Introduction

The transition from school to adult life presents young people with a wide range of options including further education, employment, vocational training, volunteering and other community-based activities.

For many young people about to leave school, these options can also present challenges such as:

- understanding what is involved with each option
- thinking about what the options might mean for the future
- finding out how to access the option.

Some young people with a disability will require additional support to work through these issues and make decisions about what post-school option(s) would best suit their personal circumstances.

Young people who have disability support needs may find it difficult to access these options in the short or longer term and may need funded support from the Department of Health & Human Services.

Planning for life after school

Planning for life after school should start as early as possible during your secondary school years to ensure that you have sufficient time to explore and consider the options available to you.

This planning should be directed by you to the greatest extent possible and should involve talking to teachers and careers advisors about the different sorts of things you may like to try when you leave school.

The Department of Education & Training’s Strengthened Pathways Planning approach supports the career development of young people with disabilities via a suite of customised resources.


The Department of Health & Human Services has developed a guide to post school options, called Exploring the Possibilities. It is a good starting point to help think about the range of options available.


Who can receive funded post-school transition support?

You may be able to receive funded post-school transition support if you:

- are a permanent resident of Victoria
- are 18 years of age before 31 December in the year they are leaving school
- have been in receipt of support through the Department of Education & Training’s Program for Students with Disabilities or equivalent in the Catholic and independent sectors in your final year of school
- have a disability as defined under Section 3 of the Disability Act 2006
- require support in addition to that available through further education, employment and other community programs.

For more information regarding eligibility requirements please refer to Transition support for young people with a disability leaving school: a handbook.
What transition support is available?

**Futures for Young Adults**

Transition support is available through Futures for Young Adults if you meet the criteria above.

Futures for Young Adults provides time limited support to develop the skills you need to access further education, training or employment, or to participate in community activities.

You don’t have to apply for Futures for Young Adults as soon as you leave school. You can have a go at getting a job or enrolling in further education first.

If you find that this does not work out for you, you can still receive support from Futures for Young Adults up until the end of the year you turn 21.

**Transition to Employment**

If you meet the criteria above, Transition to Employment can support you to get a job if you are not yet ready to move into employment or receive assistance through a Disability Employment Service or Job Services Australia program.

Transition to Employment can help you with things like:
- assisting you to plan and set employment related goals
- identifying your work skills and any areas where you need more training
- arranging and supporting you to participate in work placements
- providing or arranging on-the-job training and support
- supporting you to be independent in getting to and from work and being at work
- helping you to develop life skills that are important in the workplace such as good personal hygiene, dressing correctly and so on.

**Transition to Employment** can provide up to 24 months assistance.

**Applying for transition support**

To be considered for transition support, you will need to lodge a Transition support for young people with a disability leaving school: application form.

The application form asks for information about your disability support needs, any supports you may currently have and any career planning that has already been done.

This information helps the department to understand the post-school support that would help you with your transition from school to adult life.

You can ask your school, family, case manager or other supporters to help with completing and submitting the application to the department.

The application form can be downloaded from the Department of Health & Human Services’ website (details at the end of this information sheet).

**For more information**

If you are still at school, you should speak to your school teacher or careers advisor.

If you have already left school, you can call the Department of Health & Human Services on 1800 783 783 or TTY 1800 008 149.

The department’s website contains information about transition support: www.dhs.vic.gov.au

To receive this publication in an accessible format phone 1800 783 783 using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required.

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

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