
Transition from Secondary School to Further Education/Training/Work – The problems and the policies

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In Australia over 32,000 young people each year who are early school leavers do not make an easy transition from school to further education, training or work. These young Australians have a range of circumstances that may prevent their participation in mainstream education including homelessness, substance abuse, physical and emotional abuse, bullying and mental health issues.

Failure to complete upper secondary education or its equivalent has an impact on the future life chances of individuals. Educational attainment is one of the best predictors of participation, productivity and a successful transition in later life.

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that all young Australians regardless of their circumstance be equipped to fully participate in society and lead productive lives.

This paper will provide an overview of the current transitions environment in Australia and the policy response to address the needs of young people at or already disconnected from mainstream schooling.