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SUPPORT BOOST FOR VULNERABLE YOUTH

Young people in Ipswich will receive further support to transition into their senior schooling phase with a \$13 million over three years boost for the successful Youth Support Co-ordinators program across Queensland, Member for Ipswich, Rachel Nolan said today.

Ms Nolan said the extra funding would allow the employment of two Youth Support Co-ordinators by a local community organisation.

“Ipswich Community Youth Service Inc will receive \$216,955 recurrent and \$13,500 in establishment costs through this invaluable initiative,” Ms Nolan said.

“The Youth Support Co-ordinator initiative is proving to be an effective way of diverting young people from homelessness and leaving school early and supporting them to continue learning or training.

“The co-ordinators will work with young people at risk of not successfully transitioning into Years 11 and 12, TAFE colleges and training programs.

“Specifically, they will work with vulnerable students to develop supportive environments for learning, help resolve issues that impact negatively on their schooling and help them develop social and personal skills.”

The Youth Support Co-ordinator service is part of the Beattie Government’s *Education and Training Reforms for the Future* agenda.

Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors Warren Pitt said the Government has now funded the employment of more than 100 Youth Support Co-ordinators across the State.

“The Department of Communities has committed more than \$4.3 million a year over the next three years to fund the positions, as well as almost \$240,000 this financial year for establishment costs,” Mr Pitt said.

“We recognise that Year 10 is an important juncture in a young person’s life, as they embark on the senior phase of learning and experience a range of new learning, work and life experiences.

“This initiative provides a renewed focus on this critical time to help young people make the best possible choices to improve their life chances.”

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