

Below is a statistical summary of information of the six groups referred from  
 The three LGAs: City of Greater Bendigo, Central Goldfields Shire & Mount  
 Alexander Shire  
 Service active from July 24 – October.2020

	Females	Males	Total
Number of <b>Referrals</b>	17	13	30
Number of <b>Year 12 Completers</b>	15	11	26
Confirmed gap year: University in 2021	2	2	4
Currently working	8	7	15
<b>Support required:</b>			
Jobs information only	6	5	11
Courses/jobs/other information	3	4	7
Number of <b>Early leavers</b>	2	2	4
Currently working	1	1	2
No response to phone/email contact	Nil	1	1
<b>Support required:</b>			
Jobs information only	1	2	3

### Reflections:

- This year, due to Covid 19 there were fewer referrals as well as a delayed start to the Project. First referrals were sent on 24 July.
- Participants seemed more attuned to looking for work or relevant courses than in previous years. There were no unsuitable voice messages or email images.
- Covid restrictions meant that virtual open days, information sessions and phone contact with institutions were all that I could refer young people to. Also, there were very few job opportunities in the early stages, but as regional restrictions were lifted, and announcements of federal support for apprenticeships, there were many more jobs I could send in my weekly emails.
- There were only 4 early-leavers, and they were referred later in the process (cohort 3 and after) and took longer to respond.
- All who had deferred Uni were reconsidering their course choices. I suggested attending virtual Open Days, and directly contacting the relevant Uni. Two others who hadn't applied for Uni in 2019 were actively considering it for 2021.
- Only one young person said they had no need of my assistance, as had fulltime work. I emailed job alerts and course and other information to all the others on a weekly basis.
- One had moved out of the area, but I still provided course information.
- Very few were registered with Centrelink or a Job Active Provider.
- Still hard to get to speak to some, despite numerous phone and email messages. Last year showed that emails were being read if not acknowledged.
- While it was quite difficult personally working in isolation and feeling the responsibility of giving the best possible advice, the young people I spoke to seemed appreciative of the assistance and resilient in the circumstances.