding of the shared interests of Australia and Japan.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provides funding to the Australia-Japan Foundation. Programs are delivered by successful grant applications.

Find out more at:

<http://www.ajf.australia.or.jp/english/aboutajf/>

Council on Australian-Latin America Relations

Program

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The Council on Australian-Latin America Relations supports projects which illustrate Australia as a competitive and quality provider of education, and a source of relevant research and innovation for institutions in Latin America. The council supports a range of projects, including the Australia Latin America Leadership Program. This program brings together 36 highly skilled mid-career managers and officials from Australia and Latin America who work within the business, government, trade union, education, arts and the community service sectors, for a practical and intensive leadership program which runs over 12 days.

Participation, eligibility and access

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provides funding for the Council on Australian-Latin American Relations. The council administers this funding to support competitively selected projects that seek to enhance Australia's economic, political and social relations with Latin America.

Find out more at:

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/coalar/>

Contact details

Agency	Website	Contact Number
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	http://www.daff.gov.au/	+61 2 6272 3933
Attorney-General's Department	http://www.ag.gov.au/	+61 2 6141 6666
Australia Council	http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/	1800 226 912
Australian Bureau of Statistics	http://www.abs.gov.au/	1300 135 070
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	http://www.accc.gov.au/	1300 302 502
Australian Communications and Media Authority	www.acma.gov.au	+ 61 2 6219 5555
Australian Human Rights Commission	http://www.hreoc.gov.au/	1300 369 711
Australian Institute of Family Studies	http://www.aifs.gov.au/	+ 61 3 9214 7888
Australian Law Reform Commission	http://www.alrc.gov.au/	+ 61 2 8238 6333
Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation	http://www.ansto.gov.au/	+ 61 2 9717 3111
Australian Public Service Commission	http://www.apsc.gov.au/	+ 61 2 6202 3500
Australian Securities and Investments Commission	http://www.asic.gov.au/	+ 61 3 5177 3988
Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy	http://www.dbcde.gov.au/	+ 61 2 6271 1000
Bureau of Meteorology	http://www.bom.gov.au/	+ 61 3 9669 4000
Centrelink	http://www.centrelink.gov.au/	1800 050 004
Department of Climate Change	http://www.climatechange.gov.au/	+ 61 2 6159 7000
CRS Australia	http://www.crsaustalia.gov.au/	1800 277 277
CSIRO	http://www.csiro.au/	1300 363 400
Department of Defence	http://www.defence.gov.au/	+ 61 2 6265 9111

Agency	Website	Contact Number
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations	http://www.deewr.gov.au/	1300 363 079
Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts	http://www.environment.gov.au/	+ 61 2 6274 1111
Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency	http://www.eowa.gov.au/	+ 61 2 9448 8500
Fair Work Australia	http://www.fwa.gov.au/	1300 799 675
Fair Work Ombudsman	http://www.fwo.gov.au/	13 13 94
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs	http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/	1300 653 227
Department of Finance and Deregulation	http://www.finance.gov.au/	+61 2 6215 2222
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	http://www.dfat.gov.au/	+61 2 6261 1111
Department of Health and Ageing	http://www.health.gov.au/	+61 2 6289 1555
Department of Human Services	http://www.humanservices.gov.au/	+61 2 6223 4000
Department of Immigration and Citizenship	http://www.immi.gov.au/	131 881
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government	http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/	+61 2 6274 7111
Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research	http://www.innovation.gov.au/	+61 2 6213 6000
IP Australia	http://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/	1300 65 1010
Medicare	http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/	+61 2 6124 6333
National Archives of Australia	http://www.naa.gov.au/	+ 61 2 6212 3600
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	http://www.pmc.gov.au/	+ 61 2 6271 5111

Agency	Website	Contact Number
Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health	http://www.health.gov.au/oatsih	+61 2 6289 1555
Office of the Privacy Commissioner	http://www.privacy.gov.au/	1300 363 992
Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism	http://www.ret.gov.au/	+61 2 6276 1000
Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation	http://www.rirdc.gov.au/	+61 2 6271 4100
Treasury	http://www.treasury.gov.au/	+61 2 6263 2111

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