

blueprint for youth pathways»

“When a young person living in Nambucca Heads gains full-time employment and it makes the front page of the local newspaper – you know you have a problem.”

A top down approach has not been successful to date in addressing youth employment on the Mid North Coast (MNC). With 20% youth unemployment for the Coffs Coast Employment Service Area (ESA) and similar figures throughout the rest of the MNC, Regional Development Australia Mid North Coast (RDAMNC) recognised the need to find a solution that would address issues experienced by both young people and employers.

Our solution is intended to:

- Develop and promote clearer pathways
- To enable young people to make informed decisions about their employment options, and
- To enable young people to identify their skills which in turn are recognised by employers

Blueprint for Youth Pathways (BYP) is a platform which has been co-designed with employers, young people and employment service providers comprising of the following elements:

- **A digital platform:** (the prototype can be viewed at www.youthpathways.com.au). The digital platform links young people with employers via a ‘blueprint’ – aka a digital resume which articulates the current skills of the young person in the language and criteria that is desired by the employer.
- **A role:** the pathways coordinator who will work directly with employers to understand and articulate their job requirements in the platform and
- **A community campaign:** which is designed to enable whole communities to get behind the issue of employment opportunities for young people

Are all of these phases important?

Yes, our research shows that a stand-alone approach will not work. Young people and employers both need support to engage with the platform and the issue of employment for young people.

Blueprint for youth pathways works by...

The platform has been designed to address key phases of the employment cycle which have been identified as:

1. Identifying and addressing basic needs
2. Recognising aspirations
3. Developing pre-employment skills
4. Experiencing employment
5. Sustaining employment

The platform enables the young person to jump between phases as needed.

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