



Intercept
Youth & Family Program

Celebrating 20 years of YJET

Youth Justice Education Training





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Foreword



On behalf of Lutheran Services, I am delighted to recognise and celebrate 20 years of Youth Justice Education Training (YJET) changing the trajectory of the lives of young people.

Since 2004, YJET has provided a flexible and welcoming learning environment for hundreds of young people in the Moreton Bay region. They have supported, encouraged, and developed many students who could easily have slipped through the gaps of mainstream schooling; instead helping them set, reach for, and achieve their goals.

I am exceptionally proud that Lutheran Services Intercept Youth & Family Program has contributed to the development and success of YJET since partnering with the program in 2012. Our team believe there is always a way forward—a philosophy shared by our colleagues at YJET.

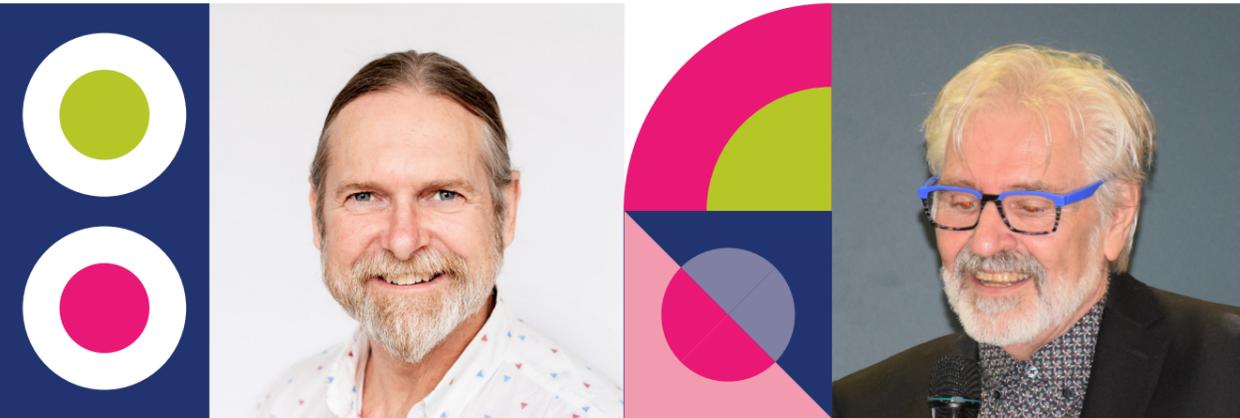
We greatly value and appreciate all our partners, funders and collaborators within the government, education sector and community.

YJET would not be successful without the support of these organisations and individuals. I'd particularly like to acknowledge the significant contribution of the Caboolture Youth Justice Centre, without which this program would not be possible. Much gratitude also to our partners and supporters, including Education Queensland, Morayfield State High School, Tullawong State High School, Caboolture State High School, Charters Towers School of Distance Education, University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland University of Technology, and TAFE Queensland.

YJET is run by a small team with limited funding, achieving big results. It makes a significant difference thanks to the belief in the abilities and potential of the young people they supported. I'd like to recognise and thank this amazing team—whose warmth, courage, and passion make YJET the incredibly special place that it is. With grace and understanding they walk beside the young people of YJET and set them up to thrive.

Nick Ryan
CEO Lutheran Services

Messages



Finding a space where people believe in you and allow you to thrive is what YJET is all about. For 20 years, this program has assisted so many young people to grow their educational and personal skills. I am incredibly grateful to the team that has supported young people reach their goals and inspire them to create new opportunities for their future.

I have really enjoyed the myriad opportunities to witness the magic that happens in the learning spaces of YJET. My hope is that it can grow from its great foundations into wider opportunities for young people to find their place and create their brighter futures.

Chris Seiboth

Executive Lead, Community Services

Since 2003 a crumb of an idea has developed into a 20-year success—recognised twice nationally and once by the Department of Youth Justice. During its time, over 600 young people have benefitted from YJET and have changed their life outcomes, particularly regarding training and employment opportunities. The success of YJET has also undeniably contributed to the success of T2S (Transition to Success). However, for me, it is the faces and pride of the students at their graduation that is the most pleasing.

Additionally, the number of parents who have approached me at every graduation to tell me how YJET has turned their child's life around in such a positive way.

I want to thank the many workers and staff at Caboolture Youth Justice Centre, Intercept, Dr Bob Wenn, Caboolture Area Youth Service (CAYS) and the many students and volunteers who have helped in the success of YJET. Most of all, thanks to all the students and their families.

Geoff Wells

YJET Founder

Former Caboolture Youth Justice Centre Manager



YJET has a rich history and connection with the community. We have two decades filled with remarkable stories, profound connections, and the unwavering spirit of young people—each with their own unique journey, dreams, and challenges.

I have had the privilege of mentoring 123 placement students since joining this transformative program in 2013. They have played an indispensable role in the YJET journey, and their dedication and passion have enriched the lives of the young people we serve and created a ripple effect of positive change within our community.

Every young person at YJET has a story of resilience, growth, and the courage to overcome adversity. We have shared laughter, tears, and triumphs; I have learnt as much as I have taught, and their journeys hold a special place in my heart. I thank every young person who has walked through the doors of YJET, for allowing me to be a small part in your life journey.

The partnerships we have forged with Queensland University of Technology, University of the Sunshine Coast, and TAFE Queensland have been instrumental in our success.

Together, we have created a nurturing environment where young people can thrive, explore their potential, and envision a brighter future. The commitment of the Caboolture Youth Justice Centre has been the backbone of YJET, and we are deeply grateful for your support.

I would also like to acknowledge all the schools and services who have stood by us throughout this journey. Your belief in our mission has made a world of difference.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to the key staff members who have led with compassion and dedication over the years: Monica, Prue, Kate, Jess, Catherine, Rachael, Holly, Jude, Pat, Floyd, Cheryl, Nikki, and the many others from Youth Justice and Intercept. Your leadership and commitment have shaped the lives of countless young people and have left an incredible mark on our program.

YJET is more than just a program; it is a family that has nurtured dreams, fostered growth, and ignited hope. Here's to the next chapter of YJET, where we will continue to uplift and empower the young people who inspire us every day.

Teena Ryder

Program Officer, Intercept Youth & Family Program, YJET

About YJET

YJET supports young people who are either disengaged or at risk of disengaging from mainstream education to get involved in flexible education and complete their year 9 and 10 Maths and English competency. The program supports young people to complete YJET and either move back into mainstream education to complete their senior studies, move onto further education or training, or enter the workforce.

The program, run in partnership with the Caboolture Youth Justice Centre, provides a flexible learning program in a safe, healthy environment. Here, young people can complete literacy and numeracy qualifications, as well as learn life and social skills.

The young people at YJET could potentially fall through the gaps in a mainstream school. So YJET works with schools to identify those students who just need that little bit of extra care and support. YJET is about relationships and connection. On average there are no more than 20 young people in the class each day, supported by three staff members—a project officer, youth mentor, and Youth Justice staff member. This gives YJET the opportunity to really get to know their students and build amazing relationships with them.

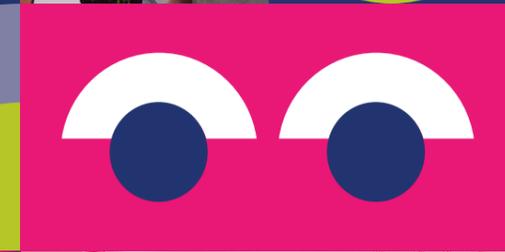
For the past two decades, the YJET program has stood as a beacon of hope for young people who don't fit within the rigid structures of traditional education systems. At its core, YJET is about embracing diversity in learning and creating space for those who have often been misunderstood or approach learning differently. Founded on the belief that every young person deserves a chance to thrive, YJET has helped countless young people rediscover their potential through inclusive and individualised education opportunities. These spaces aren't just classrooms; they are vibrant communities of support, fun, and possibility, where each young person is seen for their strengths.

Rachael Woolley

Placement Student 2023, YJET Support Worker 2023–2024,
YJET Transitional Case Manager 2024

Why YJET?

Why YJET works for young people disengaged from education:



The YJET story *as told by Geoff Wells*

The concept of YJET was formed in August/September 2003, when Dr Bob Wenn, CEO of Caboolture Area Youth Service (CAYS), and I learnt that Education Queensland may have funding available to support young people who were struggling to engage with the mainstream education system.

Bob and I saw an opportunity; we worked with young people who had dropped out of the high school system and were missing out on a basic education. So, with Education Queensland, we devised a plan.

Initially the aim was to support young people aged 14–16 who had been remanded in custody at Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC) or who had completed their detention orders. These young people had access to an excellent education unit at BYDC but faced challenges accessing education on their release.

Deception Bay State High School helped develop a curriculum and initial teaching model, but more students were needed to justify the funding. So, the criteria were broadened to include young people on Youth Justice community orders. This was expanded again later to include youth who had dropped out of the mainstream school system.

Securing teaching staff was challenging. The solution was to employ people who had TAFE Cert IV training and assessment qualifications. CAYS provided the personnel and the Caboolture Youth Justice Centre the premises, youth worker and administrative support.

The first intake of students started at YJET in Term 2 of 2004. The curriculum was Year 9 and 10 English and Math with other 'foundation' units relevant to the students' needs. The program quickly developed and started receiving attention and recognition for its achievements.

In 2006, the team was recognised at the Australasian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards, and then won the Minister's Award for Excellence in 2007.

The program continued to evolve, with the curriculum accreditation moving to Charters Towers School of Distance Education.

CAYS closed in 2012 following Dr Bob Wenn's retirement, and Lutheran Services' Intercept began a partnership with the Caboolture Youth Justice Centre.

This change reinvigorated the program, bringing new energy and innovative teaching and curriculum models. Great effort was put into maintaining and increasing funding. The support of Jim Box, Principal of Caboolture State High School, and Mark Ryan MP, local state member and former Minister for Police and Community Safety, were critical to the survival of YJET.

YJET continued to raise its standards and success rate, increasing referrals to the program from Tullawong, Morayfield, Caboolture and Beerwah State High Schools.

In 2017, YJET was again recognised nationally, gaining a Certificate of Merit from the Australasian Violence and Crime Prevention Conference.

Youth Justice teams across Queensland developed their own version of the program based on YJET's accomplishments. YJET was also the inspiration for the Department of Youth Justice's T2S (Transition to Success) program, which is now a statewide program.

YJET too, moved with the times. The curriculum changed to include numeracy and literacy units. Life and employment skills were also added, which helped develop and prepare students to enter the T2S program and be better prepared for the future.

20 years on, YJET's goal is the same—to create a friendly, safe and supportive learning environment. A space that empowers young people to set positive education goals, develop self-confidence, and build literacy, numeracy, social, and life skills. In essence, helping them to thrive.

Intercept and YJET

The team at Lutheran Services Intercept Youth & Family Program is dedicated to supporting young people to set and achieve their goals, and we know that education is a foundation that can set them up for success. Intercept has been offering support, understanding and welcome to young people in the City of Moreton Bay for the past 13 years, partnering with YJET in 2012 to help make a positive difference to the lives of local young people in need.

TIMELINE

- 2003** Dr Bob Wenn, CEO of CAYS and Geoff Well form the concept of YJET.
- 2004** YJET officially launches with the first intake of students.
- 2006** Deception Bay High School, CAYS and the Caboolture Youth Justice Centre are nominated at the 2006 Australasian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards for their unique and positive contribution towards crime prevention.
- 2007** YJET wins the Minister's Award for Excellence.
- 2007 – 2012** The program evolves. Curriculum accreditation is transitioned to Charters Towers School of Distance Education.
- 2012** Intercept partners with the Caboolture Youth Justice Centre following the closure of CAYS.
- 2012 – 2015** Intercept advocates to maintain and increase funding. Funding is secured for additional 2-3 years.

Tullawong, Morayfield, Caboolture and Beerwah State High Schools start referring students to YJET.
- 2016** Bronze award in the community-led category of the Australian Crime and Violence Prevention awards.
- 2017** Certificate of Merit from the Australasian Violence and Crime Prevention Conference.

YJET inspires a new program developed by the Department of Youth Justice, named T2S (Transition 2 Success).

YJET's curriculum changes to include numeracy and literacy units. Life and employment skills are also included.
- 2021** Teena Ryder is one of five finalists in the Employee of the Year category at the Moreton Bay Region Business Excellence and Innovations Awards.

Highlights

STATISTICS

Since 2012:

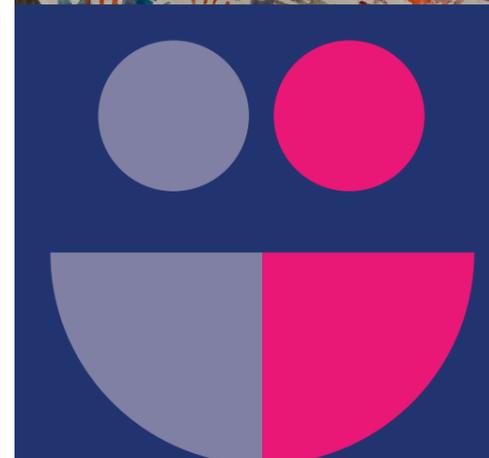
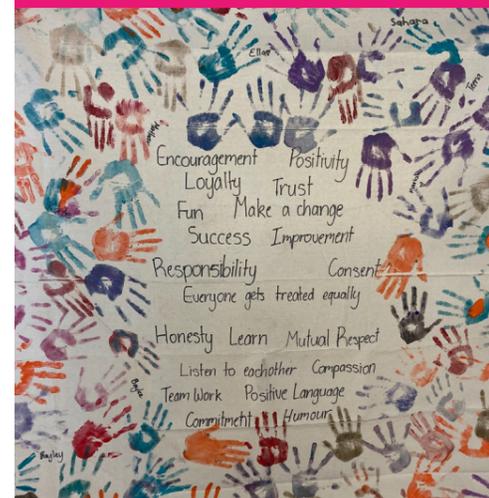
- 532 referrals
- 371 students
- 841 courses completed

Referrals:

- 132 from Youth Justice
- 207 from local state high schools
- 5 from community agencies
- 18 from students themselves
- 18 from Child Safety

Destination on leaving YJET:

- 74 Employment
- 36 Transition to Success (T2S)
- 17 Employment agencies and support
- 20 Alternative education programs
- 17 Returned to mainstream school
- 1 Homeschooling
- 1 Joined the Army
- 11 Paid traineeships
- 31 Other RTOs to complete certificates
- 6 TAFE
- 4 Gained an apprenticeship
- 10 Referred to other supports
- 19 Still enrolled at YJET



Student reflections

More than 350 students have graduated from YJET since Intercept joined the team in 2012. With life, academic, relationship, social, and business skills under their belts, alumni have gone on to do what seemed like an impossible dream before YJET. Students leave YJET with confidence, courage, and friendships—resilient from the challenges they have faced and prepared for the adventures and opportunities ahead.

YJET helped me start a good path for my life in the future and helped me be the person I am today and helped me grow as a person. Since leaving I've gotten a good job in a family-like workplace. I learnt that if you are clear on what you want, your efforts will decide what you deserve in the end.

Skyla YJET Student 2023

My best memory from YJET is making so many friends and having the best food of my entire existence. YJET helped me and gave me a second chance for my education and encouraged me that I can do what I want to do. They helped with my mental health, my work, and showed a lot of encouragement. They never gave up on a student. YJET is such a welcoming warm place, filled with laughter, joy and so much fun.

Mia YJET Student 2023–2024

YJET helped me get my white card and honestly if I didn't go to YJET I wouldn't be where I am today. I wouldn't have succeeded at mainstream school. YJET helped me to succeed and grow as a person. I am working, I got my learner's permit, and I am still linked into the support YJET set me up with.

Sahara YJET Student 2023

YJET helped me build my literacy and numeracy skills and to get a white card. It has helped me since leaving school. I have done a lot of things since leaving YJET. I have worked on a farm. I have done tree lopping. I have worked at a few mechanic shops and worked with heavy machinery. I have done cleaning in factories and subcontracting jobs.

Joshua YJET Student 2019–2020

YJET helped me by giving me assistance in completing my year 10. I received lots of support, more than what I would have received at a mainstream school. The workers are pretty cool. I am going to KARIOS in 2025 to complete my year 11 and year 12.

Oliver YJET Student 2024

The small business course was amazing and set me up for my future. It really gave me direction in life and gave me hope. Mainstream school didn't work for me, but YJET helped with life skills to help in the real world. When I left YJET I got an apprenticeship in hospitality. I now own my small business in car detailing.

Caleb YJET Student 2021

YJET was a terrific program for me. It was way better than going to a mainstream school. The program is self-paced so that was ideal for me because at a mainstream school you are forced to learn quickly. Food is catered so you will always have food in your system.

Angel YJET student 2016

I really like YJET because it is self-paced and I got more one-on-one help with the work I struggled with. And we got lunch, and it doesn't go for as long as normal school and all the workers are very nice and helpful. I don't think I could have gotten my year 10 if I went to a different school. I am very thankful for all their help.

Clair YJET student 2016



Team reflections

YJET’s heart lies in the leadership of the staff, whose steadfast faith in the young people they walk alongside is inspiring. Their attitude, belief and passion have set the tone for YJET. The team goes above and beyond to create nurturing and empowering environments where young people can thrive. Without them, YJET would not be possible.

YJET has transformed the lives of so many incredible young people, providing a place of safety, belonging, acceptance, and learning. The pride of the young people—and their families—as they receive their certificates at graduation is truly inspiring. This program is a powerful example of a community coming together to uplift and support each young person, and it would not be possible without the dedicated collaboration of the Caboolture Youth Justice Centre, Morayfield State High School, Tullawong State High School and Caboolture State High School.

I am beyond proud to work alongside the remarkable YJET team, who make this impact possible every day.

Sarah Souter *Intercept Youth & Family Program Service Manager*

YJET is built on the resilience, courage, and determination of young people, and their success is testament to what can happen when they are given the opportunity to be seen, heard, and believed in.

Rachael Woolley *Placement Student 2023, YJET Support Worker 2023-2024, YJET Transitional Case Manager 2024*

YJET is a space for young people to achieve what they were led to believe they couldn’t. My favourite aspect of YJET would have to be the excitement and authentic pride in the room at graduation... the young people who thought they couldn’t have!

Kate Coles *YJET Support Worker 2017–2023*

If nothing else, our graduation ceremonies demonstrated why we chose to make YJET work. Seeing each young person so proudly accept their certificates and celebrate their success, surrounded by family and other supports, was our why. Education changes lives.

Michelle Barton *Former Intercept Youth & Family Program Service Manager*

The best part of YJET was seeing young people get a job or go onto further training, find stable housing, stay out of trouble with police, or repair relationships with family. I’m proud that we built a strong collaborative partnership with all the professional stakeholders. YJET has always been very well supported by local politicians and organisations because everyone knows how important it is to keep it going as an early intervention, education, and crime-prevention program.

Lewis Kwarciany *Team leader of YJET 2012–2021*

My fondest memories of YJET are of teaching English; reading personal journal entries, where the young people wrote about themselves and shared life experiences, was an honour. They had allowed me into their world.

Ros Ferguson *Teacher, Flexible Learning Initiatives Queensland*

The most memorable moments were seeing that spark in their eyes when they completed all their work. They realised they could do anything they put their mind to, because they’d been supported. That’s the magic.

Jess *TAFE placement student 2021, YJET Support Worker 2021–2024*



Placement student reflections

Since 2018, YJET has been helping a new group of tertiary students reach their goals and dreams. Over the past seven years, 121 young people have completed their student placement at YJET. Students studying a diverse range of courses—from Social Work to Occupational Therapy to Child Youth and Family Intervention—have gained invaluable practical education experience, while supporting the YJET students with their study and development.

Twenty placement students have even gone on to work at Intercept. It's a win-win arrangement!

I was inspired to do a placement as being in the foster system as a child had motivated me to do better for young people today, as I know how difficult it can be.

Terrell TAFE placement student 2024

At YJET young people's needs are put first, and they are welcomed into a space where they are supported and able to feel confident in their progress.

Penny Social Work placement student 2023

Seeing young people progressively growing and changing because of YJET was really motivating.

Lee Nam Social Work placement student 2023

YJET makes a massive positive impact on the young people that enter it. They left YJET with a plan for their future and a far more positive outlook.

Tayla Social Work placement student 2023

The whole experience is incredibly humbling, and I learnt so much from all the young people I worked with.

Catherine Social Work placement student 2022

Working in a local high school, I see the gap in the education system that YJET can fill for those who struggle in a traditional classroom environment.

Tarlee Social Work placement student 2024

I was privileged to witness individuals grow in confidence, resilience and motivation—each step progress toward positive change in their lives.

Chloe Social Work placement student 2023

I now attend university with a YJET graduate. Her journey proves how this program can alter the trajectory of young lives.

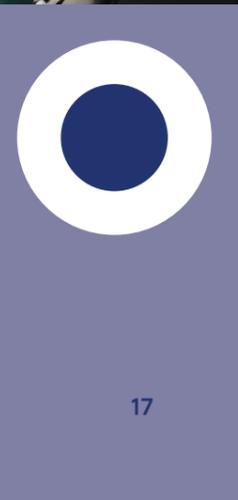
Mia Human Services placement student 2024

Seeing young people progress day by day was inspirational. The students shared with me that at YJET, they feel warm and safe.

Cassie Social Work placement student 2023

I had the privilege of witnessing young people walk out of YJET with self-confidence in who they are and what they can do.

Laura Social Work placement student 2023



Success stories

Annual family dinners

The annual family dinner showcases the knowledge, skills and confidence that YJET participants gain during their time on the program.

With a new sense of empowerment, confidence and capability, students host a memorable end-of-term dinner for their parents, carers, and stakeholders. They manage every detail, from research to planning, shopping and cooking. They draw on their newly acquired numeracy, life, and social skills, and demonstrate the power of collaboration, as they rely on each other for support and encouragement to ensure the dinner is a success.

Each menu is carefully crafted to reflect the diverse skills they had acquired during their life skills sessions. The students cook each dish perfectly and serve it with pride to their guests.

Students also personalise place cards for their guests. These cards are not just decorations but a heartfelt gesture of appreciation to those who attend.

The speeches are the highlight of the evening. Their genuine and emotional speeches express their gratitude for the unwavering support from their parents and carers and are a reminder of the transformation the students have made during the term.

The family dinner is a celebration of the students' growth, resilience and gratitude. It showcases the incredible potential of each student.

My favourite memory from the YJET dinner was cooking and serving lasagna to all our guests and I enjoyed having my Dad at the dinner.

Sam 2023 student

I liked how all the students and student parents were kind to each other and getting along and of course the students serving food to the guests. It was a lovely night and a night I was so happy to be a part of.

Ceesha 2023 student



Our bursary program

YJET’s bursary program awards students with \$1,000 to help them with future education, training or employment expenses.

The YJET team spends considerable time reviewing students’ progress when deciding the end-of-year awards. The Geoff Wells Spirit Bursary is no different. Recipients must demonstrate how their approach and conduct reflect the key values underpinning YJET.

Winners show respect for themselves, their peers, and staff, as well as high attendance records and exemplary behaviour. They will have shown resilience and leadership in the YJET space and beyond—displaying considerable growth in not only their schoolwork but in their personal development.

This bursary serves as a tribute to YJET founder Geoff Wells’ unwavering spirit and his belief in the potential of our young people. It symbolises the impact he has made and continues to make in their lives.

Winners to date:

- 2021 Danni Rowe
- 2022 Sophie Thrupp and Jarred Moreton-Stretton
- 2023 Skyla Roycroft and Corey Kassulke
- 2024 Oliver McInnes and Mia Rehberg-Edgar



Crime & Violence Prevention Awards

YJET has been instrumental in reducing youth crime, showing a direct correlation between better education and a reduction in criminal behaviour. When someone starts to believe in themselves and their future, the changes are profound.

In 2006, Deception Bay High School, CAYS and the Caboolture Youth Justice Centre were recognised at the Australasian Crime & Violence Prevention Awards. They received a bronze award for their unique and positive contribution to crime prevention. This was the first of several accolades for YJET, for the difference they make to young people, their families, and the community.

Community Based Crime Action (CBCA) grant

Community Based Crime Action (CBCA) grants have provided additional funding to YJET for the past three years. The YJET program does not have any discretionary funds, so the grants have been essential to:

- support young people in getting white cards to help obtain future employment
- pay for groceries for breakfast club and living skill groups, and
- supply stationery.

These funds have supported students to remain engaged in the program and removed barriers for attendance such as lack of food and stationery items.

In 2024, YJET received a CBCA grant to employ a Transitional Case Manager three days a week for 12 months. This role helps young people transition out of YJET. Since August, more than 11 young people have engaged in this support and 90.9% have commenced employment, moved into further education, or returned to mainstream schooling for their senior studies.



Working together

YJET's success is based on strong community foundations and buy-in. It has gone from strength to strength over the past 20 years thanks to committed partnerships and passionate staff, who walk alongside the young people of YJET. We deeply value the partnerships across governments at all levels, and the collaborative relationships with other community organisations in the Caboolture area and its surrounds.

I have been privileged to continue to support YJET's collaborative work. I have seen first-hand the positive change and growth in young people engaging with the program, and the persistence and consistency that is provided by the YJET team. I have seen young people be brave, take risks and achieve the unexpected. I feel fortunate to be a small part of the ongoing journey.

Claire Walker Caboolture Youth Justice Centre Manager

It has been an honour to see the YJET program grow over the years. The YJET partnership is a fine example of interagency collaboration and brings together key stakeholders to wrap support around young people, their families and community. The team's compassion and commitment have contributed towards real change for so many.

Tara Morrissey Former Lutheran Services Regional Manager

What started locally as a small program has inspired many related initiatives across the state and has received much acclaim from across many sectors. However, the biggest and most important acknowledgment is the individual impact that YJET has had on young people's lives... transforming pathways and providing opportunities for better outcomes. YJET is a credit to the staff, mentors, and supporters of this life-changing program.

Well done to the young people who have seized the opportunities provided by YJET and have been central to everything that YJET has achieved. I'm proud of my association with and support of YJET.

Mark Ryan Member for Morayfield and former Minister for Police and Community Safety

The positive impact YJET has on the lives of students who are at risk of disengaging is profound. The unique, targeted support that YJET has afforded Tullawong State High School students has been transformative. The meaningful futures for students who attend YJET are built on self-belief and the realisation that they can add value to their community and society. The YJET effect extends far beyond the individual and the true impact is unmeasurable.

Troy Sheppard Head of Department Behaviour, Tullawong State High School

The relationship that we have developed with YJET has seen multiple students graduating and moving on to further studies, work, and returning to mainstream schooling. For many, this program has been their saviour and the reason they now are contributing citizens in our community. We work as a team to provide support to students that they cannot receive anywhere else.

The testament of this program and the relationships built is the number of students who drop in to say hi and let the team at YJET know how they are doing after they have graduated.

Morayfield State High School

YJET has had a transformative impact on the Caboolture State High School community, creating exceptional support pathways and achieving success for many of our students and their families.

With YJET's emphasis on holistic support, our students have been able to pursue academic and vocational pathways, and the program's real-world outcomes have enhanced students' employability and personal growth. This initiative has not only uplifted individual students but has also strengthened our broader school community.

Caboolture State High School



Our thanks to...

Our partner schools:

- Charters Towers School of Distance Education
- Caboolture State High School
- Tullawong State High School
- Morayfield State High School

Our placement student partners:

- University of the Sunshine Coast
- Queensland University of Technology
- TAFE Queensland

Our funding partners:

- Caboolture Youth Justice Centre
- Queensland Department of Education





Lutheran
Services
There for you

