youth affairs network qld

Youth Consultative Network

Semester 2 / 2007

Issues Raised

January 2008

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Introduction

Twice per year the Youth Affairs Network of Queenslands invites youth workers and youth services in Queensland to get together with their colleagues (via their local interagency[1]) and share with us the high priority challenges facing young people and youth services in their region. In addition to sharing their challenges, participants are also invited to submit:

- the responses they are making, or suggest should be made to these issues;
- training needs of services in their area; and
- new programs or resources recently made available.

This report collates all the information that interagencies submitted to YANQ between **July and December 2007**. YANQ will provide a brief response/followup to some of these issues in the near future.

This process is part of the Youth Consultative Network (YCN) and aims to help Governments and the Community to learn about, and respond to the issues that effect young people (particularly those that are marginalised and disadvantaged) and youth services in Queensland. the YCN also assists youth workers to connect with others that may be working on, or concerned about similar issues.

The YCN is facilitated by Queensland's peak community youth affairs organisation, the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ).

For More Information...

For more information about the YCN or YANQ generally, please contact the Network Development Officer at YANQ on (07) 3844 7713 or e-mail to ndo@yanq.org.au. The YCN website also provides further details, as well as reports from previous quarters. You can access the site at http://www.yanq.org.au/ycn.

Participating Interagencies/Networks (& postcode)

- Service Providers Action Group for Youth (4053)
- Logan Youth Managers Network (4114)
- Gold Coast Youth Network (4220)
- Goodna Youth Interagency (4300)
- Ipswich Youth Interagency (4305)
- Northern Sunshine Coast Interagency Network (4566)
- Hervey Bay Youth Sector Workers Network (4655)

Total Number of Interagencies: 7

Summary of Issues Raised

Matters relating to Young People		Matters relating to Organisations	
(7)	Housing/Accommodation	(4)	Funding/Resources
(3)	Drug/Alcohol	(3)	Staff/Volunteers
(2)	Transport	(2)	Collaboration/Cooperation
(2)	Mental/Emotional Health	(2)	Training
(2)	Service Availability	(1)	Community Relations
(1)	Employment		
(1)	Abuse/Neglect		
(1)	Social Security		
(1)	Red Tape		

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1   An interagency is a network (formal or informal) of human services that meets regularly to share information, discuss common issues of concern and in some cases plan strategies to address these issues.

Matters relating to Young People

Details	Response Suggested	Other Category	Postcode
Abuse/Neglect			
Seeing young girls speaking to older men through internet chat rooms.	Having more knowledge and information for young people and families about high risk of chat rooms.	Service Availability	4053
Drug/Alcohol			
Drug & Alcohol Misuse and Abuse	More education and treatment programs for young people.		4220
Drug & Alcohol – Substance Misuse	Looking at enhancing funding for services		4655
Abuse/misuse of Drugs & Alcohol	Interagency to advocate for increased resources for D & A counselling & support		4566
Employment			
Lack of support for 14 year olds who are having trouble finding jobs and accommodation	Providing more options for this target group and providing support.	Housing / Accommodation	4053
Housing/Accommodation			
Affordable appropriate and secure tenure (housing)	We are developing partnerships with Real Estate Offices		4220
Accommodation needs for young people, have noticed that the young people seeking accommodation are getting younger.			4300
Accommodation affordability	Starting raise this in different forums		4655
Accommodation for U16s	A lot - we have been trying for years to do this ie funding applications, negotiating with services		4655
Lack of housing options in North West Brisbane	A need for a greater diversity of housing options, specifically supported medium term and transitional housing.		4053
Housing - Medium and emergency			4114
Long waiting lists for short, medium and long term accommodation services. Supporting young people in application for supports.			4305
Mental/Emotional Health			
Mental Health - i.e. depression.	More education and treatment programs for young people.		4220
Mental/Emotional Health of young people			4114
Red Tape			
Lack of primary ID (e.g. birth certificate) and difficulty getting other ID. Often unable to apply for basic support with ID.	A referral source for getting primary ID. Alignments to schools and funding/org support.		4305
Service Availability			
Lack of "job readiness" traits displayed by young people. Young people referred to programs/agencies are often at the step before being job ready. Referring schools/agencies are using youth employment services as behaviour management.	This issue highlights the gap in behaviour management supports for schools.		4300
Lack of service provision to ATSI young people	Develop strong links with ATSI support services	ATSI	4566
Social Security			
Financial Independance for Young People as family hold documents needed to collect centrelink and set up bank accounts			4114
Transport			

Details	Response Suggested	Other Category	Postcode
Transport issues - public access to services as well as difficult for students to access their schools.		Service Availability	4300
Lack of public transport is a major barrier to young people considering activities. They can't/won't commit to activities if they know they can't realistically attend.	Private/community response. Use of local services to work together.		4305

Matters relating to Organisations

Details	Response Suggested	Other Category	Postcode
Collaboration/Cooperation			
Linking young people into indigenous organisations.	Need better knowledge of the Indigenous organisations around North West Brisbane.		4053
Staff finding it difficult to commit to networking / collaboration activities over & above job description. Increased workloads.		Workloads	4305
Community Relations			
Drought affecting some programs - can't do water play with kids, no grass means children play in the dirt.			4300
Funding/Resources			
Resourcing and viability.	Funding existing SAAP service at the same level as new initiatives.		4220
A lack of funding and long term visions.	Recurrent funding options. Longer terms for governments.		4053
Lack of Funding and unrealistic reporting with some programs			4114
Need better identification local resources.	Need to develop a local inventory of resources that services can access.		4305
Staff/Volunteers			
One agency worker commented on their experience of a large number of vacancies and poor quality applicants and another commented on the number of high quality job applicants they have recently received.			4300
Youth friendly substance abuse youth workers	The services using a better selection process re making sure that the staff is more ready to work with young people		4655
High Turnover of staff			4114
Training			
Recruitment of Youth Workers and their suitability. Training Needs	Looking at what is offered locally and what we can encourage to happen locally		4655
Training locally – so the trained staff likely to stay in the region			4655

Training Needs (& postcode)

Grief and loss and anger management. Need greater knowledge of what programs are available and increased resources for families.	4053
Collaborative working	4300
Information about the use of city council/local gov rules that need to be observed by community orgs running events.	4300
More youth conferences, please!	4300
Local conferences, events, forums for youth workers and the community sector.	4305

Announcements of New Resources/Programs

Please contact the relevant Interagency/Network for details. You can find contact details at
http://www.yanq.org.au/networks

Gold Coast Youth Network

- HHOT - Homeless Health Outreach Team. Provides support and referrals via outreach to rough sleepers with complex needs.

- HOP - Housing Options Program in Labrador/Southport. Assist young people to obtain housing in private rental market.

Goodna Youth Interagency

- Housing options for large families - (currently running in Melb). Kids under cover: www.kuc.org.au.

- Inala to Goodna Child Friendly Map (C4C initiative).

- Mary Albury book - "Who's been sitting in my chair?" about a woman with cerebral palsy. $25.

Hervey Bay Youth Sector Workers Network

- Triple S program through the Fraser Coast Youth Mentoring program - it is a program for older primary and younger High school students who have been excluded from school for 5 to 21 days - almost one to one youth worker working with the students - Ed qld are supplying the school work.