



Youth Policy: Then and Now

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This presentation will review historically how Australian Labour Market program intervention, which has been an International leader in public policy and program delivery, is now failing to address record levels of Youth Unemployment in Australia.

The presentation will provide comment on the development of policy settings through the decades from the 1970's with the Employment Program for Unemployed Youth (EPUY), followed by Community Youth Support Program (CYSS) in the 1980's which was then absorbed into SkillShare in the late 1980's and early 1990's. And then the range of Working National Programs announced in 1991 to address Australia's worst recession and highest unemployment rates with a youth specific program such as the Landcare Employment Assistance program (LEAP).

The Howard Government then introduced a range of initiatives under the Career Advice Australia strategy including Regional Industry Career Advisers. This initiative was abolished under the incoming 2007 Rudd Government and then a range of program initiatives were developed under a National Youth Partnerships Agreement with State & Territory Governments. A change of Government in 2013 then led to the abolition of the Agreement and with increasing youth unemployment a Youth Transitions initiative was launched in 2016.

The recent launch of the OECD "Investing in Youth-Australia" Report provides an overview of existing initiatives as well as identifying international best practice initiatives that could guide further Australian Policy development. The presentation will outline key issues that can guide consideration given Australian and International experience.

The workshop format will include a PowerPoint Presentation, relevant Video segments, data information handout material and a Q&A with attendees.