



# FAMILY, FRIENDS AND COVID-19 – IMPACT ON YOUNG PEOPLE’S MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

INFORMATION SHEET 4/5

## WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE?

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The key message from economists is that COVID-19 has revealed pre-existing long-term problems with youth employment, both in terms of under-employment and lack of pathways to skilled employment.

Based on the UWA Centre for Social Impact (CSI) research SBS News reported that: **“young Australians are in danger of facing “devastating” long-term impacts to their employment prospects and financial disadvantage because of corona virus shutdowns”**.

*“There is absolutely an implosion of the youth labour market”*

Economist Shirley Jackson, SBS News, 18 June 2020

*“Overall youth unemployment rates mask considerable variability across regions. In some regional areas, such as the Queensland Outback region, over 25% of the youth were unemployed before the pandemic. The current economic climate [post-COVID-19] will disproportionately affect regions already facing high youth unemployment rates”*

CSI Response, May 2020

**Reportedly, the youth unemployment rate has risen to 16.1% ... with only 1 in 5 young people participating in the labour market.**

- *young Australians are still reeling from the GFC ... the young account for a disproportionate share of workers in industries being most affected by COVID-19 shutdowns, such as hospitality and retail*
- *the young are also a large proportion of casual employees who have had their jobs less than 12 months ... that means they will not be eligible for JobKeeper payments, making them more likely to be laid off and less likely to be rehired than workers who are*
- *the disadvantaged young are likely to be hardest hit of all*
- *many international studies have shown that trying to move back into employment during a major economic downturn cuts the probability of employment and future earnings for a decade or more*
- *there is a pressing case for programs targeted at the young to improve their prospects of employment when the economy recovers ... and young people who will graduate over the next 12 months to prevent them having a period of unemployment, they should be encouraged to undertake further study”*

Jeff Borland, Professor of Economics University of Melbourne 15 April 2020, The Conversation

**KIDS HELPLINE (FOR TEENS): 1800 55 1800 • LIFELINE AUSTRALIA: 13 11 14**



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“personalized support for our young people that addresses multiple barriers to employment such as qualifications, transport, disadvantage, job readiness, and communication skills is important... there is the need for greater integration of higher education with the quality Vocational Education and Training sector.”

Professor Flatau, CSI

### HOW CAN STUDENTS/JOB-SEEKERS BETTER COPE WITH THE LONG-TERM IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT?

1 Try to take advantage of free courses via the JobTrainer program

2 If a school leaver or a graduate, consider continuing your studies and delay your entry into the job market (this will have to be supported by a Government waiver of fees/debt for the additional year of study)

3 Make speculative applications: checkout websites of companies and NGOs, which might have un-advertised positions for apprenticeships and internships.

4 Volunteer or do work experience

5 Build your social networks as a means of job-seeking - attend career fairs

6 Attend employer talks or lectures

7 Think about starting your own business with the help of a trustworthy family member.

8 Find a trustworthy adult to be your mentor or coach.

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE AN EMPLOYMENT CHALLENGE:



#### STEP 1

Talk to family and friends



#### STEP 2

Talk to the school counsellor



#### STEP 3

Go to the Queensland Government services website  
[qld.gov.au/services](http://qld.gov.au/services)

SUICIDE CALL BACK SERVICE 1300 659 467 • [WWW.HEADSPACE.ORG.AU](http://WWW.HEADSPACE.ORG.AU)