

being for people with chronic health conditions or complex care needs.

The trials are particularly innovative in that they involve a pooling of Commonwealth and State funds for each trial's participants. Each client in a trial has a care co-ordinator who works with the client to develop a care plan. The care co-ordinator then draws on money from the funding pool to buy the full range of services set out in the care plan. A key element of the approach is a focus on the client. Rather than fitting the client into a component of the health and community services system, the health care is tailored to suit each individual client.

WA initiative for strengthening community services

Youth Coordinating Networks (YCN's) have been established in metropolitan and country locations, in cooperation with DETYA and local communities, to support existing service providers through improved coordination and access to a state-wide network. 19 YCNs have been established and funded by the Office of Youth Affairs to provide a greater range of services and programs to young people in their respective regions by networking amongst service providers and government agencies.

The Youth Futures Programme (YF), Victoria

The Youth Futures Programme (YF) is provided by WorkPlacement, a not-for-profit employment service with a special interest in disadvantaged youth. The purpose of the programme is to provide a range of services to young people in Frankston, Victoria, to assist their personal development and enable them to connect or reconnect with education or employment. It is a pilot programme, conducted over two years, focusing on 'at risk' and disadvantaged young people.

Through trialing different types of service provision to find which best meets the needs of the young people in the area, adaptations to service delivery have been made to attract young people to the service and engage with them. The programme acts as an anchor for the young people who are assisted to access other services on a needs basis. The YF acts as a lead agency and provides support and follow up for its young people through accessing specialist services on to engagement in education or employment.

A key element of the project to date has been the ability of workers to go out and locate young people who are totally disconnected and engage with them in their current setting. Its success with engaging individuals who are disconnected is leading to positive word of mouth publicity for the project thereby reaching more disadvantaged young people through their networks.

Brotherhood of St Laurence, Victoria

The Brotherhood of St Laurence delivers a JPET service in the city, inner northern and inner eastern suburbs of Melbourne. The project is housed within a community centre, which is currently establishing a specialist youth services arm. It is intended that this youth services arm will eventually offer a range of services including vocational psychologists, substance abuse specialists, and other health, educational and support services for young people.

One of the major priorities for this project is the reconciliation of young people with their families. Services in this area include the HIPPIY programme, which assists disadvantaged parents to gain confidence with the schooling needs of young people, supports disadvantaged young people through a homework programme, and provides services to young people returning to education.

The social action research division of the organisation conducts research into issues including housing, income support, and other youth issues. The Brotherhood of St Laurence has also established effective linkages with juvenile justice and correctional facilities.

The JPET project offers a range of services to young people including personal support, advocacy, referral and liaison with other agencies, and a 24-hour contact service with an emphasis on 'keeping the clients safe'.

Tiwi Health Board Youth Initiative, Northern Territory

The Youth Services Programme was established by the Tiwi Health Board (THB) in response to a high rate of self-harming behaviour amongst Tiwi young people. The project has formed a local community-based network that is assisting young people over 16 to connect with each other, their families and communities.