

# FUTURE CONNECT STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2026



### **Future Connect is...**

A place to connect young people with the education and employment pathways of today and tomorrow.

### **Our vision:**

We see a bright future where our community works together so all young people dream, aspire, connect and achieve.

### **How do we do this?**



#### **TRANSPARENT**

We value the input of the community and communicate openly and honestly. We believe information should be available to all stakeholders in an accessible way.



#### **COLLABORATIVE**

We work with partners, students and our community to achieve the best outcomes for young people. We promote ethical partnership and values alignment in our work with others.



#### **IMPACTFUL**

We further our impact by reducing duplication, measuring our work, and communicating our success. We maximize the value of our resources by harnessing different skills, knowledge, and perspectives.



#### **INCLUSIVE**

We consider equity in our work with partners, students and community that values diverse lived experience. We elevate young people's voices by codesigning solutions with them.



#### **FUTURE FOCUS**

We believe in our young people and support them to develop the skills they will need in the 21st Century. We lead by example by trying new approaches and investing in young people's potential.

### **The work of Future Connect centres around 4 strategic pillars**

1. Improve understanding of different education and employment pathways
2. Support young people's employment and training aspirations
3. Facilitate all young people's inclusion in education, employment and training
4. Strengthen and grow organisational effectiveness

### **PILLAR 1:**

#### **Improve understanding of different education and employment pathways.**

This pillar is about ensuring the value and benefit of each pathway is considered by young people and those who influence their decisions, including parents and families, schools, the community and employers.

#### **WHAT WE WILL DO:**

- 1.1 Broker strong relationships and connections between young people, families, schools and career practitioners, local government, employers and other local stakeholders by building, participating in, and linking relevant networks and other engagement platforms
- 1.2 Work with key partners to define, distinguish and communicate our respective roles and responsibilities (particularly with Head Start and schools/career practitioners in identifying, placing and supporting SWLs)
- 1.3 Provide targeted information to young people and parents to simply explain the range of education and training options available to them, including the impacts and opportunities arising from the Victorian Senior Secondary Reforms
- 1.4 Deliver a range of events and activities to showcase employment opportunities for young people and broker relationships with potential employers, including through the online portal, careers expos, immersion programs, industry visits, and other initiatives

### **PILLAR 2:**

#### **Support young people's employment and training aspirations.**

This pillar is about action and how students can get to where they want to be.

#### **WHAT WE WILL DO:**

- 2.1 Strengthen and embed purposeful codesign practice and inclusion of diverse voices through our WestAs projects and advisory committee structures, intentionally scaling up and applying learnings across all of our work
- 2.2 Work with local schools to engage as early as possible with student skills, interests and capabilities to deliver work pathway opportunities that are streamlined, clearly mapped to the curriculum, well supported, and deliver positive student experiences and outcomes
- 2.3 Diversify and grow the number of high-quality SWL, SBAT and work experience opportunities available and relevant to young people by using local data to identify, engage, support, retain, grow and promote priority local industries, champions and leaders
- 2.4 Collaborate with young people and employers to develop employment opportunities through entrepreneurship, social enterprise and other models suited to future workforce expectations and approaches
- 2.5 Lead, champion and participate in regionally coordinated and data-driven planning and research that identifies gaps, links young people's aspirations with industry opportunities, promotes employer engagement, and develops collective solutions with key stakeholders

### **PILLAR 3:**

#### **Facilitate all young people's inclusion in education, employment and training**

This pillar is about bringing everyone on the journey including those experiencing disadvantage.

#### **WHAT WE WILL DO:**

- 3.1 Work with partners to address the continuing impacts of COVID19 on young people's mental health, participation, and employment opportunities
- 3.2 Develop models that grow social and cultural capital and improve outcomes for priority cohorts in partnership with specialist agencies and young people who are First Nations, culturally and linguistically diverse, neurodiverse and living with disability
- 3.3 Support young people's readiness for work experience and employment by delivering capacity building programs and events according to their needs, including those that build confidence, communication, interview and jobs skills, and resumes
- 3.4 Develop strategies to address specific cultural and socio-economic challenges in the West that limits young people's education and employment aspirations and opportunities

### **PILLAR 4:**

#### **Strengthen and grow organisational effectiveness**

This pillar is about sustaining Future Connect.

#### **WHAT WE WILL DO:**

- 4.1 Deepen stakeholder understanding of our role by strengthening the visibility of our work, priorities and successes, and promoting our organisation within our community
- 4.2 Advocate to strengthen young people's education and employment outcomes within our community, and strengthen LLENs' capacity to contribute to those outcomes in a changing policy environment, through our leadership of local and state-wide processes, structures and services
- 4.3 Develop our capacity to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of our work to enable us to remain flexible, responsive and relevant to changing needs, sector reforms, regional investment opportunities and changing economic circumstances
- 4.4 Diversify our funding base and attract new resources that enable us to sustainably grow, meet our strategic objectives, and respond to emerging community needs
- 4.5 Support and develop our Board and staff to ensure we attract and retain the necessary skills, capabilities and diverse representation needed to respond to and reflect the needs of our community