# Designated Teacher

## Fact Sheet

LOOKOUT Centres are an additional resource to support schools, Child Protection Practitioners and case workers to meet their obligations under the *Out-Of-Home Care Education Commitment: A Partnering Agreement between DHHS, DET, Catholic Education Commission of Victoria and Independent Schools Victoria* (the Agreement)*.* This includes ensuring that all students have:

* an Individual Education Plan (IEP)
* a Student Support Group (SSG)
* a Learning Mentor
* appropriate and structured contact between schools, case workers and carers.

As an additional support to schools and students in out-of-home care, LOOKOUT has introduced Designated Teachers to Victorian schools. In conjunction with LOOKOUT Centres, the Designated Teacher will ensure students are engaged in their education and meeting their learning goals.

## Responsibilities

Designated Teachers are a new responsibility introduced to Victorian schools as part of the LOOKOUT Centre model.

The Designated Teacher is the first point of contact within the school and has a key role in supporting students in out-of-home care to make a smooth transition into school, including making sure there are effective arrangements in place for the speedy transfer of information between relevant agencies.

## The Designated Teacher will:

* promote a culture of high expectations and aspirations for students in out-of-home care
* make sure the student has a voice in setting learning targets
* be a source of advice for staff about differentiated teaching strategies appropriate for individual students
* ensure all Koorie students have a Cultural Support Plan and are linked with the Koorie Education Support Officer (KESO) (government schools)
* ensure that students in out-of-home care are prioritised in one-to-one tuition arrangements
* ensure carers understand the importance of supporting learning at home
* have lead responsibility to ensure each student in out-of-home care has a quality IEP
* ensure referrals are made to additional learning assessments when required (e.g. speech pathology)
* promote implementation of all elements of the Partnering Agreement.

Schools will already have arrangements in place for how they engage with outside agencies. The Designated Teacher is the first point of contact with the LOOKOUT Centre and is the advocate for students in out-of-home care.

Designated Teachers do not replace the role of the student wellbeing staff in working with external agencies to support students in out-of-home care. The Designated Teacher will work collaboratively with the school’s wellbeing staff and other agency representatives to support each student to remain connected and engaged with their education.

## Is there training involved?

Yes. A Designated Teacher, is nominated by their principal and trained by LOOKOUT Centre staff to be the advocate for and champion of out-of-home care students at their school. Designated Teachers will be found in Government schools and within Catholic and Independent schools from 2017.

## Key contacts

If you would like more information or advice, please contact the LOOKOUT Centre in your region:

LOOKOUT Centre South Western Victoria Region

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To find out which region you are living in, please visit:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/structure/Pages/regions.aspx#which>