Youth workers perform a key role in the community by supporting young people through developmental stages as they move toward adulthood and independence.

Essential to this process is the capacity of the youth worker to build a relationship with their clients to deal with issues relating to personal relationships, family matters, educational and health concerns as well as risk taking behaviours such as drug and alcohol abuse.

Dealing with the contemporary issues confronting young people is enormously rewarding for youth workers who have the capacity to challenge young people to move forward and in this way enable them to make life decisions and deal with difficult situations.

Within the Community Services industry, youth work offers a broad scope of activities including individual counselling, group facilitation, through to community development.

Working with young people at risk and those who are vulnerable necessitates that youth workers act within the family context to ensure a holistic approach to dealing with issues that may affect an entire family. In addition to this, youth workers liaise closely with teachers, parents, social workers and authorities engaging their support in the resolution of complex problems.

Youth work qualifications may be useful to those who are considering diversifying into careers such as psychology, social work, or community development.
**The scope of youth work**

Youth workers perform a broad variety of tasks concerning diverse issues ranging from education, health, finance and accommodation for young people to dealing with relationship issues. This includes:

- Meeting and engaging with young people to build a healthy working relationship
- Case managing issues for young people
- Empowering young people to take control of their future
- Advocating for and with youth on issues such as education, behaviour, and their rights as individuals
- Taking responsibility for mentoring and coaching young people
- Demonstrating leadership skills for young people to follow
- Facilitating groups to work through issues of common interest
- Implementing community education programmes through group work
- Working and networking with community representatives at meetings to discuss and resolve issues
- Developing community resilience and resources
- Supporting, encouraging, and championing the interests of young people

Youth workers often take on additional responsibilities to ensure effective communication with the community that may include liaising with the media, preparing and distributing brochures and dealing with potential clients.

Youth workers operate within designated policies and practices, demonstrate ethical practice, and exercise duty of care in relation to their clients that reflects a highly professional approach to their work. Their training and skills as well as their awareness of their own values and interests enables them to adopt an objective approach to their clients and gives them the ability to address social justice issues in an informed and impartial manner.

**What youth work qualifications offer you**

The Certificate III in Youth Work will provide you with the practical skills and knowledge to work with and support young people, individually or in groups, with their social, emotional or financial situations. You will learn skills in effective communication, advocacy, support, referral, and service delivery. You will also learn skills in working with youth at risk, providing care and protection and working with culturally diverse clients. You will develop an understanding of the nature and provision of youth services, safety procedures and ethical behaviour required for working in the sector.

The Certificate IV in Youth Work will provide you with the practical skills and knowledge to plan, develop, implement and monitor programs designed to address the social, behavioural, health, welfare, developmental and protection needs of young people. You will also learn how to use community development methods, support young people to address their circumstances and assist young people in crisis. You will develop an understanding of the legal and ethical requirements for working in youth services.

As part of these qualifications you will undertake a supervised work placement where you will be able to apply the skills and knowledge you have learned.

**Employment opportunities**

Successful completion of the Certificate III in Youth Work provides you with the opportunity to gain entry level roles in youth work agencies. Employment opportunities are enhanced through further study. Successful completion of Certificate IV in Youth Work provides you with the opportunity to become a direct care worker in a community based or residential setting catering for young people.

**Entry requirements**

**Certificate III in Youth Work**

- Communication skills

A federal police clearance and a working with children check are required prior to work placement and employment in most community service agencies.

For more information of TAFEWA entrance requirements please visit [www.tafe.wa.edu.au](http://www.tafe.wa.edu.au)

**Further study options**

**Certificate IV in Youth Work**

**Certificate IV in Protective Care**

**Further information**

For further information contact our Information and Career Advisory Officers on 1800 621 445 or 9780 7070  
Email: courseinfo@bunbury.training.wa.gov.au  
Website: www.swrc.wa.edu.au