

## Minister Zoe Bettison

Minister for Youth

Wednesday, 24 June, 2015

### New structured mentoring program for severely disadvantaged youth

Getting vulnerable and disengaged young people into employment is the focus of a new \$600,000 State Government program - *Successful Transitions*.

Youth Minister Zoe Bettison said the structured mentoring program will work with young people aged 17-24 who are experiencing multiple barriers to education, vocational training or secure employment.

“This is a significant investment in re-engaging young South Australians that have slipped through the gaps so they can fully participate in the future of our state,” Ms Bettison said.

“Five service providers will work over the next 12 months to ensure that vulnerable young South Australians have access to intensive case management.

“Service providers funded under the scheme will ensure young people have access to a range of services that connect them to meaningful employment and education within their local area.”

This includes mentoring, group assistance, counselling, work and life skills development, remedial education, vocational placement, community building activities, advocacy and referrals to external support and specialist services.

*Successful Transitions* will also enable service providers to report on their successes using Results Based Accountability™, an outcomes-based quality improvement framework.

“Research has shown that structured mentoring and intensive case management can have powerful and lasting positive effects on behavioral, academic and vocational outcomes for young people,” Ms Bettison said.

“I look forward to seeing some positive the results over the next 12 months and hope that many young people take up the opportunity to be involved.”

Funded services include:

- Baptist Care – Northern Adelaide
- Workskil – Southern Adelaide
- Uniting Care Wesley Country SA – York Mid North
- Employment Options Inc. – Mt Barker/Murray Bridge
- SYC-HYPA – Limestone Coast

The *Successful Transitions* program is funded through the Office for Youth and is part of the State Government’s *It starts with Youth Strategy*, launched in February 2015. For further information about *Successful Transitions* program or the *It starts with Youth Strategy*, visit the [www.officeforyouth.sa.gov.au](http://www.officeforyouth.sa.gov.au)

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