

Enhancing Youth Pathways *Helping young people stay in education*

Youth Pathways has just completed the first seven months of service delivery of the Helping young people stay in education initiative that was implemented on 1 January 2007.

Currently there are 2,129 participants in Youth Pathways who have been identified as having a possible mental health issue. These participants are referred to appropriate services or local community support services as part of their transition plan to address mental health as a barrier to their successful participation in education. An additional 1,153 participants have been identified as potentially having a mental health issue. In these cases the participant does not recognise this as a barrier to their successful participation in education and therefore it is not addressed in their transition plan.

The Partnership Outreach Education Model (POEM) was recently renamed as *Connections*. *Connections* commenced delivery as an education and personal development programme for young people aged 13-19 years who have been disconnected from mainstream schooling for more than 3 months. *Connections* also includes assistance to young people with mental health issues. There are currently 48 *Connections* services operating across Australia. It is anticipated that another 12 services will begin operations in early 2008.