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The South Australian Government is proud to present youthconnect: South Australia’s Youth Strategy 2010-2014.

We recognise that young people make an enormous contribution to our community. However, they also face enormous challenges as they seek to navigate decisions and choices about school, careers, and managing personal relationships.

youthconnect represents a whole-of-government framework for delivering State Government programs and services with a focus on three key areas: health and wellbeing; employment education and skill development; and engagement and participation.

youthconnect brings together the work that is already taking place across the Government and its agencies, in order to provide a better future for young South Australians.

youthconnect is about striving to create an environment where young people can thrive – as healthy, engaged and productive members of our community.

Together, we can continue to build a prosperous and exciting future for our State.

Mike Rann
Premier of South Australia

Grace Portolesi
Minister for Youth
Through the consultation process several messages kept coming through loud and clear from both young people, and the organisations that support them.

The first was that *youthconnect* needed to be a strategy for all young South Australians.

The second was, in saying that, recognition needs to be given to the fact that young people are not a homogenous group, they do not all come from the same backgrounds. Young people don’t think the same, act the same or even necessarily want the same things.

We also know significant differences exist between young women and young men. We need to acknowledge the influence of gender and how it impacts on a young person’s behaviour and their life outcomes.

Targeted responses are often required to meet the specific needs of different groups of young people, in particular those who:

- are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
- have a disability
- have mental health issues
- are, or have been, under the Guardianship of the Minister
- have caring responsibilities
- are in contact with the criminal justice system
- are refugees or new arrivals
- are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer [GLBTIQ]
- live in regional and remote areas.

As you read through the Strategy you will notice that while some actions have clearly been targeted at one or more particular groups, on the whole this is a strategy for all young South Australians.
**Summary of Key New Actions**

`youthconnect` is not intended to provide a detailed list of all youth issues or South Australian Government youth related programs and services. It recognises the significant actions already taken by the Government towards supporting young people and builds upon that effort through a number new actions including:

### Health and Wellbeing
- Health and Wellbeing Index – monitoring the wellbeing of young south Australians, p 12
- Youth Survey – to give young people the chance to share their views, p 12
- Body Image Summit – to get a youth view on body image issues, p 12
- Youth Cyber Safety Taskforce – working towards keeping young people safe on-line, p 13
- Youth Homelessness – develop best practice guidelines for service delivery, p 13

### Education, Training and Skill Development
- Skills for All – support young people to gain the skills to get a job, p 16
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- Indigenous Police Traineeship – develop career pathways for Indigenous young people, p 16
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### Engagement and Participation
- Dry Zone Tool Kit – support local councils to engage with young people, p 19
- Child/Youth Friendly City – establish South Australia’s first recognised city, p 19
- Youth Artists – photographic event linked to Fringe Festival, p 19
- Water Awards – program to encourage responsible water use, p 20

### Better Connections
- On-line Youth Space – an on-line one stop shop for young people, p 22
- Integrated services – better coordination and integration of youth services and programs, p 23
- Youth Action Plans – develop a model for regional youth action plans, p 23
- Vulnerable young people – develop targeted prevention and early intervention strategies, p 23
As at June 2009, there were 306,446 young people aged between 12 and 25 living in South Australia. Young people comprise approximately 18 per cent of the State’s total population.

As at June 2009, there were more males 157,280 (51 per cent) than females 149,166 (49 per cent).

According to the 2006 Census data, approximately 2.4 per cent of young people in South Australia were from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander backgrounds. The Aboriginal population is younger than average with a median age of 21 years compared to 36 years for the non-Aboriginal population.

In 2006, 27,259 young South Australians aged between 15 and 24 were born overseas. Furthermore, there has been a significant increase in the number of refugees and humanitarian entrants. 65 per cent of new arrivals are under the age of 30.

According to the 2006 census 5 per cent of Australian young people (119,400) aged 15-24 provided unpaid care to a person with a disability. Of these 33,300 were co-resident carers in most cases living with a relative or friend needing assistance.

The majority of young South Australians live in metropolitan Adelaide. In 2006, young people aged between 15 and 24, comprised 26 per cent of all people leaving country inland areas. Young people move to metropolitan areas primarily to access education and employment opportunities.

In 2008, 46 per cent of young people aged between 15 and 34 participated in volunteering. Students aged between 15 and 24 participate at higher rates than young people who are not studying.

In 2008, 75.3 per cent of young people remained in state schools to year 12. However, 13.8 per cent of young South Australians’ were not in fulltime education or fulltime employment.

In 2007, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 63,900 (31 per cent) of young people aged between 15 and 24 participated as a player in some form of organised sport or recreational activity, while a further 24,200 participated in a non-playing role including as coach, referee or umpire, committee member, administrator, scorer or timekeeper or medical support.
Since 2008, the Office for Youth has been consulting and engaging with young people, the youth sector and state and local government to develop youthconnect through:

- The ‘Tell It Like It Is’ youth consultations, held in every region in South Australia connected with over 1,000 young people and heard their thoughts on South Australia’s Strategic Plan and identified key issues and priorities for young South Australians.

- A survey distributed to youth organisations, local and state government agencies to gather information on key youth policy drivers and to identify data availability around key youth issues.

- The Australian Institute of Social Research, University of Adelaide, were engaged to take the information gathered from the consultations, survey responses and workshop forums and prepare a research report highlighting the key issues for the wellbeing and general development for young people across the State.

- Youth Report – South Australia’s Young People; Emerging Issues and Priorities was officially released in April 2010.

- Two consultation forums were held with young people, youth organisations, state and local government that contributed to the vision, principles and goals set out in youthconnect.

- A final survey to government agencies that identified appropriate actions that responded to the key issues outlined through the consultations and in the youth report.

Many people have contributed to the development of youthconnect. The Office for Youth would like to formally acknowledge and thank those young people, community organisations and government agencies that have given so much of their time, knowledge and expertise to ensure that youthconnect will deliver improved outcomes for young South Australians.
youthconnect is a whole-of-government strategy to guide the delivery of programs and services to young people. It responds to identified key youth issues and will support and strengthen outcomes for young people aged between 12 and 25 through:

- An agreed vision for South Australia’s young people.
- Guiding principles to underpin policies, programs and service delivery for young people.
- Three priority areas and nine goals which reflect key themes raised through the consultations and Youth Report.
- Key actions that the South Australian Government will take over the next four years to improve outcomes for young people.
- A better connected service system and greater access to information and support.
**Vision**

South Australia’s young people aged between 12 and 25 have a strong sense of wellbeing and are positive about their future.

**Guiding Principles**

**Health & Wellbeing**
- Young people are positive about their health and wellbeing
- Keep young people safe from harm
- Young people have access to safe and affordable housing

**Education, Employment and Skill Development**
- Support young people to remain at school and gain a qualification
- Maximise opportunities for young people to gain new skills and to get a job
- Ensure young people are safe at work

**Engagement and Participation**
- Expand opportunities for young people to express their views on issues that are important to them
- Support young people to be actively engaged in their local community
- Recognise young people’s achievements

**Better Connections**
- Improving access to information, services and support
- Greater support for organisations working with young people
- A planned and integrated service delivery system
- Targeted responses for vulnerable young people
Guiding Principles

Ten key principles have been developed to underpin all policies, programs and services for young people.

- **Safe and secure**: The safety, security, health and wellbeing of young people is a priority.
- **Strengths-based approach**: Programs and services build on young people’s individual assets, culture, skills, interests, abilities and competencies to enhance protective factors and build resilience.
- **Respect and empowerment**: Young people are treated with dignity. Their knowledge, culture, experience, strengths and choices are respected.
- **Participation and engagement**: Young people’s connection with their family and community is recognised and youth participation is central to the design and delivery of policies, programs and services.
- **Recognising diversity**: Responses to young people are inclusive and tailored to each individual’s unique needs, experiences, beliefs, culture, interests, talents and abilities.
Young people’s confidentiality is respected. They are informed how their information will be shared and of situations where confidentiality is limited.

Programs and services are physically, technically and financially accessible and culturally safe to all young people recognising the diversity of urban, regional and remote needs.

Young people’s needs are responded to holistically. Government and non-government organisations work in partnership with the community to provide coordinated, integrated responses.

Young people receive quality responses from appropriately and culturally competent skilled workers and programs. Services undergo regular and transparent performance monitoring, review and evaluation.

Service delivery strategies are designed to be easily adapted in response to the changing needs of young people, the organisation and the emergence of new technology.
The years between 12 and 25 are a period of rapid growth as young people experience significant emotional, social, physical, psychological, and cognitive developmental changes. It is during this time that young people are required to accept increased personal responsibility for their lives, and gain independence as they transition from childhood through adolescence and on into adulthood.

This period presents many new challenges and opportunities. Together with families and community, the government shares responsibility for supporting young people to grow up in safe and supportive environments, and for providing opportunities to assist young people to successfully navigate these demanding transitions.

The focus of the government is on promoting resilience in young people so they may thrive, rather than just avoid negative outcomes. Building protective factors that enhance resilience in young people is essential for all young people. We know that young people need positive environments to be able to thrive, and this will form the basis of learning, lifestyle choices, behaviour, good health and wellbeing throughout life.

We will provide opportunities that encourage self worth and positive identity in our young people. We will ensure they have access to opportunities now to fully participate in our society. We want young people to have a full and productive life so as adults they will be able to achieve their full potential.

We will work to ensure our young people are safe and healthy, have access to support and opportunities at major life transition points, and participate in their communities.
youthconnect is centred around the following interconnected priorities which together provide a strong foundation for young people to achieve positive life outcomes:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Education, Employment and Skill Development
- Engagement and Participation
- Better Connections.

These priorities are intrinsically linked. Successful outcomes in one area will have an effect on others, such as gaining a satisfying job is likely to improve a young person’s sense of wellbeing. This is also seen for negative outcomes; for example, a young person who is homeless may experience significant barriers to completing their schooling or getting a job.

While the Strategy reflects actions for each of the priority areas, young people need to be considered in a holistic manner. Responses to youth issues need to be developed and delivered in an integrated, coordinated way to ensure that young people are provided with the full range of services that they may require.

In the following sections of the Strategy each of these key priorities contains several goals and a number of key actions for government to undertake over the next four years. A nominated lead department has also been identified for each action.
A young person’s health and wellbeing is central to their ability to participate and engage in their community and society, their ability to successfully move through childhood into adolescence and adulthood, and their ability to live long healthy lives.

Young South Australians and the organisations that support them have identified that addressing issues of health and wellbeing for our young people is critical to ensure they are able to reach their life goals and aspirations.

Health and wellbeing however, is not just the prevention and treatment of illness and disease, but also young people’s social and emotional wellbeing. Wellbeing includes how young people feel, behave, their relationships with others, their goals and their personal strengths and how satisfied they are with their lives.

Adolescence and young adulthood are significant periods for emotional, social and physical growth and development, including brain development. There are many factors that influence young people’s health and wellbeing, including newly found independence and freedom, peer pressure, and pressure from adults and society. Many young people participate in risk taking behaviours that can lead to serious consequences including longer term health problems that may continue into adulthood.
A state of physical, social and emotional wellbeing provides a solid foundation for young people to develop the resilience and the skills required to successfully manage life tasks. Life tasks may include problem-solving, adapting to change, building relationships and academic achievement. Our focus needs to be on young people’s capabilities, such as building resilience, confidence, self esteem, self-concept, a sense of belongingness and happiness and social skills.

Significant differences exist between particular groups of young people including substantial inequalities between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal South Australians and those whose families are socio-economically disadvantaged. Indicators of wellbeing in South Australia clearly show the most disadvantaged geographic locations experience greater inequalities. Factors such as poverty, lack of education, food insecurity, inadequate housing and access to basic health services will limit the health of young people. It is essential young people are able to access timely and well coordinated support to ensure that they are able to reach their potential and participate socially and economically in the community.

In responding to the health and wellbeing needs of young South Australians, the Government will focus its action around ensuring young people are positive about their health and wellbeing, are supported to be safe from harm and that young people have access to safe and affordable housing.
Young people are positive about their health and wellbeing

1. Develop a Youth Health and Wellbeing Index (Attorney General’s Department).

2. Carry out an annual Youth Survey to measure the state of young South Australians (Attorney General’s Department).

3. Hold a Body Image Summit for young people at Parliament House that informs the development of the State-wide Project Plan on eating-disorders, and contributes to the development of community resources to complement those being delivered through the Body Image and Schools initiative (Attorney General’s Department).

4. Provide counselling services and therapeutic programs to support young people with mental health issues, and prevent intentional self-harm (Department of Health).

5. Provide sexual health services to young people including screenings for sexually transmitted infections, counselling and health promotion activities (Department of Health).

6. Deliver programs aimed at reducing teenage pregnancy, including early intervention and education programs in schools (Department of Health).

7. Develop resources that increase the awareness of, and better educate the community about, the needs of young people who have caring responsibilities and develop targeted resources to better support those young people to lead a full and active life (Attorney General’s Department).

8. Develop resources that increase the awareness of, and better educate people about, the needs of young people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (Attorney General’s Department).

Keep young people safe from harm

9. Establish the Cyber Safety Initiative: Youth to respond to the key issues raised through the Safer Social Networking info-line and on-line survey (Attorney General’s Department).

10. Continue initiatives to support safer driving practices by young people, and particularly Aboriginal young people, to reduce the number of young people killed and seriously injured on the road (Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure).
11 Increase awareness of safer driving through support and promotion of the Know Your Limits Campaign (Attorney General’s Department).

12 Develop targeted strategies to encourage a culture of responsible alcohol consumption and minimise the impact of illicit drug use in young people (Attorney General’s Department).

13 Reduce youth smoking through early intervention and prevention strategies (Department of Health).

14 Expand the Metropolitan Fire Service’s (MFS) Road Awareness and Accident Program in schools (Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure).

15 Implement key elements of the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness particularly those relating to young people including:

   - reunification and homelessness prevention through purpose built facilities for young people aged between 12 and 15 years focusing on reunification and shared care with capacity to extend outreach services
   - supported housing units for young people, particularly those exiting Justice Systems (Department for Families and Communities).

16 Develop best practice guidelines for the delivery of accommodation services and supports to homeless young people (Attorney General’s Department).

17 Continue to support the Ladder project, a youth homelessness initiative that connects young people with training, education and employment outcomes (Department for Families and Communities).
Ensuring young people have the opportunity to participate in education, employment and skill development will assist South Australia to secure long term economic prosperity and will better place our young people to have the skills and tools they need to succeed and make their mark in life.

We know that young people who successfully complete year 12 (or equivalent) experience better health, social status and access to employment opportunities. Skill development provide young people with experiences and opportunities to enhance their own strengths and reinforces their connections to their communities.

Participating in education gives young people the skills and knowledge they need to transition successfully into employment. Schools play a vital role in strengthening a young person’s connection with their community, developing positive relationships with others and building resilience. Participation in school, training or employment is an important protective factor in young people’s lives.

Work experience, combined with post-school qualifications and further career development can assist in overcoming a series of long term disadvantages such as underemployment, shorter working life and lower income opportunities.

The government is committed to building pathways for all young people to enable them to transition from school into employment, and understand that some young people require opportunities for flexible learning alternatives to remain connected with education.

In responding to the education, employment and skill development needs of young South Australians the government will focus its action on supporting young people to remain at school and gain qualifications, maximising opportunities for young people to gain new skills and get a job and ensuring that young people are safe at work.
Young people remain at school and gain a qualification

18. Implement key elements of the Youth Attainment and Transitions National Partnership including initiatives focusing on career development and mentoring under the maximising engagement and attainment and successful transitions initiative (Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology; Department of Education and Children’s Services).

19. Continue to roll out the planned expansion of the highly successful Innovative Community Action Network (ICAN) program to all South Australian regions (Department of Education and Children’s Services).

20. Build a new Youth Training Centre that meets national and international standards for youth justice that has a stronger focus on rehabilitation, employment and training (Department for Families and Communities).

21. Expand the Ambassador for Youth Opportunity model to reach a wider cross-section of young people by increasing the number of Ambassadors to provide gender balance, a wider level of community representation, and a diversity of specialisations, including sport, media, arts and science (Attorney General’s Department).

22. Build six new special education units, two with a special focus on Autism Spectrum Disorders, for children with a disability on state school grounds to cater for an extra 120 students (Department of Education and Children’s Services).

23. Expand the Aboriginal Power Cup program into new sporting codes to provide a broader range of opportunities and greater links to education and career pathways for a diverse range of young people, particularly young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (Attorney General’s Department).

24. Increase the number of youth development activities that contribute to SACE attainment (Department of Education and Children’s Services).

25. Link health services with education pathways for young mothers (Department of Health).

26. Provide support for young people with mental health issues to re-engage with school (Department of Education and Children’s Services).

27. Embed Industry Pathways Curriculum in Future SACE (Department of Education and Children’s Services).

28. Expand the Big Buddy Scheme to bring in more students with a disability in contact with students in mainstream classes (Department for Education and Children’s Services).
Maximise opportunities for young people to gain new skills and get a job

29 Better support young people to gain the necessary skills to get a job:
- implement a youth training entitlement
- use Career Choices information to make informed choices about vocational education and training pathways
- implementation of the new South Australia Works program 2011-17
- delivery of the TAFEstart Open Access Skills program and the Kickstart pre-apprentice program (Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology).

30 Develop best practice youth development guidelines to guide and support the delivery of youth development programs in South Australia (Attorney General’s Department).

31 Provide greater opportunities for young people in the justice system through the expansion of youth justice programs, and implementing reintegration strategies linked to employment (Department for Families and Communities).

32 Increase the number of young people participating in policing activities through the Accredited Police Volunteering Program and develop an Indigenous Youth Police Traineeship (SA Police).

33 Encourage young people to live healthy lifestyles by delivering programs that focus on physical and nutrition education (Department of Health).

34 Investigate and develop a range of initiatives that support young people to gain and retain their driver’s licence, particularly for employment purposes (Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Attorney General’s Department).

35 Deliver health promotion strategies that aim to increase young people’s health literacy (Department of Health).
Ensure young people are safe at work

36 Develop the SafeWork SA Youth Strategy that includes:
- re-development of the youth@work website to increase engagement of young people through new technologies
- an education campaign that raises the awareness of safe work practices amongst young people
- a teacher toolkit (Department of the Premier and the Cabinet).

37 Safework SA will provide policy support for the development of child employment legislation with a view to introduce new laws in 2011 (Department of the Premier and the Cabinet).

38 Increase the number of industry modules through the Passport to Safety program (Department of the Premier and the Cabinet).
To ensure South Australia is a vibrant state with diverse opportunities for all its citizens, young people need to be heard, they need to be actively involved in the development of their communities and in the decisions that affect their lives. This is vital to advancing South Australia as a prosperous state that supports innovation and is a leader in program and service delivery to young people.

We know that when young people are involved in shaping their communities and contribute to decisions that affect their lives, such as their education, employment or health it positively influences both their overall sense of health and wellbeing as well as benefiting the community. Young people have a valuable contribution to make in developing policy and services to ensure they are more relevant and appropriate.

Equally, participation in activities such as belonging to a sporting club, being part of a cultural group, attending a local youth group, or other community activity builds a young person’s self confidence and is critical to their ongoing engagement and participation in society. Not only does participation increase a young person’s connection with their community, which can lead to positive outcomes for the young person themselves, they are more likely to be engaged in school or employment and family life, and to experience positive peer relationships.

Young people’s connection to others is a key factor in building resilience. It reduces the risk of vulnerability and disengagement. Engagement and participation are the key to young people feeling valued in their communities and in giving young people a greater sense of control and meaning.

We know that young people who are newly arrived migrants and refugees, young Aboriginal people, and young people with an intellectual or learning disability, have caring responsibilities or who are under the Guardianship of the Minister, have fewer opportunities to participate in community life. The government and the community share responsibility for increasing access to participation and engagement activities for these young people who are the most marginalised in our community.

In responding to the engagement and participation needs of young South Australians, the Government will focus its action on expanding opportunities for young people to express their views on issues that are important to them, supporting young people to be actively engaged in their local community and recognising young people’s achievements.
Expand opportunities for young people to express their views on issues that are important to them

39 Strengthen the Youth Advisory Committee program to enable it to support:
   • a broader range of views being presented to the Minister for Youth
   • greater diversity of YAC membership
   • facilitated links between YAC’s and other youth advisory mechanisms
   • increased capacity for YAC’s to develop resources to respond to local issues (Attorney General’s Department).

40 Develop a toolkit to support local councils to better consult about the development of dry zones in their local area (Attorney General’s Department).

Support young people to be actively engaged in their local community

41 Establish South Australia’s first ‘Child/Youth Friendly City’ (Attorney General’s Department and Department of Education and Children’s Services).

42 Double the number of young people participating in the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award with a particular focus on increasing the diversity of participants (Attorney General’s Department).

43 Increase the number of young people standing for local government elections and increase youth voter turnout (Attorney General’s Department).

44 Investigate new ways for Police to engage with young people in community settings (SA Police).

45 Support young people into volunteering through a range of initiatives including:
   • the Community Voices Volunteering program
   • the Check it Out program
   • the Sustainable Online Community Engagement Program (Attorney General’s Department).

46 Deliver a large scale photographic show of young emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and newly arrived young people through the Adelaide Fringe Visibility Program 2011 (Department of the Premier and Cabinet).
Recognise young people’s achievements

47 Expand the Aboriginal Leadership Program to include Aboriginal Youth Leadership opportunities and establish a formal mechanism for the engagement of Aboriginal Youth (Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology).

48 Provide programs for young Aboriginal women that develop health knowledge and leadership skills (Department of Health).

49 Develop an awards program for school students to encourage responsible water usage under the Water for Good Plan (Department of Water).

50 Create opportunities for cultural exchange for young people to generate a better understanding of South Australia abroad and to help develop future leaders (Attorney General’s Department).
For South Australia to be able to successfully meet the needs of its young people, a strong services system needs to be developed that holds young people at the centre of its planning and service delivery. The government currently invests in a significant number of programs and supports for young people across the service continuum and across various portfolios.

Services to young people are also provided by a range of State, Commonwealth, Local Government and non-government organisations. To ensure these services are available, accessible and responsive to the needs of young people and their families, the service system needs to be well planned and coordinated.

We know that many organisations that work with young people are delivering high quality, effective, coordinated services. This needs to be supported. youthconnect will strengthen these existing responses by building sustainable models for collaboration between agencies and providing a framework for extending this across all levels of government and the youth sector.

Young people need to be able to access quality services where and when they are required. The government plays an important role in providing affordable training and development opportunities to support the non-government youth sector and their professional staff. Greater support for organisations working with young people will support the youth sector to build on their successes and expand to meet the needs of young South Australians.

youthconnect provides a mechanism to determine service availability, existing service needs, gaps and any barriers to accessibility. This will inform the planning and development of service models for improved service delivery.

To achieve better connections the Government will focus its action on improving young people’s access to information, services and support; increasing support for organisations working with young people; providing coordinated responses to young people and developing a targeted response for vulnerable young people.
Improved access to information, services and support

50. Create a new On-line Youth Space in partnership with young people that will:
   • Provide a central hub of information on the availability of government services and programs as well as on key topics of interest to young people
   • Maximise new technologies to provide opportunities for young people to directly contribute to the content on the site (Attorney General’s Department).

51. Provide opportunities for young people to provide advice and engage in decision making processes relating to health services (Department of Health).

52. Expand public transport services in the outer northern and outer southern suburbs (Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure).

53. Develop an evaluation resource kit to support organisations to evaluate their programs against best practice principles, to ensure continuous delivery of quality outcomes (Attorney General’s Department).

54. Develop practical guidelines, tools and resources to support organisations that work with young people (Attorney General’s Department).

55. Maximise opportunities through the Productivity Places Program to increase the number of people who work with young people, who hold a qualification (Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology).

56. Increase the number of government agencies embracing new and emerging online and multimedia communication tools to engage more successfully with young people (Attorney General’s Department).
Planned and integrated youth services

57. Develop an Integrated Service Delivery Model based on a no wrong door approach, that supports better coordination and integration of existing programs and services for young people. Identify opportunities for at least two trial sites, one metro and one regional (Attorney General’s Department).

58. Develop a model for a local Youth Action Plan to be rolled out to each of South Australia’s 12 regions (Attorney General’s Department).

59. Support Aboriginal Communities to develop and implement their own Youth Action Plan, through active engagement and support of their local young people commencing with Amata and Mimili (Department of the Premier and Cabinet).

Targeted responses for vulnerable young people

60. Develop a Vulnerable Youth Strategy that focuses on strategies that support prevention and early intervention for all young people, with specific focus on vulnerable young people:
   • of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
   • under Guardianship of the Minister
   • who are homeless
   • with mental illness
   • with a disability
   • who have caring responsibilities
   • involved in the Juvenile Justice System
   • disengaged from school and family (Attorney General’s Department).

61. Plan and deliver appropriate and accessible primary health care services to vulnerable young people that address social and health inequities (Department of Health).
how government already supports young people

In addition to the actions in youth connect, the South Australian government currently provides many services and programs to support young people ranging from health and education through to recreation, transport and the arts including:

- Providing child protection services and systems.
- Providing services and supports to young people under the Guardianship of the Minister.
- Providing services and resources to families and young people in our community.
- Delivering a range of education and training services in schools and TAFE SA and helping young people to make a smooth transition to work or further study.

- Providing public and community health services, including mental health, sexual health, alcohol and drug services, as well as counselling, education and support programs.
- Providing housing and supports to young people who are homeless.
- Providing a range of services and programs to increase the safety of young people including road safety and safety in the workplace.
- Providing early intervention and prevention programs that work with young people to ensure they are safe and well including those who are most vulnerable.
- Providing responses to young people involved in the juvenile justice system.
- Providing a wide variety of youth specific sport, recreational, and artistic programs and services.
Importantly, there are also a number of key government policy drivers that affect young South Australians, *youthconnect* will work to support the development and delivery of policies and services under the following major policy frameworks:

**Closing the Gap**
an Australian Government initiative to reduce Indigenous disadvantage.

**Choices and Connections**
the better pathways service approach for young people with disabilities.

**Doing it Right**
a commitment to Aboriginal families and communities in South Australia.

**First Steps Forward**
a health reform strategy that will focus on the three themes of building better governance, building better services and building better system support

**Health in All Policies**
examines the interactions between health outcomes and a number of targets across the six objectives of South Australia’s Strategic Plan.

**Keeping Them Safe**
is the South Australian Government’s program to reform our child protection services and systems. Within the reform Rapid Response aims to ensure young people under Guardianship of the Minister have the same access to these supports and services.

**Look Out for Young South Australians: A Framework for Improving the Lives of South Australians**
A monitoring framework for improving the lives of young South Australians up to 18 years of age.

**Making the Connections**
the South Australians Government’s Action Strategy to keep young people connected to learning and opportunities.

**Promoting Independence**
Disability Action Plans for South Australia.

**Protecting Children is Everyone’s Business**

**Reducing Homelessness in South Australia: Everyone’s Responsibility Report** — that presents a framework for reducing homelessness by 50%.

**South Australia’s Strategic Plan**
sets out the objects and targets for the Government of South Australia over the next 10 years.

**South Australia’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy 2010-2015**

**Stepping Up** a Social Inclusion Action Plan for Mental Health Reform

**Social Inclusion’s Blueprint for Disability Reform**
to be informed through the Activating Citizenship Social Inclusion Approach for Disability in South Australia discussion paper.

**South Australian School Retention Action Plan**
guided the development of the Innovative Community Action Networks that are currently being expanded to every region in the State.

**To Break the Cycle**
aims to prevent and reduce re-offending behaviours for young repeat offenders.

**Tackling Drugs: Government and Community Working together**
a government strategy to reduce the prevalence of drug misuse and managing the individual and community wide harm associated with misuse, consistent with the National Drug Strategic Framework.

**United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**
An international treaty recognising the human rights of all children up to 18 years of age. The convention includes developmental, participatory, and protective obligations to fulfil, respect and protect children at different stages of their life.
The Minister for Youth has overarching responsibility for the delivery of youthconnect South Australia’s Youth Strategy 2010-2014.

The existing Intra-Government Youth Action Committee chaired by the Office for Youth, will be realigned and will be responsible for the development of an annual implementation, monitoring and reporting plan. Each year this plan will be used to prioritise activities, coordinate across government involvement and track progress against the youthconnect key actions.

The Intra-Government Youth Action Committee will report through the Chief Executive, Attorney General’s Department to Senior Management Council (SMC) who will oversee youthconnect’s ongoing monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

Young people’s voices are central to the implementation of youthconnect. Their involvement and participation will be supported through a number of existing youth engagement mechanisms including the Minister’s Youth Council and Youth Advisory Committees as well as through initiatives using new technologies linked to the new on-line Youth Portal.
youthconnect was developed by the Office for Youth, Attorney General’s Department, South Australia, published in November 2010.

For further information or to obtain a copy please contact us:

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