

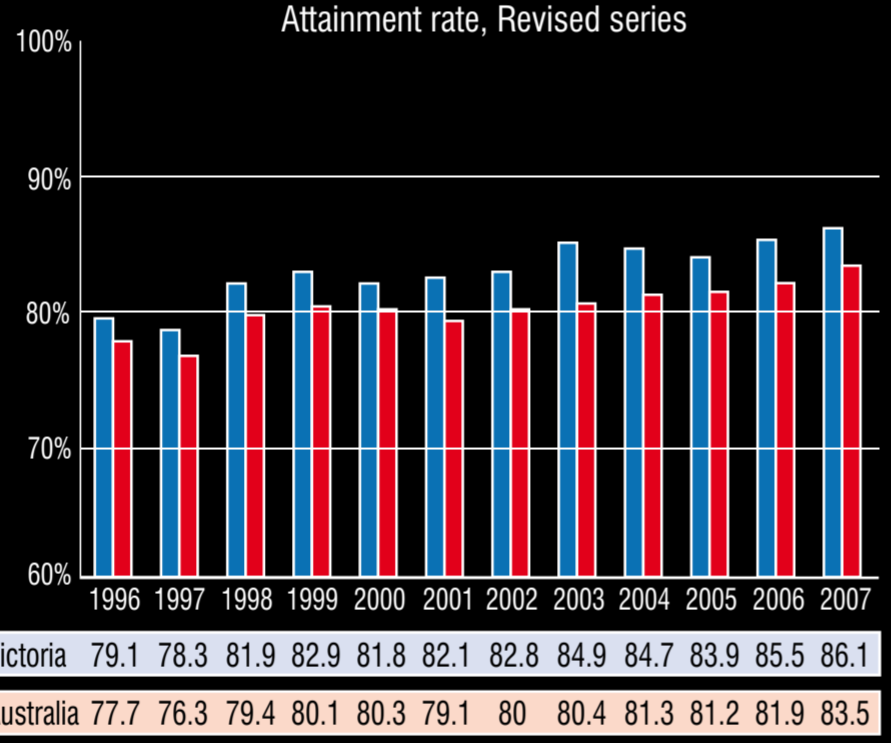
regional youth commitment



What is it?

- The Regional Youth Commitment (RYC) is a framework negotiated within and between a large number of local and regional stakeholders who provide pathway and transition support for 15-19 year olds.
- The initiative assists the Victorian Government to achieve its target of 90% completion of Year 12 or equivalent qualifications by 2010.

Persons aged 20 -24 yrs with Year 12 or AQF 2 or above (ASCED): Attainment rate, Revised series



(Source: ABS (2008) Survey of Education and Work (unpublished data))

How did it come about?

- The RYC was initiated in 2005 by the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) in the Grampians region. It was built on a recognition that more action was required to reduce the number of young people who were leaving school prior to completion of Year 12 or equivalent and neither continuing their education and training nor obtaining full-time employment. In 2008 eight of the nine DEECD Regions have implemented a RYC.

How has it been developed?

- one example
- The Gippsland Youth Commitment recognised that the region has a 'collective responsibility' for its young people to ensure that they have access to relevant education, training or employment options, 'Gippsland's youth – everyone's responsibility'. Organisations who sign up to the Gippsland Youth Commitment agree to embrace underpinning principles into their management and work.

What has been achieved?

INTERVENTIONS IN SCHOOLS – SCHOOL TRANSITION TEAMS

School transition teams were initiated in the Grampians region and now operate in other DEECD regions' work with schools. Transition Teams have dedicated members whose core function is to identify students at risk of early leaving, ensure that students get the tailored support they need to reduce the risk of leaving, and in cases where the student leaves the school, support effective transitions to further education and/or employment.



INTERVENTIONS BY TAFE – UNIVERSITY OF BALLARAT (TAFE) TRANSITION PROGRAM, GRAMPIANS REGION

The UB TAFE Transition program aims to support 15-20 year olds to continue education and training in the TAFE system. A transition officer supports existing UB TAFE students at risk of dropping out of courses in which they were currently enrolled, as well as young people currently outside the TAFE in schools or other environments. Estimates suggest that over 60 young people are supported in making better transitions each year.



INTERVENTIONS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT – GLENELG SHIRE YOUTH STRATEGY

The RYC process highlighted youth-issues for the local council and moved the development of the Glenelg Shire Youth Strategy higher up council's list of priorities. The RYC has galvanised thinking around ways in which a local area can respond to the needs of young people through advocating or instituting change in the areas such as education, transport, health, local planning and youth related activities.

