

WEstjustice

Youth Employment Project (YEP) Snapshot

The WEstjustice Youth Employment Project (YEP) aims to improve employment outcomes for young people in Melbourne's west, by providing targeted employment law education, advice and casework, and gathering data to inform a final project report and related advocacy.

Aims

The YEP aims to educate and empower young people (aged 12-25) experiencing disadvantage in Melbourne's western suburbs. It seeks to improve access to decent, safe work by helping young people to better understand their workplace rights and responsibilities, and to increase their confidence to take action to enforce their rights.

The model

- **Youth Employment Law Services (ELS):** Utilising our School Lawyer Program model (lawyers embedded in the school wellbeing teams) and our established Youth Law Clinics (lawyers embedded in multidisciplinary health and wellbeing hubs), we provide holistic services (including employment law advice, referral, casework and advocacy) to young people in the places where they learn, work and access services. We assist with a range of legal matters including underpayment and non-payment of wages, discrimination, sexual harassment, workplace safety, JobKeeper, changes in hours, dismissal and sham contracting.



- **Targeted Community Legal Education and Engagement (CLE):** We provide employment law workshops to young people, as well as community education and professional development to community organisations that support young people (to help agency staff (including department of education and school staff members, careers counsellors and wellbeing staff) to understand employment and discrimination laws, identify when young people may have a legal issue, and make appropriate referrals).

- **Advocacy and systemic impact (ADV):** We liaise with key stakeholders, networks, government agencies, regulators, researchers, and policy-makers to identify and tackle systemic problems. Specifically, we are focusing on the production of a Project Report which will include an evaluation of the program model and detailed recommendations for future service delivery.

How to get involved

Feel free to contact us to refer a young person for free and confidential legal help.

If you would like us to deliver an employment law workshop to your clients, class, or team, please let us know. We can tailor these presentations to suit your needs!

If you have any stories about employment experiences that you, or a client, would like to share, please contact us. We will be reaching out to organisations over the coming months to request participation in focus groups and surveys to examine key issues for young people.

For more information or to seek our assistance, contact:

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