

Navigator

OVERVIEW

The Navigator program funds community service organisations to provide intensive case management and assertive outreach to young people aged 12-17 years who are significantly disengaged from school to support them to return to education. It is part of the Government's commitment to increasing the numbers of young people connected to school and engaged in learning.

The program currently operates in eleven Areas across the state: Central Highlands, Western Melbourne, Mallee, Hume Moreland, Goulburn, Ovens Murray, Bayside Peninsula and Southern Melbourne, Brimbank Melton, Loddon Campaspe and Inner Gippsland.

The 2018-19 State Budget committed \$43.8 million over four years (and \$14.9 million ongoing) to expand the program state-wide over the next three years. From the start of term 1 2019, schools in Brimbank Melton, Loddon Campaspe and Inner Gippsland and young people that live in these areas have been able to access the Navigator program.

The Navigator model is defined by its partnership approach between the community sector, Department of Education and Training, and education providers to enable a service that supports a place-based response to disengagement and supports a young person to re-engage in education.

EVIDENCE BASE

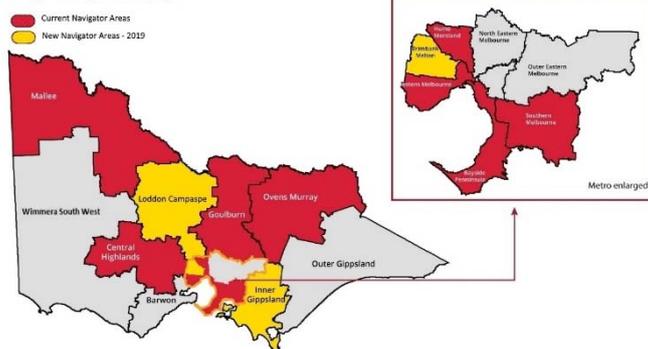
Lamb, S., Jackson, J., Walstab, A., and Huo, S. (2015). *Educational opportunity in Australia 2015 Who succeeds and who misses out*, Mitchell Institute.

This study draws together information on the opportunities being provided to young Australians as they negotiate the various stages of education and training and attempt to establish themselves in the workforce during their transition to adulthood.

Dandolo Partners (2014). *Evaluation of the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions. A report for the Department of Education.*

Evaluation of the National Partnership, including the Youth Connections program, which informed the design of the Navigator service.

Navigator Program Area Map



KEY LINKS

For further information on Navigator on the Department of Education and Training's website, see:

[Navigator Program](#)

Theory of Change – Navigator

If we identify and support Victoria's disengaged learners and connect them with individualised and targeted services

then we will provide better support to young people to address their barriers to effective learning

so that we increase the numbers of young people connected to school and engaged in learning.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Navigator achieving?

In the eight Navigator pilot sites at the end of September 2018, 1,639 young people have received case management support through the initiative. The program has supported a total of 1,214 young to return to education, which is an increase of 208 since March 2018. 183 young people have exited Navigator successfully, which is defined as having re-engaged in education consistently for 26 weeks, with an average attendance of 70 percent or higher.

Who is eligible and how will schools/Areas/young people connect with the Navigator service in the eleven Areas?

Young people aged between 12 and 17 years of age who have attended school less than 30 percent of the time for 13 weeks or more and live or are enrolled in a school in one of the eleven Areas are eligible for Navigator. Anyone can refer a young person via the online referral form on the Department's website.

DET has a dedicated Navigator Coordinator in each of the eleven Area Offices where the program operates. Their role includes managing referrals, working with the Navigator provider and their partner organisations and liaising with local schools. If a school has young people they wish to refer or are working to support Navigator clients to re-engage with their school, they may wish to contact their local Navigator Coordinator for further information and support.

When is the Navigator program available state-wide?

After a successful pilot in eight Areas, the program is planned to expand state-wide over the next three years.

The expansion is to be phased over 2019-2021, with the program to commence in up to three new Areas per year. In January 2019, Navigator commenced in Brimbank Melton, Loddon Campaspe and Inner Gippsland Areas.

How can we support our principals and schools to work effectively with Navigator Providers and Coordinators, and to support the needs of students at risk of disengagement?

Effective communication relating to the service and how it complements and supplements existing supports is critical. For 2018, DET has issued clearer operational and funding guidelines for key engagement supports, including School Focused Youth Services, Local Learning and Employment Networks and Navigator. These will equip Area teams to better support at-risk students and schools to identify and access appropriate support. Work is underway to strengthen local management and coordination across this suite of supports, and to identify opportunities to strengthen connections and communication between schools, programs and provider agencies.

Navigator Coordinators are continuing to work with schools to assist their understanding of the support that the Navigator program can provide, and to support schools to identify and engage with young people who are not attending school. An indirect outcome of Navigator is that schools are developing a stronger understanding of how to support and reconnect with young people who have disengage

PROGRESS TO DATE

Service delivery commenced	Jul 2016
Impact Evaluation complete	Dec 2017
Budget outcome confirming expansion	Apr 2018
First tranche of new Areas announced	Aug 2018
Service providers confirmed across all Areas	Nov 2018

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES

Service delivery commences in new areas	Early 2019
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