

## Young Futures Project Phase 2 research description –School based interviews and focus groups

Interviews and focus groups were undertaken at two schools at each site. At all schools, the Principal or delegate and at least one careers staff member were interviewed, a total of 24 interviews; and at the government schools, separate focus groups of Year 11 and Year 12 students were held. 90 students were accessed in this way. Each student also completed a pre-focus group ‘snapshot survey’ of demographic and other details, intended post-school destinations, and whether they were working part-time.

The table below indicates the interviews and focus groups that were carried out. Interviews and focus groups at each site were written up as site case studies.

**Table 1. Interviews at each site.**

Job Role	East-town	Sea-shore	Wheat-town	Market-town	Fruit-town*	West-town
Principal, School 1	X	X	X	X	X	X
Careers teacher, School 1	X	X	X	X	X	X
Year 11 Focus Group, School 1 (no. in group)	6	8	5	6	6	14
Year 12 Focus Group, School 1 (no. in group)	6	6	9	5	6	15
Principal, School 2	X	X	X	X	X	X
Careers teacher, School 2	X	X	X	X	X	X

\* School 1 at Shepparton was a non-government school; School 2 was a government school.

As noted in the findings from community stakeholders, the sites were quite diverse, particularly in the cultural composition of young people at the site. Our sample of 92 students included 20 who said the main language spoken at home was not English; and five Aboriginal students. 28 had at least one parent born outside Australia. Some sites, however showed little or no diversity in these respects among the students who were interviewed.

The interview and student focus group questions are provided below.

### Interview Questions for Principals and Careers teachers/coordinators

- Please say what your role is in relation to young people in this area and how long you have lived here.
- How do you think that young people navigate or weigh up decisions related to education, training and work?
- To what extent do they seek local solutions to issues to education, training and work?
- What sorts of things trigger the decision to stay or leave a young person's home community? What are young people seeking?
- How do communities, schools, business, training organisations help young people navigate this future? Is there more that can be done?
- Do young people have enough support around understanding work, training and educational options?

- Are there identified skills gaps in this area? Are young people guided towards work, training or education in these areas? How is it done?

### **Interview Questions for Student Focus Groups**

- When you think about what you are going to do after leaving school- what are your plans (if any) at present? *Depending on answers:* moving away? Staying here?
- What/who contributed to your plan? *Depending on answers:* within school? Outsid school?
- Do you have part-time jobs? *Depending on prevalence in the group:* How many hours? What type of work?
- When (in what year) did you decide what you wanted to do? What did you imagine prior to that (if anything)?
- If I had visited last year when you were in Year 11 (*for Year 12 people*) (or Year 10, *for year 11 people* ) would your answers have been different? How, and what's changed since then?
- What would you like to know or have right now, to help you plan what happens after school?

Finally, three questions that are more general:

- Thinking about other young people that you know, when do you think young people start to make decisions about what they're going to do when they finish school?
- What could change to give young people your age more information and help?
- What could change for X town to better utilise young people's talents? (or, if appropriate, What could X town do to make young people stay here after they have left school?)