

LOOKING OUT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

Children and young people in out-of-home care face unique education and training challenges. New LOOKOUT Education Support Centres will employ education experts and support staff to give these vulnerable young people a better chance of doing well in education.

A LOOKOUT Education Support Centre will be established in each of the North Western Victoria Region, North Eastern Victoria Region, South Western Victoria Region and South Eastern Victoria Region by 2017. Each LOOKOUT Education Support Centre will support the progress of about 1500 students.

THE IMPACT OF OUT-OF-HOME CARE ON EDUCATION

The approximately 6,000 school-aged young Victorians in out-of-home care are considerably less likely than their peers to attend school and engage with education.

As a result, they are less likely to achieve the national benchmarks for reading and numeracy or attain a Year 12 or equivalent qualification. Young people in out-of-home care tend to move between care settings, and therefore educational settings, so are at high risk of falling through the cracks educationally.

HOW LOOKOUT EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTRES WILL HELP YOUNG PEOPLE

LOOKOUT Education Support Centre staff will advocate and support all children and young people in out-of-home care within the education system.

Centres will work in partnership with schools to enrol young people, monitor and evaluate educational progress, set targets, and co-ordinate resources and activities to support the child's education at school and at home. This will lead to improvements in school attendance, engagement and achievement.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR VICTORIAN CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS?

LOOKOUT Education Support Centre staff will partner with students, schools and carers to get better results for vulnerable students in out-of-home care.

These young people will receive more support than ever to remain engaged with education and training.

"It's about preventative action rather than waiting for issues to happen and band-aiding them. We need integration of services and a focus on health and wellbeing — parenting, mental health and physical health."

Community member

"Some kids come to school and are not in a position to be ready to learn. Teachers cannot manage all of the welfare issues as well as teach the class."

Parents

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about LOOKOUT Education Support Centres, see: www.education.vic.gov.au