

## About this Communique

The Department of Education and Training (DET) – Community Sector Organisation (CSO) Governance Group is a quarterly forum for communication, consultation, engagement and collaboration between the Department and the community sector. Meetings are co-chaired by DET and the Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS) and reflect topics of mutual interest to DET and the sector. You can read more about the partnership agreement that underpins this work on [VCOSS](#) and [DET](#) websites.

This Communique has been prepared by VCOSS to increase the visibility of this forum.

## What was discussed in the March 2022 meeting?

The focus of this meeting was Transitions.

### Supporting under-represented cohorts into early learning

**Fiona Balsillie, Executive Officer Early Learning, Uniting Vic.Tas** presented on effective ways to support culturally and linguistically diverse families to transition into early learning. Fiona highlighted the positive impact of leveraging established connections in local communities to build trust; creating and using accessible communication through translated resources, translators and visual aids; and using bilingual outreach support workers to build awareness and understanding of the value of early learning, provide support in overcoming barriers to participation (for example, enrolment), and providing weekly support in language at the early learning service.

- Further information about programs delivered by Uniting Vic.Tas at their [early learning](#) and [multicultural services](#) webpages.

### Transitions for young people with youth justice involvement

**Murray Geddes, Principal – LOOKOUT Centre, South East Victoria Region** provided an update on the work of LOOKOUT Centres in supporting young people with youth justice involvement. Supports include but are not limited to using multidisciplinary care teams, Youth Justice Advisors, Learning Mentors, Student Support Groups and Individual Education Plans. The meeting highlighted the importance of planning and consistent communication, ensuring clarity around roles and responsibilities, and increasing the capacity and understanding of the school system about meeting the needs of young people with youth justice involvement.

- Further information about [LOOKOUT Centres](#).
- Find information on the department's [Youth Justice policy](#).

**Trent McCarthy, CEO Central Ranges Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN) and Chair of VicLLENs** spoke about the importance of partnerships across government departments, local organisations and local business to support young people who are youth justice system involved to sustain engagement with education, training or employment as they transition out of youth justice centres. The VicLLENs have recently formalised a Memorandum of Understanding with Parkville College to support this work.

- Find further information at the [VicLLENs](#) webpage.

## Quick updates

**Murray Geddes, Principal – LOOKOUT Centre, South East Victoria Region** spoke about the Early Years LOOKOUT program which uses multidisciplinary teams to support children in out of home care to engage in early learning services; support the transition to school, and build system capability.

- Find further [transition resources to support students in out of home care](#).

**Natalie Garcia de Heer, Director, Policy, Design and Coordination, Senior Secondary Pathways Reform Taskforce** provided an update on the senior secondary reforms. These reforms have many streams of work including moving to a new integrated senior secondary certificate to bring together the VCE and VCAL. Natalie will return for the Term 2 meeting on engagement/disengagement to provide a more detailed presentation.

## Next meeting

The Term 2 meeting will be on the theme of Engagement/Disengagement. Please contact VCROSS if there is something that you'd like to share with us, to guide our planning for future meetings.

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