# The Partnering Agreement: Roles and Responsibilities

## 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)*.*

The Agreement aims to ensure that:

* processes are in place to actively support the educational achievement of every child and young person in out-of-home care
* a strongly coordinated approach exists to support the needs of children and young people in out-of-

home care

* all parties understand each other’s roles and responsibilities and work cooperatively
* strategies are implemented to improve outcomes related to student enrolment, attendance, achievement, case planning, retention and school completion.

LOOKOUT Centres will not replace the responsibilities of any of the signatories to the Agreement. Rather, Centre staff will work closely with schools to bolster compliance in order to achieve improved outcomes for children and young people in out-of-home care.

## How do LOOKOUT Centres work with schools?

Each LOOKOUT Centre is led by a principal and staffed by a multidisciplinary team with expertise in

* education
* Koorie cultural awareness
* psychology
* social work and
* psychology.

The team will work with schools via the Designated Teacher, a key new role, who is the first point of contact within the school (for more information, please read the Designated Teacher Fact Sheet).

Centre staff, via the Designated Teacher will draw on the health and wellbeing staff, Student Support Services (SSS) staff, Koorie education teams, and school improvement teams to make sure that out-of-home care students have access to everything they are entitled to.

## Areas where LOOKOUT centres will add support

LOOKOUT Centre staff provide advice and support to school staff, child protection workers, community service organisations and carers in all aspects of a student’s education. This includes ensuring that all students have:

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

## Enrolment, suspension and expulsion

LOOKOUT principals will act as the ‘pushy parent’, challenging enrolment decisions that are not in the best interest of the student. Utilising existing structures, LOOKOUT principals will advocate for students in out-of-home care when it comes to matters of suspension and expulsion.

It is the role of LOOKOUT Centre staff to reinforce the fundamental importance of education for children and young people in out-of-home care. In the spirit of shared responsibility and collaboration, LOOKOUT Centres will support everyone, including the students, to hold high expectations of what children and young people can achieve and to ensure those aspirations are met.

## Key contacts

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

LOOKOUT Centre South Western Victoria Region

[lookout.swv@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:lookout.swv@edumail.vic.gov.au)

LOOKOUT Centre South Eastern Victoria Region

[lookout.sev@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:lookout.sev@edumail.vic.gov.au)

LOOKOUT Centre North Western Victoria Region

[lookout.nwv@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:lookout.nwv@edumail.vic.gov.au)

LOOKOUT Centre North Eastern Victoria Region

[lookout.nev@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:lookout.nev@edumail.vic.gov.au)

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

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