

media release



Young people get jobs and stay in school and headspace Hobart graduates!

Tuesday 24 August

headspace Hobart has been so successful in supporting young people with mental health issues to remain in education and/or find work, the headspace Centre has graduated from a pilot site to a full program of the Australian's Government's Individual Placement and Support (IPS) program.

As a part of a three-year national trial, the IPS forms part of the Australian Government's broader Youth Employment Strategy aimed at tackling the problem of high youth unemployment.

In 2016, headspace Hobart commenced the three-year national trial of the IPS model of vocational support with the Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS), keen to improve vocational outcomes for headspace clients up to the age of 25 years.

Miranda Ashby, CEO of The Link Youth Health Service (Lead Agency of headspace Hobart) stated *"During this time headspace Hobart has worked with local employers, schools and education facilities, with young people living with mental health issues to provide intensive, time unlimited, support. Sixty-eight 68 young people gained employment, a further 56 young people have commenced education to improve their vocational outcomes. It has been a fantastic and very positive partnership with young people, mental health clinicians, employers, education facilities, headspace and the Australian Government."*

The IPS model integrates employment and vocational support with clinical mental health and non-vocational support such as assistance to connect to Learner Driver Mentoring Programs, Dress for Success (who can provide clothing for women returning to the workforce), etc. It focuses on the individual needs of people with mental health issues who are seeking to enter or remain in education or employment. The IPS is the most researched model of vocational support in the world.

headspace Hobart was one of the 14 original headspace centres chosen to participate in the national trial of the IPS model. Subsequently, the trial was extended for a further two years and expanded to 10 more headspace centres. Then, in October 2020, funding was announced for a further three years and the expansion of the program (no longer a trial) to include 26 more headspace centres across Australia, bringing the total number of headspace IPS sites to 50.

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For media interviews, please contact:

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- **headspace National** media team on 0413 025 385

About headspace

headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation, providing early intervention mental health services to 12-25 year olds. Each year, headspace helps thousands of young people access vital support through our headspace centres in 124 communities across Australia^[1], our online and phone counselling services, our vocational services, and our presence in schools. headspace can help young people with mental health, physical health (including sexual health), alcohol and other drug services, and work and study support. Centre details, as well as fact sheets and resources for young people and their families and friends, can be located on the headspace website: headspace.org.au

^[1] *As at September 2020 and inclusive of licensed headspace centres, satellites and outposts*