# Passionate staff keeping teenagers in school

Navigator is about supporting young people to get back into school and providing the right support to make that happen and for that to be successful so that they can keep going to school. There were so many kids that just weren’t going to school that were completely disengaged so Navigator’s real aim is to try and support those young people to get back into school and attending, and being well supported to do that.

So I guess from a partnership point of view we appreciate the opportunity to work in collaboration with the Department so utilising the skills I guess and knowledge and the experience that community services organisations like our own can bring the service and complement the existing services that the Department already have to look at some long term outcomes for the young people. We’re able to take the opportunity to connect with young people where they feel comfortable. So we might meet with young people in their homes, in their schools, in community settings. The idea is just to help them feel comfortable so that they feel that they’ve got an opportunity to have their own voice.

I think there’s been a great opportunity to start to build really strong relationships with schools while we’re sort of getting up and running and starting to look at working with young people and their families. We’ve had the opportunity to go out to schools, and meet with teachers, and meet with other services, really I guess work out how Navigator can complement existing services but we also work really collaboratively with other services in schools.

What I’d like to see is long term outcomes for these young people so that we don’t see them disengaged again down the track.

I think it’s going to be really great to see young people actually going back to school that haven’t been there for such a long time. But I also think one of the things we will start to see is schools focussing a lot more on the wellbeing of students through their work with the Navigator program as well.

I see this as an opportunity for us to complement what’s already happening in schools and to support schools as well as to advocate on behalf of the families and the young people. I think everyone’s trying really hard, I think schools are trying really hard, I think families are trying to do that best that they can, and I guess we can help to bring all that together.

So the Navigator programs have been a real success and in terms of people are starting to know about the program and we’re getting lots and lots of referrals coming through. It’s got to the point that we’ve hit demand really quickly and that’s really exciting a way because what that shows us is that there are kids out there that need Navigator’s support. It’s a great opportunity to get the Department more out in the community and I think that only promotes really good partnerships and it is, it’s absolute pleasure.