

Raising the Bar

Post-school transition planning
workshops for Year 9 students

Post-school transition planning for students living with disabilities needs to start early. Purple Orange has co-designed a series of seven workshops to help students, parents and teachers understand the post-school transition planning process and their role in it.

So why is this important and why are we doing this work?

Everyone wants a meaningful, valued role in their community. Post-school education and employment provides people with this opportunity. Through employment, all other life goals can be achieved, be it a flourishing social life, enjoying travel, owning your own home, pursuing hobbies and passions and supporting your family.

In 2021, the youth unemployment rate in South Australia was 10 to 15%. Unfortunately, people living with disability are less likely to be employed than those without disability. In fact, the unemployment rates for people living with disability are double that of people without disability. We want this to change and part of this change starts here – in schools. We need to make sure young people living with disability are supported to transition to employment of their choice post-school.

Research indicates that students living with disability who start post-school transition planning in Year 9 have better outcomes than those that start in Year 10.

The workshop series

There are seven workshops, which are a mix of only students, only teachers or a mix of students, teachers, and parents. Students participating in the program will attend all five student workshops.

The workshops have been designed to allow students to develop skills and knowledge relating to

- assertive communication
- self-advocacy
- reasonable adjustments and accommodations
- goal setting
- career planning

In the final workshop students share their goals, career plan, adjustments and accommodations they need, or how they want to be supported with their parents and/or teachers.

There are two teacher workshops which cover

- inclusive education
- transition planning
- using the Individualised Education Plan (IEP) such as 'One Child One Plan' to aid transition planning
- universal design for learning
- challenging assumptions for employment options for students living with disability.

The content in the teacher workshop translates into the classroom by providing strategies for supporting all students through universal design for learning, and inclusive practices. Teachers will also learn about supporting students living with disabilities through opening communication



between students and parents around reasonable adjustments and accommodations and creating a shared understanding on how to support the student in their post-school transition process.

The teacher workshops are open for any Year 9-12 teachers, leadership, and support staff. Staff will receive a certificate of attendance for the workshops. It is best if teachers attend both Week 1 and 2 sessions. For the final workshop in Week 5, it is beneficial for teachers of students participating in the workshops to attend.

The seven workshops are delivered over 5 weeks.

Week	Target group for workshop	Timing
Week 1	1. Parents and Teachers	After school (90 min)
	2. Students	During school (90 min)
Week 2	3. Students	During school (90 min)
	4. Teachers	After school (90 min)
Week 3	5. Students and parents	During or after school (90 min)
Week 4	6. Students	During school (90 min)
Week 5	7. Students, parents, and teachers	During or after school (90 min)

Upon completion of the Workshop series students can participate in a 10-session mentoring program. It is optional for students to participate in the mentoring program, but they need to attend the workshops to participate in the mentoring program.

The workshops and mentoring program are **free**, there is no cost for the school or participants.

Who can attend?

This program is available to all Year 9 students living with disability. Students in Year 10 are welcome to join the program where there is space (note that priority will go to Year 9 students).

The program can have 10-15 students participating. If you have more than 15 students, we can discuss delivering the program twice.

Disabilities come in many forms and in this workshop series we can cater for all students. We will work with you to make sure any accessibility requirements are met for your students.

What do we need from you?

The school will need to provide

- a classroom or quiet space with a TV/Interactive whiteboard for 2 hours for each workshop
- a teacher or SSO to support the students in the group
- student access to laptops/computers for two of the workshops

When can we deliver the workshops and mentoring program?

The workshops can be delivered in Term 1, 2 or 3 of 2022. The mentoring program can be delivered in Term 2 or 3. The days and times are negotiable.

Need more information?

If you require any additional information, please contact Ewa Lamont ewal@purpleorange.org.au