

Links to Learning

Contact details

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Hours of service: Monday to Friday: 9.00am – 5.00pm

Coordinator: Veronica Macdonald

Manager: Susan Chapman

Operations Manager: Anthea Jackson

Director: Vivien Tait

About the program

The Links to Learning program is an early intervention program that began in 2001 and targets Year 7 and 8 students at risk of leaving school early.

The program focuses on learning themes such as surf-life saving/first aid, and provides a range of activities via group work and individual casework to improve and develop academic, social and life skills. The student's ultimate goal is to make a successful transition back to school and maintain regular attendance. The program is based at the Macarthur Youth Resource Centre.

Eligibility

- Year 7 and 8 students at risk of leaving school early, and
- students who are disengaged from school settings.

Objectives

The purpose of the program is to:

- support students who may be truanting, non-school attenders, and class avoiders or may be experiencing a range of issues including bullying, family breakdown, isolation etc which create barriers to positive learning in mainstream schooling;
- the program focuses on learning themes such as surf-life saving/first aid, and provides a range of activities via group work and individual casework, to improve and develop academic, social and life skills;
- students also progress towards achieving key competencies such as working in teams to enable greater opportunities and achievements towards life success;
- the program is based at the Airs Youth Centre in the Campbelltown LGA which is the third largest school district in NSW, this district has an extremely

high proportion of young people and a higher percentage of early school leavers than the state average.

Referral

Due to the nature of this program, DET has selected five schools in the Campbelltown LGA to be involved with program.

Key facts

Students will have participated regularly in program activities, completed a final project such as music, art and fitness programs. They will have increased confidence/self-esteem, developed new peer relationships, improved their ability to complete homework, be attending school regularly, and achieved the goals they have set during their participation in the program.

In addition students will have developed a next step transition plan to assist them to return to school and enable them to participate in actively and positive manners using skills they have learned during the program. They will have made progress and achievements in a range of key competency skills such as working in teams, solving problems, using technology and mathematical concepts etc.

Students participate in and contribute to planning a range of group and individually tailored activities. Staff use a strengths-based, solution focused approach to assist students to achieve their intended outcomes. Students utilise a service folder and also complete pathways and transition plans.

Sources of Funding:

100 % State Government