

Join us and make a difference!

- 1. Go to https://www.swconnect.org.au/youth-collective-impact/resources/
- 2. Read the information about the recruitment process
- 3. Complete the South West Connect YCIT Recruitment Google Form (all sections must be completed to be considered for the role)
- 4. Send your resume and cover letter to info@swconnect.org.au

An exciting opportunity to join the Youth Collective Impact Team to support the delivery of engaging and impactful programs to inspire, develop and empower young people to achieve their potential.

- Make a positive difference to the future of young people
- Enjoy a varied role in a reputable organisation
- Salary Packaging benefits

SWC is part of a uniquely diverse, vibrant and compassionate community spanning across Fairfield, Liverpool and Cumberland City Councils (Region E). Government data indicates that many of the young people in our community are from low socioeconomic, CALD, refugee and migrant backgrounds facing challenges of disengagement, generational unemployment and welfare dependency.

SWC aims to ensure young people vulnerable to these challenges are supported and have a strong foundation to build their futures to gain meaningful employment aligned to their interests and skills.

We do this by partnering with schools and businesses to create innovative initiatives that address social and wellbeing barriers, and obstacles impeding on education and employment outcomes. For specific and further details, please visit

https://www.swconnect.org.au/youth-collective-impact/programs/

Please contact us if you would like to know more about our initiatives.





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ABOUT US



South West Connect

SWC has a proven track record of empowering over 86,000 young people in South West Sydney to discover pathways to a better future for themselves and their families.

The Structured Workplace Learning Team and the Youth Collective Impact Team work with businesses, government agencies, community organisations, parents and schools to create initiatives that connect young people (5 -25 years of age) and their families to opportunities to enhance their life options beyond school.

Our Mission



- Empower young people to achieve their educational, social and employment potential
- Support students in career exploration, career decision making and the transition into work
- Engage communities, in particular local government and employers, around the needs of young people transitioning into the workforce
- Engage with and build relationships with schools and career advisers across our region to promote the importance of career education and workplace learning

Our Vision

To inspire young people and their families by connecting them to the resources, skills and opportunities that enhances their options and empower them to be their best.

Our Reach



We work with 42 High Schools and 103 Primary Schools, engage with all 3 education sectors NSW Department of Education, Sydney Catholic Schools and Association of Independent Schools NSW. We operate in Fairfield and Liverpool LGA and also in parts of Cumberland and Canterbury-Bankstown City Councils.

Our Action & Collaborative Approach



We achieve this through our Workplacement Program and the Youth Collective Impact Initiative. We partner with stakeholders across all sectors (business, school, family and community), building community capacity and strengthening aspirations and resilience for all young people in South West Sydney so they can create their own pathways to a better future.

SWC services "Region E" covering 3 LGA's:







Structured Workplace Learning (SWL)

Organises a one week placement in businesses for Year 11 & 12 VET students to enhance the skills learned in the classroom

Youth Collective Impact Team (YCIT)

Creates & delivers initiatives & projects to inspire, develop & empower young people to achieve their potential

Our impact in 2019











SWC works across 3 Education Sectors



8,796

Young people participated in at least one of SWC's initiatives

6,990



HSC VET Students successfully completing a one-week work placement



Host Employers trained & developed workplacement students



Students participated in the **Big Dreams**, **Bigger Futures** as part of the **Communities** for Children initiative

3,320



Students developed their employability skills, confidence & ambition through Work Ready sessions, mock interviews & career skills workshops



635

Students expanded their horizons and made industry connections during the Future Links, Future Ready Tours

Workplace Learning Network (WLN)



SWC has been an active member of the Workplace Learning Network (WLN) for the past 3 years. The WLN is an association comprised of 16 organisations with a business model that focuses on the youth of NSW.

STATE wide Strength

LOCAL knowledge, impact, network and change

Across NSW, the WLN works with:























Structured Workplace Learning Program

Workplacement is a mandatory component of industry based VET courses that students can choose as part of their studies for the NSW Higher School Certificate (HSC) in Stage 6.

Recognising the importance for students to gain real life work practices in order to build their employability skills and improve their employment prospects, SWC engages a broad range of Host Employers on behalf of all schools in Region E.

Workplacement is a one week placement with businesses, to enhance students skills learned in the classroom. It is a mandatory component of industry based VET courses for the NSW HSC and involves 70 hours of workplace learning. (35 hours in Year 11 and another 35 hours in Year 12).

SWC realises it can take some students more than 2 workplacements to complete their necessary hours, and placements may need to be changed due to extenuating circumstances. Staff work with schools sympathetically to accommodate these students. SWC is flexible, we arrange replacement workplacement as necessary.

SWC's flexible service delivery model maximises workplacement take-up by schools. Staff consult with VET coordinators/teachers regarding workplacement planning/requirements, teacher expectations, specific deadlines, exam and assessment timetables, SWC utilises the whole school year arranging workplacements to accommodate differing availabilities of many schools and year groups in Region E.

SWC plan for individual student's requirements such as disability/learning support. SWC regularly communicates with VET coordinators/teachers regarding workplacement planning/requirements, teacher expectations, deadlines.

Workplacement | Stakeholder Engagement

SWC is the Workplacement Service Provider for Region E. SWC follows a proven methodology and a reliable process when engaging with current and prospective workplacement host employers. SWC strategies are tailored to program objectives, scope, individual students and local context.

SWC has a thorough in-depth understanding of the four NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA)

Principles underpinning workplacement in the HSC.

SWC workplacement opportunities are purposeful, planned, and structured, ensuring the placement is relevant to the student's interests and aspirations, while performing 'real' tasks building on learnt skills and gaining exposure to professional work environments, culture and commercial operations.

SWC's 15 years experience in delivering workplacement services and 1,100+ community connections provide a strong foundation to schedule workplacements which meet course requirements and student readiness/expectations.





Host Employers are assigned an Employer Liaison Consultant who provides assistance with every aspect of the workplacement process. Dedicated Workplacement Officers contact the host employer before, during and after the placement. They also are a main point of contact for any issues arising during the placement.





Students are supported throughout their 2-year VET course and can access a range of resources on SWC's website. SWC assists schools with Work Ready presentations and mock interviews prior to the placement. SWC ensures students settle in well at the workplace and gain a meaningful experience relevant to their course.



Teachers are supported throughout the year by SWC including VET Advisory Panel (Workplacement Reference Group) meetings held each term. SWC sources and administers workplacements on behalf of the school. VET teachers have a dedicated Workplacement Officer who is the conduit between the school and the host employers, providing prompt and effective support throughout the student's workplacement.



Parents and Carers can access the Parents & Carers Guide to Workplace Learning before their child attends workplacement. This contains important information about preparing for a positive and realistic workplacement experience.



Youth Collective Impact Team

Collaborative Approach | Stakeholder Engagement

The Youth Collective Impact Team applies the methodologies determined by the Evidenced Based Programs that we deliver. Our approach involves creating initiatives that are tailored, based on consultation and research. To ensure an inclusive and robust process, we set up a Steering Committee comprising of stakeholders from the education, government and business sectors for our large scale projects.

For all other projects, SWC consults with Principals and the executive team, including classroom teachers, Year Advisors or Faculty Head Teachers to agree on common shared goals /objectives, decision making and evaluation process to measure impact of the project. Outcomes are reported back to key stakeholders in detailed impact reports and communication with other stakeholders and the broader community is made available through our newsletters, annual operational reports and video summaries on our website.

Throughout each program, SWC works with school teaching staff/ executive team to share resources and build capacity at each school to allow them to continue to benefit from the objectives/ outcomes of each program. SWC is a conduit for communication of opportunities, broadcast to appropriate personnel at school. SWC links students with employment opportunities (entry level jobs and Apprenticeships/ Traineeships). https://www.swconnect.org.au/youth-collective-impact/programs/

SWC facilitates the Student Pop Up Café and the RIEP Class Chefs (student restaurant takeover) events which both provide a workplace co-assessment opportunity and workplacement hours to students.



Student Pop Up Café: VET students run a café for the morning. Students make and serve up to 200 barista coffee and bacon and egg rolls in 4 hours; comparable to some of the busiest cafés in Sydney.



RIEP Class Chefs: VET students run a restaurant for one evening, showcasing their skills (120 paying customers receive a 3-course fine dining experience, including drinks). Schools receive a resources package developed in consultation with NSWDoE and Industry bodies.





Funding available

Contact SWC to host a subsidised RIEP Class Chefs events in term 1 & 2, 2021

SWC will project manage every aspect from start to end, including subsidised ticket sales/promotion through Eventbrite & table allocation.

Annual Youth Mental Health Summit:



(Evaluation feedback from all participants 2014 to 2020)



95% of Students agreed that mental health is important

and it needs to be talked about more



88%

Teachers agreed



The 2021 YMHS will take place in early term 2

Details to follow at: www.swconnect.org.a



86% of Students learnt something new

about mental health and wellbeing at the YMHS



78%

Teachers agreed

Teachers agreed



96% of students thought the YMHS was beneficial

and would recommend it to their friends or colleagues





97% of students had a positive experience

at the YMHS and thought it helped to reduce the stigma attached to mental health



L00%

Teachers agreed



89% of students met a new service provider

at the YMHS that they were not previously aware of



70%

Teachers agreed



92% of students were inspired

by the presenters and workshop facilitators to take positive action towards improving their own mental health and wellbeing



100%

of teachers

found the professional development session useful for their jobs



95% of schools created strategies

and mental health and wellbeing action plans at the YMHS to complement their existing policies

Strong mental health and wellbeing is the foundation for success at school, the workplace and in life. According to the Productivity Commission "there are up to a million people going untreated for mental health conditions in Australia with these illnesses costing the economy around \$180 billion each year."

The YMHS addresses the importance of young people having the skills and knowledge to identify the signs of mental illness and where to access their support networks. This increased awareness and support will reduce absenteeism and lost productivity at school during workplacements, work experience and in post-school employment.

Outcomes Achieved | VET Impact Summary since 2006

South West Connect actively supports and promotes VET careers across all sectors.

60,500 Workplacements across 12 VET Courses:



Information & Digital Technology



Business Services



Entertainment Industry



Services



Beverage



Operations



Primary Industries



Electrotechnology



Services



Automotive



Construction



Services



26,900

Work Ready and Mock Interviews

Students from Years 9 to 12 developed their employability skills and confidence

Career and **Transition Expos 23,300** students



participated in Seek a Skill, Careers Market, **Apprenticeship & Traineeship Expos**



participated in sessions (includes Best Enemies, Stymie and YMHS)



STEAM & Design Thinking 1,550 students

participated in Career Immersion events (includes workshops, Speed Networking, Career **Explorer Industry Tours & STEAM Expos)**



Student Restaurant Takeovers

13,560 dishes 11,355 drinks 4,410 customers

served by 980 students in Class Chefs & Student Pop Up Café



SWC Collaboration Impact



96%

of participants discovered new skills, resources and career and education pathway options

94%

of participants were inspired to set goals and make plans to achieve them





of Teachers reported positive impact of program (increased confidence, participation and contribution)

of students reported positive impact of program (these include increased engagement at school, improved problem solving and better decision making skills leading to reduced conflict and incidents at school)



Satisfaction **97%** of participants



would recommend SWC to their peers and colleagues (because they enjoyed and found it worthwhile to participate in a SWC initiative)

Future Links, Future Ready 3,800 participants

includes students that completed workshops, Speed Networking, Q&A sessions, Career Explorer Industry Tours & Expos

FECAP (Fairfield Emerging Communities Action Group) Pathways to Employment Expo

2,700 participants

participants from CALD, migrant and refugee backgrounds attended (supported by Cabra-Vale Diggers Club since 2015)







Early Intervention Programs

in 338 sessions across Dare to Dream. STEPs to a Brighter future and Dream Big for a better Future.



STEP Up to Success

participated in workshops and Aspirational Future Links Tours, including a Cirque du Soleil tour

Mini Career Pals

1,600 students



12,800 letters exchanged

36,400 questions answered

Aspirational career exploration and mentoring program for primary school students through letter writing



FUSION Fun Unite Smile Ignite Older New

(Work Immersion and Volunteering in Aged & Health Care)

f 384 students f 187 sessions $f 6,\!295$ hours of voluntary work experience

(Reducing generational and cultural barriers, increasing social cohesion and connectedness)

Selected Program Description | Outline



Future Links, Future Ready (breaking the cycle of generational unemployment and welfare dependency) a unique & innovative navigating approach to careers connecting with employers. The program includes a series of interactive sessions and tours to improve career and employability skills, help students gain the skills and resources to help them overcome common barriers. SWC Partners with Local Employers like Cabra-Vale Diggers Club to deliver the Career Explorer Industry Tours component, a guided, interactive excursion where students (aged 11-19) visit and meet future employers onsite to learn about the different skills, attributes and other requirements for the role / industry. These Work Immersion / Inspiration style sessions include workshops, team activities and mentoring by staff to gain work related experiences. This leaves a lasting impression on the students and increases engagement, helping them to link what is learned in the classroom and how it can be applied in the world of work. Students who do not have positive work role models noticeably benefit from these tours. The Speed Networking component allows up to 200 students to meet role models in a variety of career sectors and ask questions in small groups. Students can meet up to 30 where professionals, they can mentoring opportunities and build on the Skills Journal provided to assist them map their career journey.



FUSION, (Fun Unite Smile Ignite Older New, an Aged and Youth Partnership) is a program that bridges the cultural and generational gap, promotes careers and volunteering in the aged and health care sectors and is based at an aged care facility. 384 high school students have participated in 187 sessions gaining 6,295 hours of voluntary work experience.



Early intervention programs that provide employability skills for successful transition from primary to high school include Dare to Dream, STEPs to a Brighter Future and Dream Big for a Better Future . 950 students have participated in 338 sessions gaining skills to improve resilience, problem solving, communication and responsible decision making, which enhance employability skills.



Mini Career Pals The program involves a class of Year 5/6 students from different schools exchanging letters throughout the school year with adult volunteers from different vocations and professions to improve literacy and inspire their learning through the art of letter writing. At the conclusion of the year, students had an opportunity to meet their career pals during a group excursion to the CBD where they had lunch at the iconic Sydney Tower restaurants and had a behind the scenes tour of the Sydney Opera House and ABC television and radio studios. SWC hosted a breakfast training session to share the resources and tools to allow schools to replicate the program within their own schools. Building the capacity of the teachers allowed the program to be self-sustaining leading to over 1,600 students exchanging over 12,000 letters with hundreds of adult 'Career Pen Pals'.



STEP up to Success (Empowering Aboriginal Future Leaders) This program works with young Aboriginal leaders and their peers to train them to build resilience and life skills in raising their aspirations and financial literacy skills which empowers them with the confidence to excel in class and in life. The program comprises of multiple layers of activities and programs that lift the aspirations of the students and encourage them to dream about their futures.



Region E Environmental Scan





Local Government Areas

Liverpool Fairfield

Canterbury-Bankstown Cumberland



New Infrastructure Projects

Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport Airport Freight, Logistics and Commercial Precinct Western Sydney International Aerotropolis Airport Passenger Terminal Precinct **Airport Commercial Precinct**



Road, Railway, T-Way, Bus and Motor Vehicle



Population

441,095 (2016)

464,165 (2019)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

3,012 Liverpool City

1,482 Fairfield City

181 Merrylands Central



201,869 Born Overseas

40.7% Liverpool City (83,238)

53.9% Fairfield City (107,068)



49.3% Merrylands Central, (11,563)

41,678 Primary School Students aged 5 to 11 Young people

35,708 High School Students aged 12 to 17

43,988 Tertiary Education / Young Workforce aged 18 to 24



60% Socio-Economic Disadvantage

disadvantaged, have a SEIFA (Socio-economic Indexes for 42 out of 70 suburbs in Region E are socio-economically Areas) Score below 960



Employment & Labour Force

180,740 Total labour force (participation rate)

91.07% Total Employed (164,607)

8.93% Total Unemployed (16,133)



106,693 Full-time

\$ 52,935 Part-time

4,979 other

Registered Businesses 38,989

22,253 Non Employing Businesses

19 Industry Sectors



Employing Businesses 16,736

15,977 with 1-19 Employees **731** with 20-199 Employees

28 with 200+ Employees



Through our collaboration and established networks across the education, business and community sectors, SWC have created sustainable initiatives that address health and wellbeing, youth unemployment, employability skills, transition and pathway options that will allow young people to become economic, social and civic contributors in their community.

Thank you for your support by showing interest and taking the time to read this newsletter. SWC wishes to thank schools, businesses, community organisations, volunteers and participants for their contribution towards a better future for the youth in our region.

Valuable partnerships with forward thinking schools and businesses allows SWC to continue to improve learning and employment outcomes for young people to make a sustainable, positive impact in Region E.

OUR IMPACT SINCE 2006

60,500



Student Workplacements across 12 VET Courses

15,800



Students participated in a Mega or Mini Seek a Skill Interactive Careers Expo

8,420



across all SWC programs

3,010



Students and parents participated in the **Big Dreams**, **Bigger Futures** as part of the **Communities for Children initiative**

2,030



Work Ethic Awards & Gift Cards awarded to students at annual presentation days 10,275



Students attended 319 Industry visits & tours

16, 300



Students from Years 9 to 12 developed their employability skills, confidence & ambition through our career skills workshops

815



Evidence Based Program sessions delivered to students (to build resilience, improve problem solving skills, make responsible decisions & achieve goals) 6,200



Hours Volunteered by young people through initiatives like FUSION & Youth Advisory Committees

2,142



Students, teachers & service providers
participated in the annual Youth Mental Health
Summit (focused on removing stigma & making
positive connections with service providers)

171
Partnerships created

3,175

Host Employers, Project **Partners** & Stakeholders **engaged**

For additional information

please contact South West Connect on:(02) 9822 9370 | (select option 2 for the Youth Team)

www. swconnect.org.au | info@swconnect.org.au

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