

Media Release

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Learning and Education Report Launch: Young Tasmanians value education but reach critical pressure point in navigating options

Today the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) launches its *Learning and Education Report* which communicates the ideas from young Tasmanians who participated in a statewide consultation run in November last year by the Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF).

The report found that whilst Tasmanian young people highly value learning and education, they encounter barriers when trying to identify pathways to future education and employment, in particular knowing what support is available to them or the type of opportunities that can build on their education.

This means that many young people cease studying as they don't want to learn something that will not be useful to them or continue studying in the hope it will all work out.

Joanna Siejka, CEO of YNOT, said, "We found that there is a critical tipping point for many young people that occurs when they do not know what they want to do in terms of their learning and education. When some young people reach this point they make the decision to continue their education, but for others it is enough to discourage them.

There are a range of factors that influence which path a young person chooses, including their support networks, perceived opportunities available to them, mental health and wellbeing, their goals for the future and societal expectations."

Young people flagged the need for a learning and education plan and assistance from a skilled specialist who has specific knowledge of learning and employment pathways.

Other key findings from the report include that young people consider financial concerns a significant barrier to continuing their education and the strong emphasis that young people place on employment as a direct pathway to employment.

Ms Siejka, said, "Young Tasmanians are very aware of the impact of high rates of youth unemployment in Tasmania, which when combined with the extra challenges associated with accessing income support, such as extended waiting times, and access to affordable housing, is impacting on their capacity to support themselves through their education."



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ynot is the peak body representing the voice of Tasmanian youth

The report also includes young people's views on a range of topics including technology, life skills, work readiness, overcoming barriers to education and access to information.

Over 100 young people from diverse backgrounds attended the *Learning and Education* Forum from across Tasmania, and many more participated in the accompanying survey.

The report includes vital information for decision makers and feeds directly into the reforms in education in Tasmania.

The TYF Learning and Education Report Launch will be held at The Youth Arts and Recreation centre from 11.30 – 12.30pm on Monday the 11th of April 2016.

The TYF is Tasmania's peak youth consultative body for those between the aged of 12 and 25. It is an initiative of the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) and is funded by Communities, Sport and Recreation through the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

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The full report is available from the YNOT website: www.ynot.org.au

More findings from the TYF Learning and Education Report:

- A critical reason why young people may not want to continue studying or training after year 12 is because they may not be able to identify what they want to do.
- Young people see financial costs of training or studying as a significant potential barrier to their learning and education completion and attainment
- Young people want opportunities to gain practical experience through work placements or volunteering but need support to identify opportunities to do this.
- Young people feel confident they can achieve their plans if they can identify what they want to do and understand the pathway of how they will get there.
- Young people value learning and education highly as they understand that it will prepare them for the future.
- Young people have aspirations of completing at least a year 12 education and continuing on to further training or education.
- Young people want a specific, skilled support person to assist them to identify potential learning and employment pathways and apply this to their context.
- Young people want and need support from their personal networks, as well as the broader community, to encourage their learning and to help them learn.