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Youth on path to success

BROPHY FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICES

THE Transition to Work program at Brophy Family and Youth Services supports young people aged 15 to 21 on their journey to enter employment or complete education.

Youth development coaches work with youth to develop work readiness skills, build on their strengths and identify their career goals. However, to make the program successful, they need employers willing to give young people a go.

"Young people need to find work in their local area so they become more connected to their community and feel they are contributing to the community they live in," Transition to Work operations manager, Geoff Wake, said.

"Civic participation is an important aspect of life and work is often a starting point for civic participation."

The Midfield Group have been champions of Transition to Work, currently employing 13 young people through the program.

"Colin (McKenna, Mid-



ON THE FRONT FOOT: Brophy Family and Youth Services offers a Transition to Work program for young members of the community.

field Group founder and managing director) has always invested in people in the community and has instilled that as a company value since its inception," HR/OHS manager, Barry

Crimmin, said. Mitchell McLaren, 20, is one of the Transition to Work participants currently employed at the Midfield Group. He started in August 2018 as a truck washer and

due to his hard work and enthusiasm for the job, he was offered an apprenticeship as a diesel mechanic.

Mitchell and fellow colleagues and Transition to Work participants, Allan

Baird and Cody Miller all say that their favourite part of work is feeling like they are part of the community.

"It might not seem like it because there are so many people that work here, but

we really are one big team," Cody Miller, who has been with the Midfield Group for 14 months, said.

He now works as a grader. Mick Williams, training coordinator for the Midfield Group, says that the best part of employing people through the Transition to Work program is the support they get from Brophy Family and Youth Services.

"We want to give young people a career, we want them to be successful," he said. "Sometimes a young person might be struggling so we help find them a mentor or buddy. Sometimes they might need extra support and that's when we can contact Brophy."

Local employers can support young people and Transition to Work even if they don't have a current vacancy by offering internships, employer tours, or talking to a group of participants about pathways and job skills.

As Barry Crimmin said: "I don't understand why anyone wouldn't give young people a go. Everyone has to start somewhere and it's worth the investment."



SUPPORT LOCAL YOUTH

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