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Government commits to learning and training support

More young people in Ipswich who are in danger of not completing their schooling or training courses will receive the support they need to continue their studies, thanks to a major commitment from the Beattie Government, Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said today.

Ms Nolan said more than \$260,000 has been allocated the Ipswich Community Youth Service over the next three years to employ a Youth Support Co-ordinator in Ipswich.

This is part of a \$6.5 million boost to the Youth Support Co-ordinator program, she said.

Ms Nolan said the Youth Support Co-ordinator would be available to help young people at risk of not successfully completing Year 10 or transitioning into Years 11 and 12.

“The Youth Support Co-ordinators provide early intervention and prevention services to a network of local state and private schools, TAFE colleges and training providers to increase opportunities for young people to receive support,” Ms Nolan said.

“They will work directly with students, their families, schools, training providers and the broader community to help young people develop supportive environments for learning, learn social and personal skills and resolve issues that impact on schooling.”

The Ipswich Community Youth Service will receive \$4,500 this financial year to help cover establishment costs for the co-ordinator.

Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors Warren Pitt said a total of 25 Youth Support Co-ordinators would be appointed across the State, in time for the start of the 2005 school year.

“The Department of Communities will provide more than \$6.5 million over the next three years for these positions, as well as \$112,000 this financial year for establishment costs,” he said.

“This commitment is in addition to the 21 co-ordinators employed in early 2004, and 13 already working in Queensland communities since 1997.

“We expect to have a total of 113 Youth Support Co-ordinators by term two in 2005, with a further 54 to be engaged early this year.”

The Youth Support Co-ordinator service is part of the Queensland Government's *Education and Training Reforms for the Future* White Paper, which was released in 2002.

Ms Nolan said the Department of Communities, in collaboration with Education Queensland, had allocated \$18.6 million over three years to employ more than 100 Youth Support Co-ordinators.

"We recognise that Year 10 is an important juncture in a young person's life as they embark on their Senior Phase of Learning and experience a range of new learning, work and life experiences," she said.

"This initiative, along with other Queensland Government reforms, is providing a renewed focus on this critical time to help young people make the best possible choices to improve their life chances.

"We want all young people over the age of 16 to be earning or learning."

For more information on the Queensland Government's youth programs and initiatives visit the Department of Communities' website at www.communities.qld.gov.au/youth.

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