



# Youth Connections

Upper Darling and Central Macquarie Regions.

**Youth Connections supports young people who are at risk of disengaging from education. It offers flexible case managed support and services that focus strongly on achieving outcomes that are prioritised toward personal development and a successful transition through education and onto further education, training or work.**

### Target Groups

The Youth Connections program is available for eligible young people residing in the Upper Darling and Central Macquarie regions in NSW. They will be at risk of disengaging or have already disengaged from education, and/or family and the community. This includes young people from all school sectors, humanitarian refugees, Indigenous and disadvantaged young people.

### Program Activities

Youth Connections offers a continuum of services so that young people at risk can access the help they need. Service delivery is characterised by the provision of individualised case management tailored to the needs of each young person with the aim of strengthening their resilience and well-being.

Support offered by Youth Connections workers may take the form of one-on-one and/or group assistance, mentoring, advocacy, referrals to other specialist services and provision of access to other training such as literacy and numeracy.

### Funding Sources

Youth Connections is funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

### Contact Information

**Dubbo Regional Office** : 110-114 Macquarie Street, Dubbo NSW 2830 Ph: (02) 68848 526 Fax: (02) 68848 527

Kris Gersbach Service Manager contact details email: [gersbachk@missionaustralia.com.au](mailto:gersbachk@missionaustralia.com.au) or mobile 0417 336 044

Towns covered within the Upper Darling Region include: Dubbo, Wellington, Narromine, Nyngan, Warren, Cobar, Bourke, Brewarrina, Goolooga, Lightning Ridge, & Walgett- 56a Fox Street, Walgett Ph (02) 68283570

Towns covered within the Central Macquarie Region include: Kandos, Gulgong, Dunedoo, Coolah, Mudgee -156 Church

Street Mudgee, Ph(02) 63720265 - Gilgandra- 114 Warren Street, Gilgandra (02) 684720013 Gulargambone, Coonamble , Quambone, Mendooran, Binnaway, Baradine, Gwabegar & Coonabarabran – 57 Cassillis Street, Coonabarabran Ph(02) 68425197.

### Outcomes

Anticipated outcomes for participants in the program include the following:

- continued engagement or re-engagement with education
- successful transition through education to tertiary education, training or employment
- engagement with other specialist services and activities as required
- connection or reconnection with family and/or personal support networks
- positive/active connection with the wider community
- improvement in career prospects and life skills
- development of personal resilience and self-efficiency

### Mission Australia

Mission Australia is one of the nation's leading charities and community service organisations, having helped change the lives of individuals and families in need for almost 150 years. Mission Australia's vision is 'to see a fairer Australia by enabling people in need to find pathways to a better life'. Mission Australia currently operates more than 450 services throughout metropolitan, rural and regional Australia – in every state and territory. Our community, employment and training services aim to provide:

- Pathways away from homelessness
- Pathways to strong families and healthy, happy children
- Pathways through a successful youth
- Pathways to skills and qualifications
- Pathways to sustainable employment