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What options are available for school leavers?

What is Futures For Young Adults?

Futures For Young Adults Program (*sometimes known as* Community Options) provides support to students with a disability to make the transition from school to post school options. FFYA can include work experience, further education, day placement and community participation options. You can access Futures For Young Adults Program if you are 18 years of age the year you are leaving school and receiving support at the school through the Program for Students with a Disability (or equivalent). For more information contact the Department of Human Services **Intake and Response** Team on 1800 783 783.

What does Centrelink provide?

There are a number of different options, below are just a few:

Disability Support Pension – may be available from the age of 16 if your disability prevents you from working.

Pensioner Education Supplement – if you are in receipt of a Centrelink payment you can receive an additional payment if you undertake an Austudy approved course.

Mobility Allowance – if you cannot use public transport and need assistance to get employment, study, voluntary work or day placement you may be eligible for an additional fortnightly payment.

Rent Assistance – If you are in non-government supported accommodation (such as paying board to someone) you may be eligible for rent assistance.

For further information including eligibility criteria contact Centrelink on 132 717.

What is supported employment?

Supported employment opportunities are available for people who require a little extra support in a working environment.

There are a number of providers. To find one near you call the Centrelink Senior Customer Services Adviser on 13 27 17. A list can also be found at the following websites:

ACE National Network

www.acenational.org.au

Department of Family, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

www.FaHCSIA.gov.au

What are some further education options?

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations provide **National Disability Coordination Officers** who will be able to discuss all options with you for any TAFE, Uni or employment opportunities in your area. Contact RMIT on 9925 3531 to get further details.

If VCE is not an option ask your school about the **Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)** which is an alternative option.

There are many TAFE life skills development courses and most TAFE's have a disability liaison officer. To find your nearest TAFE take a look at www.tafe.vic.gov.au or call the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development on 1800 809 834.

A list of Adult and Community Education Organisations can be found at www.acfe.vic.gov.au

Local Neighbourhood houses and Community Centres offer a range of courses and recreation options. To find your nearest house go to www.anhlc.asn.au or call 9654 1104.

<http://www.cmag.org.au>