



youth affairs network qld

## **Youth Consultative Network**

# **3 / 2006**

### **Issues Raised**

October 2006

# Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	1
PARTICIPATING INTERAGENCIES/NETWORKS (& POSTCODE).....	1
SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED.....	1
MATTERS RELATING TO YOUNG PEOPLE.....	2
MATTERS RELATING TO ORGANISATIONS.....	3
TRAINING NEEDS (& POSTCODE).....	5
ANNOUNCEMENTS OF NEW RESOURCES /PROGRAMS.....	5

## Introduction

The Youth Consultative Network (YCN) is a process that 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.

Queensland's peak community youth affairs organisation, the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ), facilitates the YCN.

One of the main aspects of the YCN is the process through which networks and interagencies of youth workers and youth organisations share information regarding:

- The high priority challenges facing young people they work with and the youth services they work in;
- 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 the information provided to YANQ during the 3rd quarter (July to September) of 2006.

### ***For More Information...***

For more information about the YCN or YANQ generally, please contact David Powell, the Network Development Officer at YANQ on (07) 3844 7713 or e-mail to [ndpo@yanq.org.au](mailto:ndpo@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)

1. Brisbane Inner Urban Youth Interagency (4001)
2. Zillmere Youth Organisations Network (ZYON) (4034)
3. Service Providers Action Group for Youth (4053)
4. Inala Youth Interagency (LARGEFLY) (4077)
5. Redlands Youth Network (4165)
6. Gold Coast Family Connections (4211)
7. Caboolture Youth Area Network (YCAN) (4510)
8. MICAT (Mt Isa Combined Action Team) (4825)
9. Innisfail Community Sector Network (4860)
10. Cairns Youth Service Network (4870)

## Summary of Issues Raised

Matters relating to Young People	Matters relating to Organisations
(6) Housing/Accommodation	(12) Funding/Resources
(4) Service Availability	(4) Staff/Volunteers
(4) Education: P-12	(2) Collaboration/Cooperation
(3) Transport	(1) Government Relations
(2) Employment	(1) Accountability
(2) Recreation	(1) Training
(2) Mental/Emotional Health	
(2) Social Security	
(1) Relationships	
(1) Life skills	
(1) Safety	
(1) Drug/Alcohol	

**NB:** Numbers in brackets represent the number of issues that match the category – i.e. 3 of the issues raised were related to Transport.

## Matters relating to Young People

Details	Response Suggested	Other Category	Postcode
<b>Drug/Alcohol</b>			
Lack of Detox & Rehab facilities. Goorri house is only for men, and very difficult to get young people a place in.			4165
<b>Education: P-12</b>			
Alternative Education - a number of 12-14 young people requiring support to remain engaged in education.	Edmund Rice to commence in Deception Bay. Dept. Housing Community Renewal program provided support to this response.		4510
Impact of ETRF. Need to address alternative education options for young people who are excluded from the school system.		Service Availability	4870
High cost related to accessing TAFE courses and materials: Yng people unable to afford to access courses and to afford to live independently.	TAFE should assess yng people according to their income and their ability to pay for course. TAFE should consider sliding scale, scholarships, and possibly waive fees for yng in need.		4860
Truancy	flexible alternative education for young people. However, accessing flexible learning programs for under 15's is still an issue.		4034
<b>Employment</b>			
Young People - increased number of young people presenting a service providers with a desire of entering the workforce.			4510
Employment - heaps of training - NO jobs	ETRF does not equate to jobs.	Education	4077
<b>Housing/Accommodation</b>			
Accommodation- Particularly emergency beds for young women with young children and young people who are under 16 - this group is consistently excluded.		Service Availability	4001
Need 24 hour supervised accommodation for under 17yr olds (Not a Shelter)	Children's Commission to Dept. of Child Safety	Abuse/Neglect	4077
Issues of affordability; security of long term tenure; discrimination of yng people; Lack of crisis/supported accommodation	DOH and DOC need to enhance funding to current serviceproviders; need new monies to increase the amount of beds available; more support workers needed for yng people to access re: life skills, tenancy management rights and responsibilities		4860
Lack of medium to longterm accommodation.	Subsidised housing available specifically for young people.		4825
NEED Accommodation- Crisis, Medium & Long term for young people.	InSync offer 3 beds to males 15-17yrs - medium term.		4165
Lack of housing options in NW Brisbane	A need for greater diversity of housing options. Specifically supported medium term and transitional.		4053
<b>Life skills</b>			
Young people's Inability to manage day to day tasks	Life skills training in schools, more courses on problem solving and stress management for young people.		4053
<b>Mental/Emotional Health</b>			
Lack of availability of free, long term counselling options for young people. Most agencies are only funded to provide short-term interventions.		Service Availability	4001
Mental health issues - self harming.	group work to address self-harming issues.		4825
<b>Recreation</b>			
Appropriate Recreation / Activities for young			4870

people			
Social isolation. Lack of healthy, affordable, fun activities. Facilitating a sense of community.	Gold Coast Volunteering is looking at developing projects.	Social Isolation	4211
<b>Relationships</b>			
Family conflict and dysfunctional relationships	Greater focus on early intervention and improved and increased resources for families.		4053
<b>Safety</b>			
Safety. Homelessness and accommodation needs. Lack of CS options and resources. Domestic violence - lack of parenting skills. Young people living away from home with no money.	Collaborative partnerships		4211
<b>Service Availability</b>			
Lack of support services for under 18's - particularly detox, rehab and support for young people with eating disorders.	Funding bodies need to take responsibility for providing enough funding to cover insurance costs so the services can be offered. Insurance costs are the key reason cited for not providing services for under 18's.	Health	4001
Young people urgently need access to youth workers after business hours. Problems don't happen between 9 and 5pm.	Employ youth workers specifically out of hours.		4825
Lack of services and facilities for isolated areas (eg Southern moreton bay islands)	Only JPET operating an outreach service to Southern Moreton Bay islands and North Stradbroke Island.		4165
Limited support / activities/ services for young people under 12 years of age.	ZYON is currently exploring what services / activities are available for under 12's.		4034
<b>Social Security</b>			
Cebtrelink - payments for under 16s.	Advocate to the local office for a national approach.	Health	4077
Concern about the new legislation requirements. Yng people need to sign contracts with job networks - new breaching rules implemented for 8-week period without exception.	Young people need to be informed about new contract arrangements and legal implications/breaching. Training needed for yng people in the area of Contracts.		4860
<b>Transport</b>			
Public Transport - lack of accessibility east-west across the Shire to service young people's needs	Considering further investigation of solutions that have overcome a similar issue with a specific cohort i.e. Libraries - transportation of persons with a disability. HAAC Eligibility.	Service Availability	4510
Local transport infrastructure needs improvement			4870
Transport. Not affordable or accessible enough. Access to bus passes and concessions is an issue.	Working with Gold Coast Mobility Office.		4211

## Matters relating to Organisations

Details	Response Suggested	Other Category	Postcode
<b>Accountability</b>			
Services main target groups (service / funding agreements) may not always meet the needs of the local community.	Work with other networks within Zillmere to address issues which may affect the community as a whole.		4034
<b>Collaboration/Cooperation</b>			
Collaboration and partnerships	A number of community organisation's are currently cooperatively collaborating to deliver outcomes.		4510
Department of Communities requirements/pressure to partner with community organisations is creating pressure and over burdening some smaller community organisations (ie. when there are only a few community agencies that DoCS can partner with, it creates a lot of pressure on the same few)			4165

<b>Funding/Resources</b>			
Demographics of clients are changing.	Services need to be given flexibility (by funding bodies) to adapt their programs as needed as their client base changes.	Accountability	4001
Lack of funding for Outreach Services. Youth agencies unable to connect with the young people where they are at. Unreasonable to expect young people most needing support will come into a service during "normal business hours".	More funding for outreach programs.		4001
The need for Secondary consultation opportunities so key workers can access information/professional development opportunities and work with a client effectively without having to refer them on.	Resources on a range of topics and easy access to professional advice and skills are required.	Training	4001
Affordable office space and venue for organisation.		Office Space	4211
Flexible options - brokerage money.			4211
NGOs underfunded - i.e. part-time workers instead of full-time workers. Especially need to resource family support, counselling and child protection.	Ongoing discussion with DOC - No answer to resolve issue.	Staff/Volunteers	4077
Lack of recurrent funding for programs. (Most funding for non-recurrent, one off, seed funding etc) AND we have no funding for DoCS- Youth Justice Programs Officer.	Community attempt to address issues as they arise (ad hoc basis).		4860
We have a large region-geographically and our services feel stretched beyond capacity. Especially in trying to access SMIBI and NSI.			4165
A lack of long term vision and funding that supports 10 year plans.	Recurrent funding options and longer terms for governments.	Planning	4053
High costs of accessing resources for at risk youth.	Central pool of diverse resources available to all.	Collaboration/Cooperation	4053
Understaffed organisations	Utilise volunteers.		4034
<b>Government Relations</b>			
Continuity of relationships with funding bodies.	Stabilising workers from funding bodies.		4053
<b>Staff/Volunteers</b>			
increasing difficulty in attracting and retaining staff. Due to recent increases in the number of positions available in the Cairns area with the State Government (primarily within Communities/Youth Justice/Child Safety) organisations are suffering due to a drain on qualified personnel. A major contributor to this is the significantly higher level of remuneration offered by the State.		Funding/Resources	4870
Need for more workers to engage out-of-circle youth.			4825
Positions for youth workers to work out of hours don't exist in this area.	Make detached youth worker positions available.		4825
Difficult for organisations / workplaces to find staff for vacant positions	Advertise jobs at TAFEs / Universities etc. Offer jobs to volunteers / students who have been on placements.		4034
<b>Training</b>			
Engagement of young people's families (breaking down stigma).		Engagement	4211

## Training Needs (& postcode)

Cross cultural awareness training (communication protocols etc).	4034
Current / upto date info on changes to relevant legislation that affects young people.	4034
Dealing with difficult behaviours (Violent or Threatening behaviour).	4034
How to lobby Government Organisations.	4077
How to lobby safe Labour seats (e.g. Inala) to get proactive.	4077
Self hanning	4211
Desire for a greater number of opportunities to occur/delivered locally so as attendance could occur.	4510
Communication skills	4825
Family mediation	4825
Program development and implementation	4825

## Announcements of New Resources/Programs

Please contact the relevant Interagency/Network for details. You can find contact details at <http://www.yanq.org.au/index.pl?page=networks>.

### ***Caboolture Youth Area Network (YCAN)***

- Acclaim Apprentices recent employment of a dedicated Indigenous & Employment Training Consultant.
- Dept. Housing Community Renewal program funded alternative education initiative in Deception Bay.
- Finalisation of a highly responsive VSM initiative - "Out There & Active - Phase 2"

### ***Gold Coast Family Connections***

- Meeting in the Middle - program to teach young people conflict resolution skills. See <http://www.reconnect.org.au/content.cfm?area=1&page=Meeting>.

### ***Redlands Youth Network***

- Youth Info Card (printed 2004)

### ***Zillmere Youth Organisations Network (ZYON)***

- Guide to running art projects with young people (Aerosol art, consultation process etc).
- Information on Policies and Procedures for Youth Spaces (induction of young people in youth spaces, computer use guidelines etc).
- ZYON data collection & collaborative partnership guidelines (running collaborative projects under the network banner/name).