A better offer for all young people

Dr Joseph Borlagdan
BSL lunchtime seminar 17/5/12
The case for change

What’s possible

Influence a reform agenda

Prioritise young people’s needs
Offering more than holes in the ground

New Social Contract

Inclusive growth

Youth Offer

Acknowledgments

BSL researchers
Michael Horn, George Myconos, Sharon Bond, Dina Bowman, Anna Barrett, Eve Bodsworth, Janet Taylor

Peter Jones & Jeanette Pope
What is possible
Who closed down the community centre?
I kill time there used to be a member
What will I do now 'til September?
Schools out, rules out, get your bloody tools out
- Plan B ‘Ill manors’
Minefields
Forgotten youth
Precarious paths
Social inequality → minefields

Image Credit: tim rich & lesley katon
Youth unemployment, 15-24 yo

EU 23%, Spain & Greece over 50%

Australia 12%

Image credit anroir http://www.flickr.com/photos/anroir/5849731829/in/photostream
Engagement

16% 15-19 yo disengaged

8% 15-24 yo disengaged

Decreasing work stability
≈80% Faring well
Access help in crisis
Can confide family member
Report as healthy
Satisfied with relationships

Sources: BSL social exclusion monitor, ABS, FYA, AIHW, NCEVR
≈20% Socially excluded

Disengaged from education & employment
Unemployment
Mental health
Substance misuse

Sources: BSL social exclusion monitor, ABS, FYA, AIHW, NCEVR
≤5% Deeply socially excluded

- Disability requiring assistance
- Victims of physical/sexual assault
- Homelessness
- On care & protection order
- Juvenile justice supervision
- Suicide

Sources: BSL social exclusion monitor, ABS, FYA, AIHW, NCEVR
Kids these days

Labelled, stigmatised, demonised

Young people as active agents
I was told “If you get help, you need to help others” and it was like, ‘Alright, that’s good because I mostly need help.’ So when I did my English work, I got to help all the other students because I’m kind of good at English.
Enabling conditions

Image credit Donna Grayson http://www.flickr.com/photos/donnagrayson/195244498/
Supporting flexible, non-linear pathways
It was a choice, because they allowed you to choose. And I think they wanted me to be cash in hand because they wanted to pay less tax or something and it was easier for them to distribute the money to me, to give me the wage because they didn't have to go through the bank which costs time and money. It was just easier for them I guess.

Shifting risk to individual ‘choice’
Reforming fragmented & piecemeal arrangements

Centrelink, Youth Connections, SkillsPlus, two other places I can't remember the name of in Cheltenham. They were all the same sort of thing, except one was for commission housing. Another place was like the Frankston Youth Centre in a way, like counseling...I went to counselors my whole life.... I just got so bored of it. As you can probably tell, I get so used to answering questions and stuff, it's basically rehearsed now.
Silo driven

Incoherence

Short term

Duplication

Image credit thing three http://www.flickr.com/photos/perry-moore-photography/2496009737/
Broadening the narrow productivity agenda
Disadvantage is multidimensional

She’s good at finding the help we need outside of school, possibly with alcohol, or drug abuse, anything like that, or even sexual harassment...she can help you with that, and you can tell her, and she’s not going to look at you funny....She says, I know other people who’ve gone through this, and they’ve made it through as well, so what’s going to stop you from doing that, and that gives me a little bit of a boost. (senior/female)
Voice & participation
Priorities & principles

Strengths based approach
Clear & flexible pathways
Unified & coordinated service sector
Timely: prevention, early intervention
Coherent governance structures
Broaden productivity agenda
Voice & participation
A better offer for all young people

9am-5pm, Friday 22 June 2012
Melbourne Graduate School of Education, the University of Melbourne
Theatre 230, Level 2, 234 Queensberry Street, Parkville

22 June, Better Offer symposium