



JOINING THE DOTS...

TRANSITION 101: Understanding the Primary to Secondary
School Transition Process (Year 5 – Year 9)

Community Agency Professional Learning Workshop

Thursday, 24 July 2014

Collingwood College





Program



10:00	Welcome & introductions	Rochelle Darby, INLLEN
10:10	Transition 101 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ YPSSTP overview▪ What is Transition?▪ Barriers to effective transition▪ How to best support young people and their parents/carers▪ <i>Schools Resource: A guide for parents/carers</i>	Zita Pinda, Seven Ways Consultancy
10:30	Effective Student Information Transfer <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Shared Learning Community▪ Online Transition Form trial	Craig Bradley, Collingwood College
10:40	Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Schools Resource – is it useful?▪ Panel questions developed	All
11:00	Panel Q&A Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Introductions▪ Gaps/Concerns/Good practice▪ Questions from the floor	Panel Members
11:55	Summary	Zita Pinda
12:00	Close	Rochelle Darby

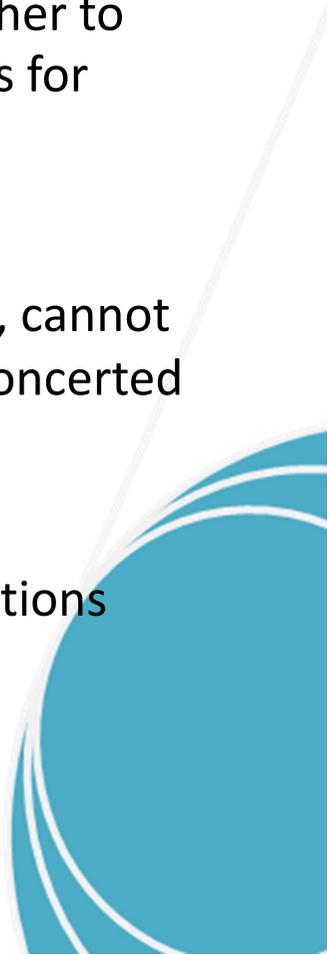




Yarra Education Youth Commitment (YEYC)



What is the Yarra Education Youth Commitment?

- A strategic partnership of schools, education providers, government agencies, community organisations and industry who work together to design, deliver and align local approaches that improve outcomes for young people in the City of Yarra
 - Complex issues, such as youth disengagement or unemployment, cannot be resolved through single agency programs but rather require concerted and aligned strategic efforts from a variety of stakeholders
 - Currently the YEYC has 150 members from 80+ different organisations
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Yarra Education Youth Commitment (YEYC)



How did the Yarra Education Youth Commitment evolve?

- **Late 2010** by the Yarra Education Support Network, following an Education Forum
- Feedback: A strong need for a **local strategic approach** that collectively focuses on key issues relating to youth education, employment and training
- The Youth Commitment has worked to:
 - Understand how young people are fairing in Yarra by sharing **data and evidence**
 - Develop a **shared vision and goals**
 - Establish a **governance structure** to support collective action
 - Design & deliver **partnership projects**
- For 2014, **Results Based Accountability (RBA)** has been adopted as a methodology for implementing a **Collective Impact Framework for the three inner northern youth commitments** – Moreland, Darebin & Yarra

Collective Impact

A framework for large scale social change

If you want to go fast, go alone.

If you want to go far, go together.

— African Proverb



Yarra Education Youth Commitment (YEYC)



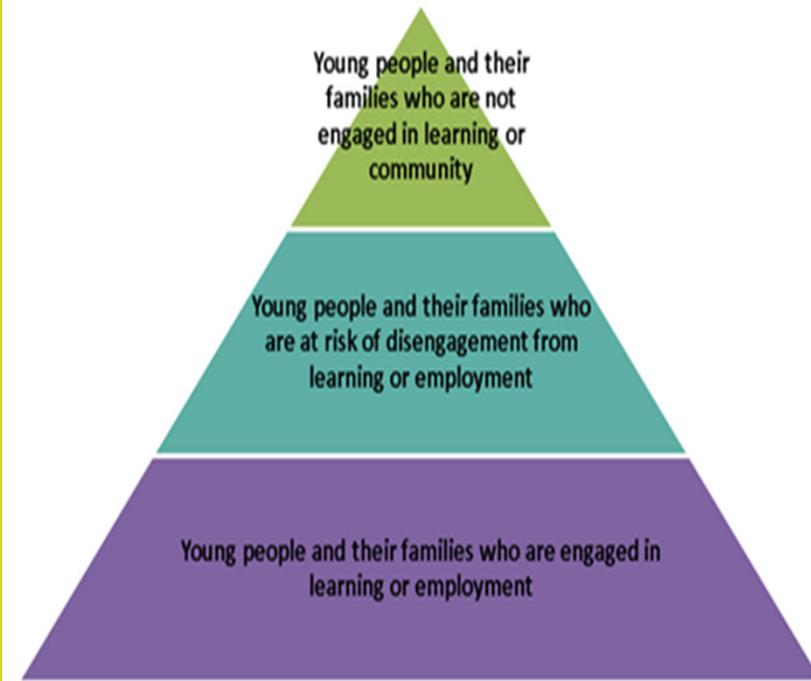
The YEYC Approach

How do we **work together effectively** to make **a positive impact on youth outcomes?**



The YEYC Scope

- YEYC works to improve outcomes for young people aged 10-24



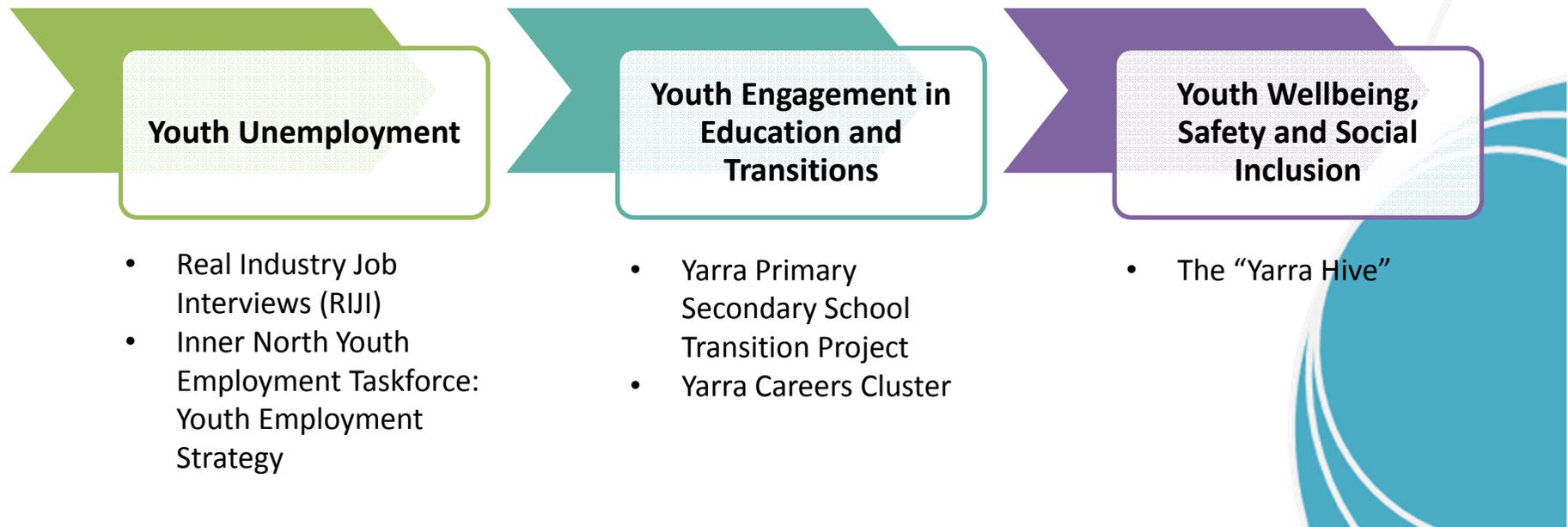
Yarra Education Youth Commitment (YEYC)



- **YEYC Vision**

“That all young people in the City of Yarra are supported to be the best they can be, are safe, healthy, engaged in learning, employment and their communities”

- **Focus Group Action Teams**





Yarra Education Youth Commitment (YEYC)



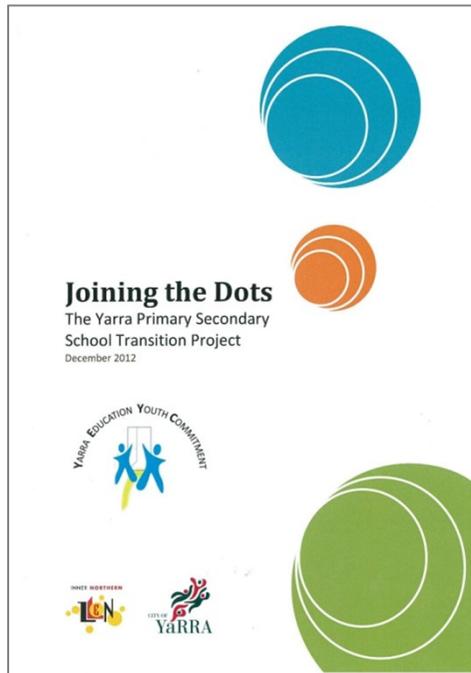
How can you get involved?

- Next bi-monthly Community Team meeting
Thursday, 28 August
3:00 – 5:00pm
Richmond West Primary School
- Spirit of Cooperation Signing Ceremony, Dawn O’Neil AM presentation on Collective Impact and the launch of the YPSSTP Report, *Joining the Dots 2*
Wednesday, 17 September
3:00 – 5:00pm
Richmond Town Hall

Where do I go to find out more information?

- <http://www.inllen.org.au/yarra-youth-commitment>
 - Contact Georgia McRae at City of Yarra Youth Services or Rochelle Darby, INLLEN
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Yarra Primary Secondary School Transition Project



- A major initiative of the Yarra Education Youth Commitment
- Primary to secondary transition identified as a critical issue
- Identify, implement and evaluate transition models for young people, their families, the community sector and schools that ensure young people remain engaged in education
- Currently in third year of three year strategy



Project Phases



- **2012 Phase 1**
 - research and release of *Joining the Dots* report
 - **2013 Phase 2**
 - Joining the Dots Forum
 - Fitzroy High School and Community Demonstration Pilot Project Phase 1
 - School Transition Review Project
 - **2014 Phase 3**
 - Shared Learning Community
 - Fitzroy High School and Community Demonstration Pilot Project Phase 2
 - Capacity building – schools, agencies, parents/carers
 - *Joining the Dots Report 2* launch September 17
- 



The Nature of Transition



- Many points of transition
 - Impact shaped by responses of institutions
 - Preparation and management will determine whether the transition is positive experience
 - Transition experience is not an event but a process spanning a number of years
 - The transition experience is also about the family of the student
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Transition



- Critical time for students
- Evokes a variety of emotions, behaviours and concerns
- Major marker on the way to becoming an adult
- Provides an opportunity for a fresh start
- Can be marked by changes in educational expectations and practices





Transition continued



- Can be a move from smaller setting to larger setting possibly in different geographical area
 - Move from single classes to multiple classes with multiple teachers and many more students
 - A well designed transition can maintain the strong sense of belonging
 - Coincides with movement from childhood to adolescence
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Phases of Transition

NSW DET 2007



Preparation

Transfer

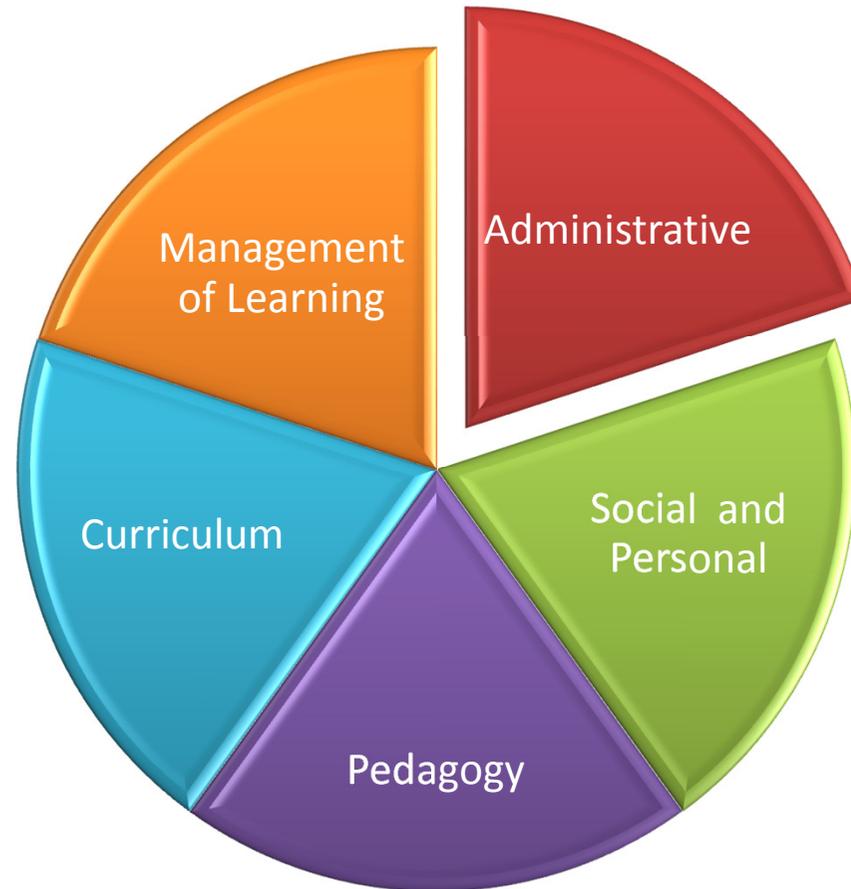
Induction

Consolidation



Transition Activities

Galton , Gray and
Ruddock 1999





Findings



- Many young people from the City of Yarra transition to secondary schools outside of Yarra and many travel long distances
 - There are more than 50 different destination schools
 - These trends cause barriers to effective relationships between feeder and destination schools as well as between agencies and schools
 - Many students (45 in 2013) move to the new school without any peers from their primary school
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Findings continued



- There are many young people in the City of Yarra with irregular attendance
 - Fewer students in primary schools with absence steadily building to Year 9 level
 - Full range of reasons identified for disengagement
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Barriers to Effective Transition



- Lack of consistency between primary and secondary sectors in terms of programs and pedagogy
 - Low parent engagement in the transition process
 - Large number of destination schools
 - Students going to schools outside of Yarra
 - Limited school resources for support of individual students
 - School zoning protocols
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Support for Young People and Families



- Agency personnel indicate that there were many young people that were being supported in programs ranging from homework programs through to coordinated casework
- Need for further support of parents/carers and young people through the entire transition process





Which parents/carers need further support?



- CALD and non English speaking
- Limited understanding of Australian Education System
- First child entering school
- Low literacy including web literacy
- Transient families
- Socially disadvantaged
- No access to internet





Which students need further support?



- Poor language skills
- Low ICT literacy
- Low resilience
- Low social skills
- Experiencing mental health issues
- Suffering from anxiety
- Timid, quiet
- Challenging students
- Those with attendance issues/already existing problems with disengagement
- Learning disabilities





What support?



- Early intervention
- Resilience and social skills programs
- Mentoring
- Individual case management
- Advocacy
- Clear information
- Support with enrolment process
- Access to translated materials and interpreters
- Challenge of fears and misinformation
- Learning support including homework and tutoring opportunities





Which school?



- Usually go to the secondary school closest to where the family lives if they are attending a government school
 - Closest school measured literally on a map
 - Can choose to send child to another government secondary school that has a different curriculum or focus, such as music or sport, if there are places available, or a Catholic or independent school.
 - Some secondary schools need to restrict their enrolments – and the number of students they can take – to a particular area or zone around the school
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Schools Resource



- **Transition Timeline 2014**
- **Schools Resource: A Guide for Parents/Carers**
- Developed in response to recommendations from Phase 1 of the project as well as community consultation
- To be used by schools and agencies to better support parents and students
- Will be available in PDF for download
- Investigating opportunities for translation





Effective Student Information Transfer



- **Shared Learning Community**
 - Collingwood College
 - Collingwood English Language School
 - Fitzroy High School
 - Fitzroy Primary School
 - Princes Hill Secondary School
- **Online Transition Form**
- **Benefits** to young people, schools and agencies





DISCUSSION



- **Schools Resource: A Guide for Parents/Carers**
 - Is it useful?
 - Is there anything missing?
- **Q&A Panel Session**
 - What questions do you have for the panel?

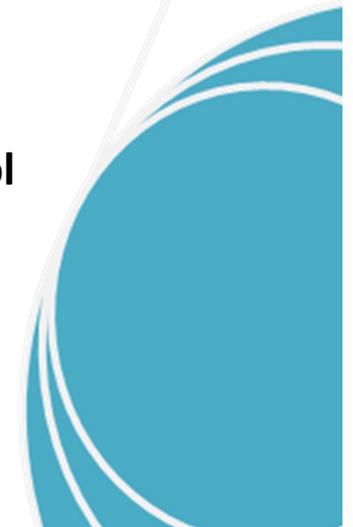




PANEL Q&A SESSION



- **Anne Marmion** Team Leader Upper Metro, **The Smith Family**
- **Craig Bradley** Assistant Principal, **Collingwood College**
- **Emma Carlton** Case Manager Youth Connections, **Youth Connect**
- **Julie Rothman** Principal, **Fitzroy Primary School**
- **Mary Barclay** Principal, **Lynall Hall Community School**
- **Maureen O’Keefe** Schools Support Officer North, **Foundation House**
- **Peter Riordan** Principal, **Simonds Catholic College**
- **Sandra Dickins** Pathways & Community Leader, **Fitzroy High School**
- **Stephan Friedrich** Director, Knightlamp





SUMMARY

- Where to from here?
- Evaluation Forms

