

Stepping Forward – improving pathways for all young people

Checklist for New Initiatives

This checklist is designed to help you if you are a policy maker or a service provider planning a new initiative to support young people. It is intended to ensure that initiatives aimed at supporting young people's transitions build on and complement each other. The checklist was created by the Transition from School Taskforce of the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) to be a practical guide to implementing the *Stepping Forward – improving pathways for all young people* Ministerial Declaration.

The *Stepping Forward – improving pathways for all young people* declaration was signed by ministers for Education, Employment, Training, Youth Affairs and Community Services from the Commonwealth and all States and Territories. The declaration commits ministers to working together to develop practical ways to increase the social, educational and employment outcomes of Australia's young people. <http://www.curriculum.edu.au/mceetya/forward/index.htm>

To complement the declaration, a national stocktake was made of initiatives supporting vulnerable young people. It has been published on the Internet under the title *Stepping Forward – sharing what works*, <http://www.curriculum.edu.au/mceetya/stepping/index.htm>.

Education and training as the foundation for effective transition for all young people

- How will your initiative help the young people who participate to make a successful transition through or re-engage with education and/or training?

Access to career and transition support

- How will this initiative connect young people with career and transition support to help them plan a pathway to participation in their community, education or training, and employment?

Responding to the diverse needs of young people

- What is this initiative intended to deliver for the young people who will participate in it?
- How will this initiative build on the strengths of the young people who participate?
- How will this initiative be inclusive, flexible and adaptive to young people's different needs? For example, young people who are parents or carers may need to access other supports to be able to benefit from this initiative.
- How will this initiative engage young people in finding solutions through consultation and communication?
- Are there any potential negative outcomes for the young people who participate in this initiative?
- What measures will you take to minimise potential negative outcomes for young people?

Promulgating effective ways to support young people

- What lessons have you drawn from other initiatives that have tried to deliver the same or similar outcomes to the same or a similar target group of young people?
- How will you collect information on what works and what doesn't work in this initiative?
- How will you share that information with other people for whom it would be useful?

Focused Local Partnerships and Strategic Alliances

- Who do you need to collaborate with to plan the initiative so that it will build on other initiatives in your region or State/Territory? Consider families and people working, for example, in different spheres of government, government and non-government school authorities, different government departments, local industry. You might like to refer to the *Stepping Forward – Sharing what works* national stocktake <http://www.curriculum.edu.au/mceetya/stepping/index.htm>.
- Who do you need to form partnerships with at the local level to make sure this initiative is coherent with other existing supports for young people? Consider families and people working, for example, in different spheres of government, government and non-government school authorities, various government departments, local industry.
- How are you going to draw together the partners this initiative needs to work well?