

# FACT SHEET

## *Youth Support Initiative*

### **What is the Youth Support Initiative?**

In 2014 the Department of Education and Training (DET) provided funding to the Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) to support young people in Years 10 to 12 in Catholic schools who are disengaged from learning, or at risk of disengaging from learning. The aim of the Youth Support Initiative (YSI) is to help these students re-engage with their schooling or transition to further education, training or employment. QCEC has signed a Service Agreement with DET for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2017.

### **What does *Youth Support Initiative* mean for Catholic education?**

Catholic School Authorities use their allocated funds for the following purposes:

- direct employment by the Catholic School Authority of a Youth Support Worker (YSW)
- top up existing youth worker time at school (e.g. student welfare worker) where the allocated funds are used solely for the youth worker's time engaged in a YSW role
- engage a non-government organisation to deliver a YSW role
- purchase external programs and presentations where the content of the programs and presentations aligns with the YSW role. The programs and presentations must be face-to-face and not automated or online programs.
- funds are not to be used for payment of a chaplaincy service.

The role of the YSW will reflect the specific needs of the school and must only be used to provide services to current school students in Years 10 to 12 who are disengaged, or at risk of disengaging from learning. Assessments regarding student disengagement are at the discretion of Catholic school authorities.

The Youth Support Worker will:

- provide individual support, case management and, where appropriate, group support to students to maximise their engagement with education and training and
- refer at risk students to appropriate agencies and support services that will assist students to overcome barriers to education and training.

QCEC is required to report to DET by 30 April each year on the use of funding in the preceding year. The annual report includes details of how the allocated funds were used by the Catholic School Authorities, an audited statement of the funds and expenditure for the reporting period and a list of the schools that accessed YSI services.