Planning for Life after School

1. INTRODUCTION

The Personal Learning Plan (PLP) is a useful starting point for transition planning for students with disability undertaking the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE). The PLP helps students to choose the subjects they will study in Years 11 and 12 and to develop their own individual plan building on their strengths and abilities for moving through school. It can also be used to identify and plan for the transition from school to work, further study or other activities.

Students with disability require strong transition planning to assist them through the change from school to adult life in a smooth and purposeful manner. This resource provides information about several services that can assist with transition planning, further study, employment pathways and other post school options.

2. SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLING

Flexible SACE options
Flexible learning opportunities exist in the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) to give young people the best range of opportunities to gain their certificate. The senior secondary curriculum aims to be inclusive of all students. Students are therefore entitled to have adjustments made in order to allow access to the curriculum and its associated assessment. [http://www.sace.sa.edu.au/the-sace/teachers-schools/flexibility-in-the-sace](http://www.sace.sa.edu.au/the-sace/teachers-schools/flexibility-in-the-sace).

SACE Personal Learning Plan
The PLP is a compulsory subject of the SACE, normally undertaken at Year 10. This subject aims to engage students in selecting subjects, investigating career options and exploring personal and learning goals. Most importantly the PLP is the key subject that can be used to facilitate the transition process from school to further study and/or work. See the SACE Board of South Australia website for more information about the PLP. [http://www.sace.sa.edu.au/web/personal-learning-plan/](http://www.sace.sa.edu.au/web/personal-learning-plan/)

SACE Modified Subjects
The SACE Board of South Australia provides a set of modified SACE subjects for students with identified severe multiple disabilities and/or an intellectual disability impacting on a student’s ability to meet the performance standards of a mainstream subject. Modified subjects are available from the nine learning areas of the SACE curriculum at Stage 1 (usually year 11) and Stage 2 (usually year 12). The Personal Learning Plan (PLP) is also offered as a Modified subject. Detailed information about Modified SACE subjects can be found on the SACE website: [www.sace.sa.edu.au/web/modified-subjects](http://www.sace.sa.edu.au/web/modified-subjects).

SACE Special Provisions
The SACE Board's Special Provisions in Curriculum and Assessment Policy allows alternative arrangements for students whose capacity to access and participate in an assessment is adversely affected in a significant way by illness, impairment, or personal circumstances. There is some general information about special provisions and how to apply on the SACE Board website via the following link: [http://www.sace.sa.edu.au/the-sace/students-families/about-the-sace/special-provisions](http://www.sace.sa.edu.au/the-sace/students-families/about-the-sace/special-provisions).

3. LEAVING SCHOOL

Special education consultants, advisers and disability coordinators provide support for transition to post school options in their respective education sectors. However, planning the transition process may involve external agencies and specialist disability services. SACE Coordinators, career advisors
or special education staff in schools can provide more information especially in relation to the subjects required for chosen pathways, particularly in consideration of Modified subjects. For more information go to https://www.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/23549/leaving-school-and-planning-for-the-future.pdf.

**DECD Transition Centres**
Daws Road Centre, Prospect Centre and Hyde Street Centre are the Department for Education and Child Development’s (DECD) Transition Centres which provide senior secondary students with disability and their families with a range of opportunities to develop their vocational, social, academic and recreational skills. They also provide support for successful transition from school to the most appropriate post-school options. This may involve work or further study. Through a joint approach between schools and local agencies, transition brokers provide services to support students for their life beyond senior secondary schooling. To be eligible to attend one of these DECD transition centres students must:

1. be enrolled at a DECD site and verified within the Disability Support Program
2. have a current Negotiated Education Plan (NEP)
3. be 15 years of age or older

**WORKABOUT Centre**
The WORKABOUT Centre developed by the Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) is an innovative model for connecting Aboriginal youth with pathways that lead to sustainable employment. This program facilitates relationship building between education providers, industry and Aboriginal communities and includes pathways to post-secondary training and higher education. To be eligible students must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin and enrolled at a DECD site. For other opportunities, links and referrals please call the WORKABOUT Centre on 08 8256 8153.

**The State Transition Program**
The State Transition Program coordinated by Personnel Employment (a service of Barkuma Incorporated) aims to assist students with disability to make a successful transition from school to the workforce, a traineeship, apprenticeship or further education. This nationally recognised program, which takes place over four school terms, gives students with disability a head-start through employment skills training, accredited industry training, structured work placement and assistance with job seeking with the support of a Disability Employment Service (DES) agency (see Employment section below for more information about DES). This program is available to students across all three sectors. For more information visit: http://www.barkuma.com.au/transition_services

**Tertiary Education**
*Skills for All* can provide information and advice on Vocational Education and Training and career options. For more information visit: http://www.skills.sa.gov.au/training-learning/assistance-and-support/support-for-people-with-disability.

For Higher Education Pathways refer to the South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC) website http://www.satac.edu.au/. This website provides information about courses and application processes as well as links to each of the university websites and to the TAFE SA website.

**National Disability Coordination Officers**
The role of National Disability Coordination Officers (NDCOs) in South Australia is to assist people with disability to access and participate in tertiary education and subsequent employment. NDCOs can provide advice and resources and also make recommendations of referral to other organisations. For more information, visit their web site at: http://www.adcet.edu.au/Ndco/Sa

The NDCOs in South Australia and Northern Territory together with Youth Connect provide a program called PACTS (Parents as Career Transition Supporters) which is a series of three two hour workshops for parents to develop a better understanding of career development and education/training pathways for their young people. http://www.youthconnect.com.au/career-transition-programs/pacts/
For resources to support transition see the National Disability Coordination Officer (NDCO) website http://www.adcet.edu.au/Ndco/Sa/Publications_and_Resources.chpx.

Useful publications include:

**Employment Services**

Specific information for students with disability is available on the Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training (ADCET) website. ADCET provides post-secondary education, training and employment information and resources for people with disability. http://www.adcet.edu.au/.

The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI), together with other disability employment service providers such as Disability Works Australia (DWA) facilitate and promote employment for people with disability, as well as providing support and advice regarding disability related services. http://www.dcsi.sa.gov.au/careers/disability-employment

Disability Employment Services (DES) provide specialist help for people with a disability, injury or health condition who require support to find and maintain sustainable employment. DES is delivered by a network of organisations around Australia. If you are seeking a referral to DES you should get in touch with Centrelink or visit your local DES provider.

Most participants with a disability, injury or health condition will be assessed by a Job Capacity Assessment (JCA) to determine their eligibility for DES. To find out about your eligibility for DES, phone Centrelink 13 10 21.

The JobSearch website offers a searchable database by State/Region of all federally funded Employment services providers, including the Disability Employment Services (DES). It also provides a range of information about current job vacancies. http://jobsearch.gov.au/provider/default.aspx

For information and advice on looking for work or gaining support in your workplace, phone a JobAccess Adviser on 1800 464 800 or visit the JobAccess website http://www.jobaccess.gov.au/

Job Access is a Commonwealth Government department that can provide information about employment for people with disability, for employers and for service providers. This includes entitlements for people with disability in work environments and workplace modification.

Day options and day programs provide support and activities for eligible adults with disability. These programs provide meaningful day activities that promote learning, skill development and enable access, participation and integration in the local community. For more information go to http://www.jobaccess.gov.au/content/day-options-and-day-programs. In South Australia the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion supports agencies to provide day option programs for young people with intellectual disability moving to adult life. For more information go to http://www.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/19765/intellectual-disability-day-option-program.pdf.

Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs) are generally not for profit organisations providing supported employment opportunities to people with disability. ADEs provide a wide range of employment opportunities and they operate within a commercial context. For more information go to http://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/program-services/for-service-providers/australian-disability-enterprises.

**Centrelink Services (Financial support)**

The Centrelink website contains a list of publications and videos, which include Payments for people living with illness, injury or disability, Disabled, ill or injured and looking for work. It also provides links to other government and community support services including the National Disability Insurance Agency.
Facts for Families

Planning should begin at least three years before your child leaves school (in Year 10) through the Personal Learning Plan (PLP).

Modified subjects and special provisions for external assessment are available for students with severe multiple and/or an intellectual disability impacting on the student’s ability to meet the performance standards of a mainstream subject, to support their participation in the SACE.

You are encouraged to be involved in planning for your child’s life after school including discussions on subject options and support requirements for your child’s senior secondary years.

Options for life beyond school may include tertiary education, training for work and employment.

It is important for secondary students to be actively involved in discussions about their transition from school to work and to further study. This will support their resourcefulness, self-confidence and feeling of empowerment for their future endeavours.

You can get information on planning for leaving school in written and electronic form from the three education sectors.

Personnel from agencies, such as Job Access, Centrelink, the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, and National Disability Coordination Officers, may be helpful with your child’s transition from school to other activities.

Every young person has a right to be and feel safe. Young people with disability are at increased risk of abuse. Please refer to booklets produced by the Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities and Families SA:

- A Guide to Protecting Children and Young People with Disability and Preventing Sexual Abuse.
- Protecting Children and Young People with Disability.

These booklets can be accessed at the Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disability website http://www.macswd.sa.gov.au or in hardcopy by phone on 8226 3632.

Please note- Information provided in this document is subject to change.