



Jesuit Social Services commenced delivering the Navigator Program in the North Eastern Melbourne Area in 2020, and we have partnered with the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) who bring expertise in supporting aboriginal young people and their families. We also deliver Navigator in the regions of Hume/ Moreland and Brimbank/ Melton.

### Who is Jesuit Social Services?

Jesuit Social Services is a social change organisation working to build a just society where all people can live to their full potential. We work at the hard end of social justice with some of the most disadvantaged, vulnerable members of the community and support those most in need.

Jesuit Social Services provides programs and advocacy across five main areas:

1. Justice and Crime Prevention
2. Mental Health and Wellbeing
3. Settlement and Community Building
4. Education, Training and Employment
5. Gender and Culture

### What is Navigator?

The Navigator Program is a program funded by the Department of Education and Training (DET) which supports disengaged learners, aged 12-17, to re-engage with an education or training pathway.

Navigator actively works with young people and their support networks to provide the support required for a successful return to education.

The program works intensively with young people, families and schools to help young people overcome barriers and successfully re-engage with an education or training pathway.

### Who is eligible?

To be eligible, the young people must:

- Be between 12 and 17 years of age
- Have been disengaged from an education setting for more than 70 percent of the most recent school term

- Live in, or, be enrolled in a school within an area that Navigator operates. In the North Eastern Melbourne areas that includes Darebin, Whittlesea, Banyule, Nillumbik and Yarra.

#### What happens on the Navigator Program?

Navigator provides case management and intensive, assertive outreach to young people and their families. Our team assists each young person to create their own education re-engagement plan that:

- Expressed individual goals
- Addresses specific barriers to education
- Responds to issues underlying non-attendance
- Involves and works restoratively families, carers, schools and community support by:
  - Expanding and coordinating the network of people can provide ongoing support and oversight
  - Promote well-being, restore relationships and reduce further harm
- We also work with education providers to ensure that each young person's re-engagement into education best suits their needs.

#### How can young people be referred to Navigator?

The Department of Education and Training (DET) Navigator Coordinator manages the referral process to the Navigator Program at Jesuit Social Services. Anyone can refer to the program through our online referral hub which can be found on the following website:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/navigator.aspx>

#### Key contacts for the Navigator Program NEMA:

DET Navigator Coordinator - Emma Couper - [couper.emma.e@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:couper.emma.e@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Jesuit Social Services Manager of Community Justice Portfolio – Genevieve Higgins – [Genevieve.higgins@jss.org.au](mailto:Genevieve.higgins@jss.org.au)

Jesuit Social Services Navigator Coordinator – Jennifer Walters – [Jennifer.walters@jss.org.au](mailto:Jennifer.walters@jss.org.au)