

PART B

TESTING THE WATERS - IDENTIFYING AND INVOLVING KEY STAKEHOLDERS

After some initial background research (as suggested in Part A) the key organisations working with young people in the local area will have been identified. The next stage in building a Regional Youth Commitment is to bring a small group of these key stakeholders together to discuss the possibility of taking the concept of a Regional Youth Commitment further. A telephone call to explain the project to potential participants would be a good starting point, followed up by a written invitation to attend a preliminary meeting. There may be a number of meetings held to clarify purpose and discuss strategies - the aim of these initial meetings is to explore, as well as garner the interest of enough key stakeholders to initiate a Youth Commitment strategy.

The information in this part of the kit should help the initiating organisation to do this, and includes a list of suggested stakeholders, prompts for communicating the strategies of a Youth Commitment and other materials including a pro forma invitation letter and sample agenda for the first stakeholder meeting.

CONTENTS OF THIS PART:

1. Suggested Stakeholders
2. Pro forma List of Your Stakeholders
3. Pro forma Invitation to the First Meeting
4. Suggested Agenda for the First Meeting
5. Promoting your Youth Commitment

SUGGESTED STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE YOUTH COMMITMENT PROJECT

Schools will play an important part in the Youth Commitment project and whilst it is important to engage a broad range of stakeholders in this project, the involvement of schools is critical. Principals (of both public and private schools), Deputy Principals, Student Welfare Personnel and Careers Advisors all have a role to play in the project and should be encouraged to participate at various levels (Management Group, Working Groups etc).

SOME OTHER SUGGESTED KEY STAKEHOLDERS TO INVITE TO MEETINGS / WORKSHOPS MAY INCLUDE:-

- Representative from the Area Consultative Committee
- Senior member of the Department of Education at a regional level
- Jobs Pathways Program providers (representative/s)
- TAFE Director or alternative senior TAFE representative
- Group Training Company
- Local Government – Youth Services Officer PLUS another council representative, perhaps someone with a broader perspective who may be involved in for example, Community Development or Strategic Planning etc
- Job Network Providers (representative/s)
- Centrelink representative
- Key Employers / representative from the Chamber of Commerce
- Representative from the Premier’s Department
- Representatives from any of the Youth Organisations that are active within the community, (for example, YMCA / Church groups etc.)
- Representative from the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs particularly from the Training & Youth Office or Youth & Programs Office
- Representatives from any task forces related to youth
- Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business
- Representative from the Department of Family & Community Services (state/territory department).

Information to provide when meeting with potential local champions:-

- ‘Why Australia Needs a National Youth Commitment’ – discussion paper written by John Spierings (Available from Dusseldorp Skills Forum website – www.dsf.org.au)
- ‘A National Youth Commitment’ – Core Elements

YOUTH COMMITMENT PROJECT WHO ARE YOUR LOCAL CHAMPIONS?

ORGANISATION	NAME	TELEPHONE
ACC		
PRINCIPAL		
PRINCIPAL		
PRINCIPAL		
PRINCIPAL		
REGIONAL DET		
JPP		
FSS		
TAFE		
LOCAL GOVT		
LOCAL GOVT		
JOB NETWORK		
JOB NETWORK		
JOB NETWORK		
CENTRELINK		
EMPLOYER		
EMPLOYER		
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE		
YOUTH GROUP		
YOUTH GROUP		
DETYA		
DEWRSB		
YOUTH TASK FORCE		
YOUTH TASK FORCE		
PREMIER'S DEPT		
FACS		

FIRST MEETING MATERIALS

SAMPLE INVITATION

<< Insert Date >>

Dear << >> ,

<< Insert Organisation Name >> is hosting a meeting to consider practical ways in which we might better work together to significantly improve the learning and work opportunities available to all young people on the << Insert date >>>, and more particularly, ways to better support those leaving school early or facing other disadvantages. This offers us all an exciting opportunity to break new ground and potentially benefit the youth in our community.

As many of us well know, a significant number of young people in this region continue to “fall through the cracks” often leaving school without completing Year 12 and finding no foothold in either secure employment or further education or training. Too often we don’t even know where these young people are or what has happened to them. The Youth Commitment project aims to change that.

Knowing of your own commitment to this community, I am writing in the hope that you might join us for the inaugural meeting. We are inviting key people such as yourself, from business, from education, training, employment and youth services, and from government.

While << Insert Organisation Name >>> has taken the initiative to host this meeting, we are fully aware that we will only be able to make significant advances on these issues if we are able to join with others to put practical measures in place with a clear sense of common purpose.

I do hope that it will be possible for you to join us on << Insert Meeting Date >> and I would be grateful if you could let us know by << Insert RSVP Date >> whether

you will be able to attend. Please reply by phoning <<INSERT CONTACT NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER>>.

Details of the meeting are as follows:

Date:

Time:

Venue:

I am attaching for your perusal a copy of Why Australia Needs a Youth Commitment by Dr John Spierings of the Dusseldorp Skills Forum as well as a copy of the project outline.

Yours sincerely,

<< Insert Sender's Name >>

BOOMERANG FAX

TO: <<INSERT HOST ORGANISATION>>

FROM:.....
.....

ORGANISATION:
.....

FAX NUMBER: <<INSERT HOST ORGANISATION FAX NO>>

YES, I WILL BE ATTENDING THE FORUM ON [INSERT DATE]

NO, THANK YOU I WILL NOT BE ATTENDING

YOUTH COMMITMENT

FIRST MEETING AGENDA

TIMING	ITEM	WHO
5mins	Welcome and Introductions	
5mins	Purpose and structure of the meeting	
10mins	The National Youth Commitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Data and Key Goals ▪ Powerpoint Presentation Part One 	
10mins	Discussion of Key Goals	
10mins	The National Youth Commitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key Activities ▪ Powerpoint Presentation Part Two 	
30mins	Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify activities • What's the value of this approach (for the region and for our organisations) • What else is happening locally (and possible links between these activities) 	
20mins	How do we make it happen? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYC process (flow chart) • Planning group – who? • Local Data • Community workshop/s 	
5mins	<u>Next Steps</u>	
5mins	<u>Wrap up</u>	
100mins		

PROMOTING YOUR YOUTH COMMITMENT

SOME PROMPTS

1. The Statistics – have a few key statistics that you can use to promote the need for a Youth Commitment – both local and national.
2. The project is seen as a “practical response” to the learning and work situation of young people.
3. The project focuses on the 15-19 year olds as a **preventative** measure but this could just be the starting point and will have flow-on benefits for other age groups (both older and younger).
4. The project is an opportunity for those working on the ground to directly influence Government policies leading to improved national practices.
5. The Youth Commitment is not about imposing a defined “model”. It does, however, offer a practical, organising framework for collaborative action.
6. A youth commitment is an opportunity for the local community to respond to the needs of local youth.
7. The net effect should be:
 - a greater range of real opportunities for a greater number of young people underpinned by strong support arrangements for every young person who needs; and
 - the knowledge both to identify who those young people are and develop the best strategy to support them.

CAUTION:

- Be careful not to identify this with one particular organisation/sector as it may be seen as that organisation’s project
- Be careful not to allow blame to any particular sector.
- This is a community problem – should be a community solution.