

# CASE STUDY:

## Cooperation between Local Government and youth support services

### *Youth Transition Support Services*

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Youth Transition Support (YTS) services have been funded by the Australian Government to help young refugee and migrants aged 15 to 25 to participate in education and work.

YTS services are delivered by six providers covering 16 Local Government Areas in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, in areas with high numbers of young refugees and migrants. Under the YTS services, each provider partners with other settlement services, employers, schools, technical and further education providers, universities and sporting organisations, as well as with Local Governments in their area. Through these partnerships, YTS providers develop innovative measures to improve young people's readiness for employment and access to vocational opportunities. They do this by building on existing initiatives and strengthening existing networks, such as using sports programs as pathways to employment and stronger social engagement.

YTS services are demonstrating the value of having trained and experienced youth support workers planning and providing services in partnership with local services including employment and settlement service specialists.

### Innovative approaches to cooperate with local government

One YTS service provider worked closely with a local government and had an integrated approach to its service delivery and partnerships structure.

Two Youth Labour Market Facilitators were placed in the Economic Development Unit<sup>1</sup> as part of this partnership between the service provider and Local Government. One of the facilitators was an employee of the service provider, and the other one was an employee of the Local Government, partly funded by the YTS services.

This co-location partnership arrangement was the first of its kind within the Local Government. It was an innovative approach to partnership as it leveraged scarce resources and common purposes to increase employment of young people in the area.

This arrangement ensured ongoing working relationships with the Local Government's Economic Development Unit and facilitated linking young people with employment opportunities in the local community. Through this partnership, the Local Government also facilitated linkages with local businesses, where its reputation provided employers with confidence in offering work placements for young people, and enabled young people to be matched with appropriate opportunities in the area. This aligned with the Local Government's goal of creating local jobs and strengthening businesses to benefit the local community.

Through this partnership, the service provider invested and worked directly with the Local Government in their local economic development strategy. The service provider supported the development of a specific youth strategy for economic engagement in the Local Government Area, which did not previously exist, ensuring that this strategy responded to the specific interests and aspirations of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

The participation of Local Government as a partner in the YTS has also helped created stronger relationships between the other five providers of YTS and their respective Local Governments. For providers, it has opened up their understanding of the role of Local Governments in settlement and employment, while the Local Governments have benefited from the service providers' perspectives and knowledge.

<sup>1</sup> In Australia, each local government body possesses an Economic Development Unit that maintains relationships with local employers, and provides a range of information and development services for those employers.