Example of Collaborative Partnerships

The example below may give you an understanding of how ‘collaborative partnerships’ have the potential to bring together government departments, services and workers with a range of skills and resources, to work in a holistic way with young people in an attempt to address a range of issues and problems.

- The School Focused Youth Service (SFYS) was a three-year program (1999 – 2001) jointly funded by the Victorian Departments of Human Services (DHS) and Employment Education and Training (DEET) with the aim of developing partnerships between schools and the community sector.

- SFYS workers were appointed in all regions across Victoria. These workers were often supported through a SFYS Reference Group, which was made up of a range of school based and community service workers. The group could allocate brokerage funds, which were available to provide a range of programs that targeted primary and secondary school students. These programs were often delivered as a joint partnership between a community agency and a school.

- Some of the programs developed included after hours homework groups, cultural differences within schools, students who were ‘at risk’ of leaving school early, or young people who were identified as potentially having problems moving from primary to secondary school.