VISION
Young people make a significant contribution to Australia today and will shape what it will be tomorrow. The vitality, ideas, creativity and visions of all young people must be embraced.

CHALLENGE
The majority of young people are doing well, moving successfully through the different stages of their lives and responding to the challenges of the future. We can be confident that they will achieve success, find fulfilment in their adult lives and make a positive contribution to this country.

OUR DECLARATION
Some young people find their journeys more difficult and challenging. They may face problems in acquiring the knowledge, skills and self-confidence that form the foundations of their adult lives. We recognise the emotional, physical, cultural and learning barriers faced by these young people and the social, economic and locational factors that may negatively impact on their lives. There are opportunities for governments to address these barriers so that young people can achieve their best.

As Ministers entrusted with the collective wellbeing and interests of young people, we must foster an environment in which young people are nurtured and challenged—a society where all young people can realise their full potential. We must work together to support young Australians to achieve success as individuals and as members of society. We need to act collectively and we need to act now.
Our vision is of an Australia where:

- young people benefit and flourish through sustaining networks of family, friends and community, and through their engagement in education, training, employment, recreation and society

- young people’s opinions and contributions are sought and valued, and they are encouraged and supported to take an active role in their communities and the nation

- young people’s lives are enriched by positive learning experiences and opportunities that assist them to reach their full potential

- we recognise and celebrate young people’s achievements.
VISION

CHALLENGE

Our challenge is to:

- listen and respond to young people
- work creatively in partnership with young people to build comprehensive networks that draw together jurisdictions, government departments, families and communities so that united we can address the complex issues confronting young people
- recognise and address structural barriers faced by young people
- ensure that our governmental systems recognise the diversity of young people through being inclusive, flexible and adaptive
- create effective opportunities for young people that are accessible, integrated and meaningful
- encourage young people to take increasing responsibility for their own lives, support their peers and contribute to their community
- ensure that young people have the information, skills and support needed to negotiate the transition to adult life and to make informed life decisions.

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**Stepping Forward:**

improving pathways for all young people

A COMMITMENT TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA BY MINISTERS FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

**VISION**

**CHALLENGE**

**OUR DECLARATION**

With this declaration, we commit to developing practical ways to increase the social, educational and employment outcomes of Australia’s young people including those who are at risk, disconnected or in vulnerable circumstances. We agree to establish a common direction to make a real and lasting difference to the lives of young people. We are united by a shared commitment and a joint responsibility. We unanimously agree to work in partnership towards implementing a shared vision for all young people.

Australia’s Ministers for Education, Employment, Training, Youth Affairs and Community Services

The Hon. Lynne Kosky MP
Chair, Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs
Minister for Education and Training (VIC.)

The Hon. Matt Foley MP
Chair, Ministerial Subcommittee on Young Peoples’ Transitions
Minister for Employment, Training and Youth Affairs
Minister for the Arts (QLD)

The Hon. Bronwyn Pike MP
Chair, Community Services Ministers’ Conference
Minister for Aged Care (VIC.)

The Hon. Simon Corbell MLA
Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services (ACT)

The Hon. Carmel Tebbutt MLC
Minister Assisting the Premier on Youth (NSW)

The Hon. John Watkins MP
Minister for Education and Training (NSW)

The Hon. Faye Lo Po’ MP
Minister for Community Services (NSW)

The Hon. Clare Martin MLA
Chief Minister, Minister for Young Territorians (NT)

The Hon. Syd Stirling MLA
Minister for Education, Employment and Training (NT)

The Hon. Tony Abbott MP
Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business (Cwlth)

The Hon. Larry Anthony MP
Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Cwlth)

The Hon. Brendan Nelson MP
Minister for Education, Science and Training (Cwlth)

Senator Amanda Vanstone
Minister for Family and Community Services (Cwlth)

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Chief Minister, Minister for Young Territorians (NT)

The Hon. Syd Stirling MLA
Minister for Education, Employment and Training (NT)
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<th>The Hon. Jane Aagaard MLA</th>
<th>The Hon. Anna Bligh MP</th>
<th>The Hon. Judy Spence MP</th>
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<th>The Hon. Dr Jane Lomax-Smith MP</th>
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<td>Minister for Education and Children's Services (SA)</td>
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<td>Minister for Education, Sport and Recreation, and Indigenous Affairs (WA)</td>
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<td>Minister for Community Development, Women's Interests, Seniors and Youth, Disability Services, Culture and the Arts (WA)</td>
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MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS