

Workskills Fact Sheet Number 18

EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS – NEXT STEPS

Back in the eighties and nineties going from school to work happened relatively seamlessly. In fact, most students left school before completing Year 12 to take on full time employment which was reasonably plentiful in those days.

This has now changed quite dramatically in recent times. Most students are now staying to complete Year 12 with over 40% combining full time school study with part time work.

Full time job opportunities for young people are now the exception rather than the norm. Now the jobs that are available are generally casual or part time, and completion of Year 12 is increasingly a requirement for many jobs and even apprenticeships.

So what if you are an early school leaver finding it difficult to get into the job you're after, or just the workforce in general?

WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO DO TO RECEIVE YOUTH ALLOWANCE

To be eligible for Youth Allowance you will have to study or undertake training until you get Year 12 or a Certificate II qualification. Having this higher level of education will help you when you are looking for a job.

AGREE ON A PLAN WITH WORKSKILLS

Workskills will work with you to set out your education training activities in a written plan. To continue receiving Youth Allowance you'll need to meet with us each month to talk about the plan and show that you are doing all your agreed activities.

For instance, if you have a written plan with us that says you need to do a certain number of hours a week of activities (at least 25 each week) you *must* stick to the plan.

If you don't follow your plan and you don't have a good reason, you may lose some of your Youth Allowance payment, so it's important to make sure what you sign up for is achievable and high on your list of priorities.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

If you are studying or training *full-time* you do not have to do extra activities, but if you are studying or training *part-time* you will have to do extra activities to be paid Youth Allowance.

These extra activities can include things like part-time work, volunteer work, Language Literacy and Numeracy Program (LLNP) or specific youth programs. The total number of hours you will need to do is no less than 25 hours each week.

If you are not sure of what to do, where to go or what's available, Workskills will help you choose from a range of approved activities, so ask your Case Manager for assistance.

If you are unable to start doing 25 hours a week study or training straight away Workskills will help you work out what is right for you.

WHAT IF I HAVE YEAR 12 OR CERTIFICATE II QUALIFICATION?

You'll need to provide evidence of your qualification to both Workskills *and* Centrelink.

It's important that this is done because if you don't provide this information you'll need to do approved activities for 25 hours a week to keep receiving Youth Allowance payments.

