

## Education and Training

Every young person has the right to the education they feel best meets their needs and that will assist them in achieving their future education, work or training choices. Tasmania has a record low number of young people continuing their education up to the point of gaining a year 12 qualification; this is a key factor in exploring the need for alternative education programs. Keeping young people engaged in education for as long as possible is the ideal situation, however, contemporary education models and policies of 'one size fits all', such as the NAPLAN testing, do not meet the individual needs of all young people and do not fully assist disengaged young people to re-engage with the education system. In order to combat the record number of young people in Tasmania not finishing year 12 a collaborative partnership between schools, young people, the government and community is needed.

Education needs to cater for individual needs and interests of young people to ensure they are moving through secondary school and into further education or training. Alternative education programs need to be more accessible for all young people and not restricted to being used as a means of managing behavior. Additional flexible and alternate education opportunities are needed to give more young people the opportunity to continue their education. In addition, an increase in employment of youth workers and/or pathway planners in schools to work with young people to ensure they remain engaged in education and have plans in place for further education or training is needed.

### *YNOT is committed to:*

- Advocating for diverse and varied education program for all young people, this can be shaped around individual interests, needs and experiences.
- Increasing the awareness of alternative education options to young people across the State.
- Increasing the understanding among policy makers, that there are differences in the learning styles of young people and policies should reflect this.
- Advocating for the need for a safe learning environment for all young people.

ynot is the peak body representing the voice of Tasmanian youth



- Advocating for the improvement of young trainee wages and conditions in the workplace.
- Seeing additional work experience options and internship opportunities for young Tasmanians.
- Advocating for additional youth workers or pathway planners to be employed in schools.

### *Future Vision*

A Tasmania where all young people are engaged in traditional education, alternative education or training programs where their individual needs are met and they have the opportunity to study areas that interest them. A Tasmania where young people who are disengaged from education are encouraged to re-engage and are given alternative options and additional support to ensure their experiences with education engagement or reengagement are positive.

### *References*

Council of Australian Governments (2013), *Education in Australia 2012: Five years of performance*, retrieved from <http://www.coagreformcouncil.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/Education%20in%20Australia%202012,%20Five%20years%20of%20performance.pdf>.