

Better Futures

Better Futures is a program that supports young people transitioning from care from 16, up to 21 years of age. Better Futures gives you an active voice in decisions about your future and provides you with the support you need to reach your goals across housing, study, work, health and wellbeing and community and cultural connections.



How does it work?

You work one on one with a Better Futures Development Coach who provides direct support, information and advice based on your needs. Your Development Coach will also help you access financial assistance known as flexible funding. Flexible funding is available to help you achieve your goals, support your health and wellbeing needs and connect you to your community.

“My Better Futures worker is absolutely amazing. She is always asking if I need anything and will get it organised if I do.”

– Hayley (young person)

A Better Futures Development Coach can help you with:

- Finding a place to live or supporting you to stay in your current housing
- Managing your health and wellbeing, including your mental health
- Supporting you to engage with education and learning - staying in school or education, or getting involved with learning at TAFE or Uni
- Finding a job
- Getting your driver's license
- Connecting with your community through hobbies and building healthy relationships
- Connecting you to your culture
- Helping with budgeting and learning life skills
- Support if you are a parent; including childcare costs, connection with parenting and family support services



Flexible Funding

Better Futures flexible funding can help get you set up for success by helping to pay for items or activities linked to your goals and interests. There are lots of things this money can be used for such as costs for study, work or healthcare or getting your license. To find out more information or how to access flexible funding, speak to your Better Futures Development Coach today.



Community Connections

You can also access Community Connections support through the Better Futures program. Community Connectors (workers) can help you find mentors and connect you to your community by linking you to new services, activities and opportunities. This could be anything you choose such as starting a new hobby, volunteering or connecting with your culture.



How do I get started?

- Young people on a family reunification order, a care by secretary order, a long term care order, or permanent care order, leaving care from 16 years of age are eligible for Better Futures.
- Your case manager will automatically refer you to Better Futures at 15 years and 9 months.
- If you are on a permanent care order, Permanent Care and Adoptive Families (PCA Families) will make this referral for you.
- If you are an Aboriginal young person on a permanent care order, the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) will make this referral for you to a Better Futures Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO).



To get started with Better Futures talk to your case manager today.
For more information visit:
<https://www.vic.gov.au/better-futures>