



# youth options

*young lives transformed*

## Volume 1 **NDIS** **EDITION**



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# YOUTH OPTIONS TEAM

## FROM OUR LEADERS



**MICHELLE  
BRAHAM**

Welcome to our first NDIS newsletter of 2024!

Youth Options supports over 400 diverse young people to develop the confidence and skills to learn, earn, and live. Committed to establishing pathways for young South Australians to pursue purposeful lives, Youth Options addresses a critical issue facing young people as they transition to adulthood.

Research from the Australian Institute of Family Studies indicates that young people not engaged in education, training, or paid employment by the age of 24 face a heightened risk of long-term unemployment. This situation increases the likelihood of financial distress, homelessness, family disruption, and social exclusion. Furthermore, statistics reveal that one in three Australians aged 24 and from the lowest socio-economic backgrounds are not involved in education, employment, or training, in contrast to one in 15 from higher socio-economic backgrounds.



91% felt we provided a safe and welcoming environment.



96% report that we treat them with dignity and respect



100% are willing to try new things to help reach their goals



91% say they are receiving the support they need right now.



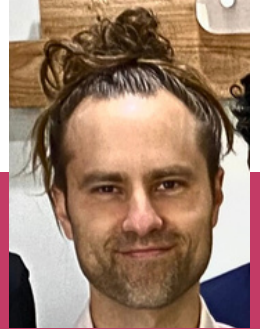
91% are taking steps towards achieving the goals they've set.



87% say they there are enough different activities to try

This data not only guides us in identifying areas for service enhancement but also allows us to celebrate the tangible impact we are making.

Best regards,  
Michelle Braham  
CEO



**NATE  
OVERBEEKE**

Welcome to our inaugural quarterly NDIS newsletter which aims to deepen collaboration with our community of supporters and each other in mutually beneficial ways. We are hear to listen to you and would welcome feedback about our service and any ideas you have about how we might be of service to your clients or your service.

Each edition will contain an update on our services, showcase the success of our mentee's in training and employment, feature a provider that aims to support connection between our valued partners and our supporters, and offers first access to new services we have developed in response to feedback from our supporters.

The new year brings many exciting developments across our NDIS service. In response to a request from support coordinators, we have launched our new barista capacity building program run by our talented in house mentor who is a professional barista as well as having a double degree in social sciences and psychology. We have launched two partnerships with Disability Employment Services to support our mentees to successfully transition to and sustain employment that is a great fit for them. Finally, we are taking expressions of interest in two social enterprises to provide a source of mainstream employment to selected graduates.

If you can't find a quality service for your client and would like to discuss an idea or to collaborate, please don't hesitate to reach out to me to explore how might we be of service.

Warm regards,  
Nate Overbeeke  
NDIS Manager



# YOUTH OPTIONS TEAM

## CLIENT CASE STORIES

### Success stories - Garden Squad

We are thrilled that our Youth Options Garden Squad (YOGS) 2024 have been awarded the City of Adelaide's Volunteer of the Year Award in the category of Active Citizens!

The Squad members have been gaining technical horticulture and landscaping skills as they also build their employability as a pathway to employment readiness. They have done this through the completion of 33 garden projects over 18 months in partnership with the City of Adelaide's horticulture team. Projects have ranged from carpark and street garden verges, rose garden refreshes for the Adelaide hosted 2023 International Rose Convention, and are regularly gaining experience in the City of Adelaide's nursery in North Adelaide.

Many thanks to Matt Sexton, Coordinator of the Horticulture team and his team for the authentic industry experiences they provide to our mentees.

Do you have a young person who would like to explore a career in horticulture?

Find out more about YOGS on our website here:

<https://tinyurl.com/YOOptsGS>



### Principles of Experiential Based Learning.

Experiential-based learning is an educational approach that prioritizes hands-on experiences as the primary means of acquiring knowledge and skills.

It revolves around active engagement, encouraging students to participate directly in learning activities. Reflection on these experiences is key, fostering self-awareness and the connection between theory and practice. Real-world relevance is emphasized to make learning meaningful and applicable.

Collaboration and personalized feedback play vital roles in this approach, promoting teamwork and individual growth. Experiential-based learning nurtures lifelong learning by instilling curiosity and adaptability, preparing students to excel in a rapidly changing world.

# YOUTH OPTIONS TEAM

## MEET OUR NDIS MENTORS



**CHAD  
STAUNTON**

Chad brings our barista skills training room alive with the aroma of freshly poured coffee and the excitement of our mentee's as they learn how to make a great coffee. This program provides a hands on way for mentees to explore their interest in becoming a barista as a pathway to employment as well as building their confidence and communication skills in a small social group setting.

Alongside his experience as a professional barista, Chad also has gained a double degree in Social Sciences (Youth Work) and Psychological Studies. He has worked for over 8 years in the youth and disability sectors, Chad draws upon these experiences when empowering our mentees to learn how to make a great coffee every time.



**DAVID  
EVANS**

David facilitates our resilience program, Dungeon's and Dragon's (DnD) employability skills social group, and is also our practice lead for our team of NDIS mentors. This means in addition to working directly with our mentees in these capacity building programs, he also supports our team of mentors to do great work with mentees by effectively using our case management, client practice, and reporting frameworks.

With a double degree in Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences and having worked for over 10 years in the areas of homelessness, drug and alcohol, mental health, and disability, David draws upon these experiences when empowering our mentees.

### REFERING A YOUNG PERSON TO YOUTH OPTIONS

Do you know a young person with a NDIS plan and funding that would benefit from employment skill development, independent living skills or improving their communication skills. Reach out at <https://youthoptions.org.au/ndis-services>

### CONNECT WITH US



YOUTH OPTIONS  
QR CODE



NDIS SERVICES  
QR CODE

# NDIS

## TESTIMONIALS

### Lucy's employment success story

We can't wait to share about the success our mentee's achieve when they gain and keep employment. We look forward to showcasing many more success stories like Lucy's below!

During her career development mentoring through our career development program, we supported Lucy with her successful application to a full time administration position for the Australian Public Service in Canberra! Lucy had this to say about our service:

"I love how Trevor [NDIS career development mentor] believes in me and other clients. He has already shown me what I am capable of doing in the workplace.

He makes me believe in myself! He takes the time to get to know me. He already knows so much. I like how he listens and encourages and doesn't let my disability stop me from achieving what I want in my life, and that includes employment. He is super friendly and approachable and really good with people!

I haven't been at Youth Options for very long, however, I'm very impressed with the services and will happily recommend the services to others if that's okay with management. I couldn't be happier!"

Lucy also recently reached out to provide this update:

"Life in Canberra is great! I'm loving work and my new friends. My employers give me nothing but praise!

It has only been just under 5 months since I started work there. My manager has told me that they want to keep me on after the 18 months after the Aurora Program has finished! My manager wants to do everything in their power to keep me in the team. They don't want me to go anywhere."



*Lucy Koop*

*When I enquired about your services, I got a warm and friendly greeting....  
I love how professional but how you were super friendly and really genuinely willing to help me on my career development journey. I got some good advice from you on the importance of finding the right job and company for Youth Options' clients. I love how you always keep in touch too even though you are very busy enough!*

Follow our client success stories on our social media and soon our website.



@YouthOptionsOrg



# YOUTH OPTIONS

## NEWS



### Allied Services we work with - Individualised Living Options (ILO)

Tenny is very passionate about finding an individualised living option that is a great fit for your NDIS client. She has worked in housing services with many different types of people of different ages and backgrounds, and in different roles. She brings this understanding to her role as ILO Manager for Lutheran Disability Services. Tenny aims to design a flexible support package for NDIS participants looking for alternative accommodation and support outcomes to SIL. In an ILO arrangement, a participant can choose to move into a host family home, live with housemates or even on their own and have drop-in supports meet their needs.

To be eligible for ILO funding, participants need to be aged 18 years or older or turning 18 within 6 months of the H&L application and require more than 6 hours a day of support but less than 24 in either a formal or informal capacity.

For more information, contact Tenny Der Grigorian, ILO Manager on 0401 057 213 and [tedergrigorian@ldssa.org.au](mailto:tedergrigorian@ldssa.org.au) to find out more or scan the QR code below.

For More about the scheme, please visit the NDIS website: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/home-and-living/individualised-living-options>



### Expressions of Interest in our Social Enterprises

We believe that young people can do valuable work in a job that is a great fit for them, and we want to pay them for it. This is why Youth Options are building two new social enterprises:-

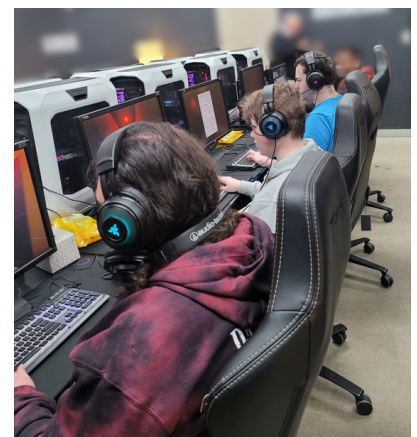
#### Garden Squad

Building on the success of the Youth Options Garden Squad (YOGS) Australia Day Award, we are developing a social enterprise. For graduates of the YOGS who are selected as ready, they will earn employment through our social enterprise by providing horticulture and landscaping services for our industry partners.

#### Raising the Game.

This is for young people who would like to explore whether video game testing is a pathway for them. They will receive accredited micro-credentials through our individualised training program that we have developed in partnership with our gaming industry supporters. For graduates who are identified as ready, they will earn employment through our social enterprise by testing games for our video game industry partners.

If you would like to know more, please register your enquiry and we'll invite you to our upcoming information sessions to find if this is a fit for your young person



# YOUTH OPTIONS SCHEDULE

*subject to change	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
Resilience			NEW							
Career Development										
Cooking					NEW					
Barista					TAKING INTEREST					
Garden Squad										
Dungeons and Dragons										
Woodwork										
Metalwork - Welding										
IT										
Driving (Learners or In Car Experience)	By Appointment									

## Partnerships – Individualized Employment Transition

We believe our young people deserve an opportunity to find and keep not just any job that they are lucky to be offered, but a job that is a great fit for them, just like everyone else. Finding this great fit can be challenging. This is why we have formed trial partnerships with two carefully selected Disability Employment Providers (DES) who have agreed to provide an individualized service to our young people.



We will continue to provide a wrap around service with our mentees through the whole process from choosing a job pathway, getting them ready enough, and most importantly building their technical skills and employability skills enough such that they keep the job. When they are ready to transition, this includes:

1. Helping them build their resume skills and job interview skills.
2. Find and vet a specific employer;
3. Meet with the employer and employee in person each week during their employment probation until they succeed.

The DES partners are playing a supporting role in linking to employers with a track record of being supportive and are willing and able to give our young people them a go.

We have a group of mentees that are now progressing through these partnerships and we look forward to providing an update soon!



# youth options

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