

Youth worker

Average salary: \$49,000+

Career trend: growing very strongly

Job description

Youth work is a challenging but rewarding role. Youth workers provide support, information and advice to young people and create a safe space where they can form ideas, find their voice and receive support.

What youth workers do

Youth workers guide and support young people through personal, social and educational development to help them reach their full potential.

They organise groups, projects and programs that help build self-esteem and confidence. They provide positive, engaging activities and create opportunities for tackling issues that affect young people. These include building self-esteem and confidence, dealing with family conflict, homelessness, financial stress, drug and alcohol abuse, sex and relationships, education and finding a job.

Youth workers also provide basic one-on-one support. They listen to a young person's problems, establish goals and support them through tough times. When issues are more complex, they refer young people to other professional services.

Youth workers also do paperwork: submission writing, fundraising, managing budgets, drafting reports and maintaining case load progress records.

Youth workers work for youth centres, faith-based groups, schools and community organisations. They also work with young offenders.

You'll like this job if...

You have strong leadership skills. You're organised. You have a positive, non-judgemental attitude. You're an excellent communicator. You are patient, caring and supportive. You're empathic. You're an active listener. You're socially aware and understand diversity. You show initiative. You can deal with conflict while remaining calm. You focus on possibilities.



Will I get a job?

- Very strong growth in this occupation is predicted in the next four years, with 11,600 new jobs in Australia, bringing the total to 63,900.

What will I earn?

- \$951 to \$1,100 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

Roles to look for

- Youth worker
- Welfare worker
- Community worker
- Community arts worker
- Recreation officer
- Disabilities services worker
- Family support worker
- Parole or probation officer
- Residential care worker

A day in the life...

Work as a youth worker may involve these tasks:

- identify issues of local need through community consultation
- plan and deliver programs related to areas such as health, fitness, smoking, drugs, gangs, violence, relationships, and bullying
- provide individual support
- help set up and run community groups and employment training programs
- organise recreational activities to engage young people
- identify sources of funding and write applications to raise finances for projects
- draw up business plans
- recruit, train and manage volunteers and support workers
- manage financial records and plan budgets
- work in partnership with organisations, such as social care, health, police, education, youth offending teams and local authorities
- attend training and development to maintain industry knowledge
- act as an advocate for policy reform
- provide information about services and local resources.

VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate IV in Youth Work (CHC40413)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 93.4%*

Certificate IV in Youth Justice (CHC40513)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship

- Graduates employed or in further study: 89.8%*

Diploma of Youth Work (CHC50413)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Graduates employed or in further study: 92%*

Main employing industries

- Healthcare and social assistance
- Government and councils

Other jobs you may like...

- Welfare support worker
- Counsellor
- Indigenous health worker
- Welfare, recreation and community arts worker
- Alcohol and drug worker
- Community worker
- Disability services worker
- Recreation adviser or coordinator
- Special care worker
- Welfare centre manager
- Social worker

VET offers possibilities for hundreds of careers.

For more information, visit



www.vet.nsw.gov.au

Information sources Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Job prospects: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. *Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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