



youth affairs network qld

Youth Consultative Network

2 / 2007

Issues Raised

July 2007

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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 April, May and June, 2007.

Responding to the Issues

The next step in the process, following the release of the *Issues Raised* reports, is to develop responses that may address the issues.

In the Short Term

In the short term, YANQ attempts to respond to the issues by:

- sending this report to any relevant government bodies and inviting them to provide YANQ with any relevant information that may be useful to local youth services and young people;
- preparing a brief response of its own, incorporating any information received from government bodies and others.

Any individual or organisation is invited to submit to YANQ any information they think should be included a in our response. Details of a new project; outcomes of a recently completed project, recent research from Australia or overseas and so on would all be useful.

Information can be provided to YANQ by phoning (07) 3844 7713 or e-mailing ndo@yang.org.au.

In the Longer Term

In the longer term YANQ will work with the youth sector and others (e.g. government bodies and other peaks) to respond to some of the issues raised. This may take the form of in-depth projects or campaigns. The activities that we undertake will vary depending on the issue, but they may include such things as:

- research;
- awareness raising campaigns;
- lobbying or providing advice to government or other relevant bodies;
- holding community forums.

For More Information...

For more information about the YCN or YANQ generally, please contact YANQ's Network Development Officer (07) 3844 7713 or e-mail to ndo@yang.org.au

The YCN website also provides further details, as well as reports and responses from previous quarters. You can access the site at <http://www.yang.org.au/ycn>

Participating Interagencies/Networks (& postcode)

- Brisbane Inner Urban Youth Interagency (4001)
- Service Providers Action Group for Youth (4053)
- Logan Youth Managers Network (4114)
- Redlands Youth Network (4165)
- Goodna Youth Interagency (4300)
- Caboolture Youth Area Network (YCAN) (4510)

Total Number of Interagencies: 6

Summary of Issues Raised

| Matters relating to Young People | Matters relating to Organisations |
|---|---|
| (4) Housing/Accommodation (3) Mental/Emotional Health (2) Relationships (1) Transport (1) Drug/Alcohol (1) Employment (1) Health (1) Service Availability (1) Justice/Legal (1) Education: P-12 (1) Social Security | (5) Staff/Volunteers (2) Funding/Resources (2) Collaboration/Cooperation (1) Community Relations |

Matters relating to Young People

| Details | Response Suggested | Other Category | Postcode |
|--|--|----------------------|----------|
| Drug/Alcohol | | | |
| Substance abuse issues | Recognition of the issue. Education for young people. More training for workers. | | 4053 |
| Education: P-12 | | | |
| Alternative Education - a number of 12-14 year old young people requiring support to remain in education | | Service Availability | 4510 |
| Employment | | | |
| Young people - increased number of young people presenting to service providers with a desire of entering the workforce | | Education: P-12 | 4510 |
| Health | | | |
| Affordable and easily accessible Health Care (Inc Dental, GPs, Mental Health, Drug & Alcohol, and health education services) | IUYI has set up a working group (chaired by HHOT) to look at referral pathways for young people with mental health issues. | | 4001 |
| Housing/Accommodation | | | |
| Affordable Housing - for all young people (not just those with complex needs), and especially young families. | Ohlila's has some accommodation but is struggling to find enough accommodation for the range of young women presenting. | | 4001 |
| Lack of crisis accommodation and homelessness | Currently have one medium term accommodation for young men 15-17yrs only. | | 4165 |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|------|
| Homelessness - lack of suitable housing options for young people. Limited short, medium and long term housing. Rentals too competitive and no support. | Increased options - supported to non-supported. Empower tenants to advocate for rights in private rental. | | 4053 |
| Housing - Emergency & Medium Term | | | 4114 |
| Justice/Legal | | | |
| Police Response to Young People. There has been an increase in reports of unfair & unrecorded Move-on's and heavy-handedness by police officers when dealing with young people. | | | 4001 |
| Mental/Emotional Health | | | |
| CYHMS - 12 - 16 year olds hard to make referrals as organisations are so understaffed that they are unable to support this age group, even for urgent cases | | | 4300 |
| Access to counselling and support (all issues) | Good connections and networks to provide best referrals. seeking information from other areas about collaborative case management models. | | 4165 |
| Mental/Emotional Health | The Shed is running a group with young people who self harm run by workers who had a history of self harm | | 4114 |
| Relationships | | | |
| Self-esteem issues and basic social skills for 12 - 18 yr olds. | | | 4300 |
| Relationships with peers and parents. | Access to counselling for young people and training for workers. | | 4053 |
| Service Availability | | | |
| Gap in parenting programs for parents with children under 2 yrs old. | | | 4300 |
| Social Security | | | |
| Lack of knowledge/information and awareness of Centrelink Processes | Currently have a centrelink social worker who regularly attends network meetings to answer questions and provide comment on Centrelink processes. it has become clear through these discussions, just how much information the community miss out on knowing because things are not advertised/promoted etc. | | 4165 |
| Transport | | | |
| Public Transport - lack of accessibility east-west across the shire to service young people's needs | | | 4510 |

Matters relating to Organisations

| Details | Response Suggested | Other Category | Postcode |
|---|--|----------------------|----------|
| Collaboration/Cooperation | | | |
| Cultural and philosophical clash between education/schools and community/youth workers. | Need better connections between Dept. of Communities and Education Queensland - this may trickle down to local levels. | Education: P-12 | 4053 |
| Poor relationships with government. | Improved channels of communication and time to connect/link. | Government relations | 4053 |
| Community Relations | | | |

| | | | |
|--|---|--------------------|------|
| Concern regarding the bigger players coming into the area | A number of community organisations are currently cooperatively collaborating to deliver outcomes | | 4510 |
| Funding/Resources | | | |
| Lack of recurrent funding for projects. | | | 4165 |
| Lack of Funding/resources. | | | 4114 |
| Staff/Volunteers | | | |
| Difficult to find good quality, male youth workers. It's important for young males to have good role models. | | | 4001 |
| Staff Recruitment - long process and applicants often not suitable. Relief staff difficult to source | | | 4001 |
| Level of appropriate funding for workers. Eg. pay level and recognition. | | | 4165 |
| Limited staff available & human and physical resources - results from poor wages and limited funding. | Improved working conditions. Realistic timeframes for working with clients. | Funding/ Resources | 4053 |
| High Turnover of Staff - burnout | Group working on sharing successful supervision practices and possibly share training. | | 4114 |

Training Needs (& postcode)

| | |
|---|------|
| Mediation and family relationship training for youth workers. | 4053 |
| Substance abuse issues. | 4053 |
| Self Care/ Supervision for Youth Workers | 4114 |
| BIG! Youth Conference re Child and Youth Mental Health | 4300 |

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>

Caboolture Youth Area Network (YCAN)

- Establishment of Samoan/South Pacific Youth Justice Group
- Having A Say: Youth Issues & Needs Project Report
- Launching of Transit Lounge in Caboolture

Goodna Youth Interagency

- Careers Market 1 Aug Ipswich
- International Women's Conference (USQ Toowoomba) 26-29 Sept
- Poly Vision - 13 July Young Pacific Islander students - day camp focusing on dreams or goals. (Mentors)