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.
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

Diploma of Youth Work (CHC50413)
• Up to 2 years full-time
• Graduates employed or in further study: 92%*

VET offers possibilities for hundreds of careers.

For more information, visit
www.vet.nsw.gov.au


© State of New South Wales through Department of Industry 2018. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (July 2018). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Industry or the user’s independent adviser.