

## Trauma and its impact

Many young people in Youth Justice experience trauma. In fact, experiences of trauma are **10-15 times higher** in young people in Youth Justice than in the general population.

A traumatic event can be so overwhelming it diminishes a young person's capacities to cope, as it brings intense feelings of fear, terror, helplessness, hopelessness, and despair. The impact and effects of trauma can include drug and alcohol abuse. Trauma affected young people can also present with low self-esteem, self-blame, hopelessness and expectations of rejection and loss.

They can also hold grudges and be highly emotionally reactive. They may indulge in risky behaviours with little regard to personal safety and make the same mistake over and over. They may blame others and not take responsibility for their behaviour, while being anxious and prone to self-sabotage.

While T2S holds young people accountable for their behaviours and actions through supportive relationships, it understands many young people's challenging behaviours began as attempts to cope with trauma.



## What is Transition To Success (T2S)?

T2S is a trauma-informed education and training program delivered by Youth Justice. It aims to stop young people offending and re-offending by preparing them to enter the workforce or continue with their education and training. It began in south-west Brisbane in 2015.

As an intensive group-based vocational training and therapeutic service program delivered by trained staff in a community setting, it aims to prevent at risk young people from entering the criminal justice system and reduce reoffending among young people already in the system. T2S is delivered with partnerships with secondary schools, businesses, not-for-profit organisations, and registered training organisations (RTOs).

A typical T2S program runs for 16 weeks. In partnership with a registered training organisation, T2S delivers a nationally recognised certificate in a range of industries including hospitality, automotive vocational preparation, construction, landscaping, farm machinery and more. In addition, as T2S uses a holistic approach to support young people, other supplementary courses delivered include:

**Aggression Replacement Training**  
**Learner Licence Program**  
**First Aid Training**  
**White Card**  
**Drug and alcohol programs**  
**Music and/or art therapy**

**Adventure Based Learning (ABL)**  
**ERIC (Emotional Regulation & Control)**  
**Job-related & vocational counselling**  
**Mental health programs**  
**Financial literacy programs**  
**Changing Habits and Reaching Targets (CHART)**

“ I work fulltime in my traineeship and am in the process of moving out into my own unit. I feel comfortable about where I am heading in life and feel as though I can tackle most obstacles that might get in my way.

T2S PARTICIPANT

# Support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

T2S contributes to *Closing the Gap* education and employment targets by addressing over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the criminal justice system by providing a culturally appropriate program that is being effectively delivered in urban, regional, and remote communities.

As Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people make up 58% of young people in youth justice, T2S works in appropriate culturally safe ways to support them achieve their goals.



## T2S achievements and successes

An independent evaluation of T2S in 2018 found that more than two-thirds of graduates did not offend within 12 months of completing the program.

Over 120 T2S programs have been delivered across Queensland since 2015.

There have been 1312 enrolments of young people state-wide since T2S began to December 31, 2021, with:

# FUTURE



854

full program completions by young people state-wide

80

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people transitioned from T2S to a job, an apprenticeship or traineeship

355

full program completions by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people state-wide

214

young people have transitioned from T2S to school or further training

193

young people have transitioned from T2S to a job, an apprenticeship or traineeship

65

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people have transitioned from T2S to school or further training

*I wouldn't be here without Youth Justice's support. I was a really stubborn kid and I would have to go to programs and I wouldn't really attend. I would just take drugs and I didn't care if I got in trouble and didn't care if I went to detention. Youth Justice and T2S helped me and changed me. I wouldn't be the person I am now with YJ. I am proud of that change. My family are really proud of me especially my mum. She has seen what I been through and she's proud of me.*

T2S PARTICIPANT



# It takes a village to deliver a T2S program!

A strength of T2S is its ability to create partnerships with local community organisations, businesses, schools, and RTOs to deliver meaningful and impactful programs for young people. In 2020, over 200 community organisations, local governments and businesses across Queensland contributed to changing the lives of young people.

Businesses can donate goods and services, provide work experience and employment opportunities for young people, share their industry knowledge, host a T2S student for a traineeship or internship, and provide guest speakers explaining career choices and pathways. Community organisations can donate food, venues, clothes, staff, and equipment for young people.

Contact T2S via [T2SYJ@youthjustice.qld.gov.au](mailto:T2SYJ@youthjustice.qld.gov.au) for more information.

## Business partnerships with T2S that work

### Rio Tinto

Mining giant, Rio Tinto, is providing valuable experience to T2S participants from the remote community of Aurukun.

Since 2018, Rio has provided mine site tours for T2S groups. T2S was the first youth group to visit Rio Tinto's newly opened aluminium mine site Amrun. The mine site is situated on traditional lands of Aurukun area.

Rio Tinto provided all PPE and uniforms for work site tours including high vis shirts, safety boots, long pants, hard hats, glasses etc.

All T2S students completed a formal site induction to take part in the tours, which was a great way to understand the importance of safety in the workplace.

A bonus on all mine site tours is young people meeting with the traditional owners while at the mine site and other Rio Tinto staff who are from Aurukun. This gave the young people great opportunities to listen and speak in their local Wik language during information sessions. While T2S is yet to see a young person transition into a job with Rio Tinto, the exposure to this huge organisation and workforce situated on the traditional country of their community is highly valuable.

### Peirson's farm

Peirson Farms operates two commercial avocado farms of approximately 874 hectares in the Bundaberg region. The farm is operated as a charitable trust and income generated from the trust is used to support disadvantaged young people and their families. This is achieved through a Youth and Family counselling service in Bundaberg and engagement with young people on the farm.

With a motto of "growing futures" Peirson Farms has been collaborating with T2S since 2015 by providing on-site training facilities. T2S has successfully partnered with a TAFE trainer to present courses in horticulture, hospitality, construction, and infrastructure. Peirson Services has also provided support to the trainer and T2S staff by providing a youth counsellor to assist in building relationships during the training courses.

This program has assisted many young people to gain self-confidence, self-knowledge, and skills to allow them to gain employment or pursue further training and education opportunities. Peirson Farms plan to continue to partner with T2S to ensure that we create positive life pathways for young people.

### Hytek Framing

Hytek Framing provides prefabricated light steel framing for residential and commercial construction industry. The owners decided to employ 2 young people who had been involved with the youth justice system.

Supported by youth workers, the 2 young men visited the factory floor before commencing employment to learn about workplace health and safety aspects of the job. The owners and their staff provided a supportive mentoring network for them as they commenced their job.

The young people initially started on the production line with relatively simple tasks. They may then progress to more skilled work such using a forklift and machinery operation. And eventually, if they display the skills, apprenticeships may also be a possibility.

Employing young people from the youth justice system is smart. It helps young people reintegrate back into their communities, prevents reoffending, and reduces the number of victims of crime.

If you would like to explore partnering opportunities with T2S, email [T2SYJ@youthjustice.qld.gov.au](mailto:T2SYJ@youthjustice.qld.gov.au)





*I love my job and I'm proud that I can now support myself and am in the process of moving into my own unit. Getting my first pay cheque was the best feeling ever. I will never forget that day. When I first heard that I had a job it spun me out because I am the first male in my whole family to get a job.*

**T2S PARTICIPANT**

## Where is T2S in Queensland?

T2S is offered in several communities across Queensland including:

Aurukun, Mount Isa, Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Sunshine Coast, Caboolture, Moreton, Brisbane North, Brisbane South, Logan, Ipswich, Western Districts, Gold Coast, Toowoomba, and Cherbourg.

## Economic benefits to the Queensland community

One of the key outcomes of T2S is the reduction in the rate of young people's reoffending after they have completed the program. A Deloitte Access Economics review found that for every \$1 spent on the program resulted in \$2.13 of benefits. That is, the T2S program results in positive financial benefits to the Queensland government and community with avoided and reduced costs of young people in custody, supervision, and costs of crime.



Every \$1 spent on the program resulted in \$2.57 of benefits

## How can I refer a young person to T2S?

Young people are referred to T2S through a few avenues. Most referrals come from Youth Justice. Some young people at risk of disengaging from school may also be referred from their school. Referrals also come from Child Safety, non-government organisations working with families and young people, families, and young people themselves.

Contact T2S via [T2SYJ@youthjustice.qld.gov.au](mailto:T2SYJ@youthjustice.qld.gov.au) for more information.