



YP SPACE MNC INC. 2010-2011 AGM REPORT

Contents

YP Space MNC Inc 2010-2011 AGM Agenda

Previous AGM Minutes 2010

Chairpersons report - Lin Duncan

Manager's report - Nerida Ackerman

Case Management

YP and Housing Options

Community Development and Engagement

Young Mum's Group

Audit- Report

AGM Agenda

Wednesday 21st December 2011

Welcome and Introductions

Annual General Meeting

Welcome and Apologies

Minutes of the last Annual Report

Business arising from the minutes

Chairperson's Report

Manager's Report

Treasurers/Auditor's Report

Appointment of Auditor

Election of Public Officer

Election of Management Committee:

Close of Meeting

YP SPACE MNC INC
Annual General Meeting
22nd October 2010

Present Lyn Duncan, Julie Priestly, Paul Ryan, Theresa Thorne, Nerida Ackerman, Michelle Ackerman, Julie Rostlen, Tracey Foley, Riddhi Buckley, Sheila Scott, Rochelle Stratford, Chris McGeoch, Judy Addleton, June Wilson

Apologies-

Last minutes past by Nerida Ackerman and second by Julie Priestly.

Chairperson's report- Lyn Duncan overview of report

Mangers report- Nerida Ackerman

- Michelle Ackerman spoke about the community development role
- Julie Priestly gave an overview of the 'young mothers' group
- Paul Ryan gave an overview on the reality renting group

Treasurers Report- Chris McGeoch addressed the financial report.

All reports moved- Julie Priestly **Second** Tracey Foley

10/11 financial audit Chris Mcgeoch recommended as Auditor

Current Management Committee stood down

Management Committee for 2011/2012

Shelia Scott, Lyn Duncan, Tracey Foley, Sue Seager, Nathan Plaff, June Wilson, Michael Foxwell.

Office Bearer Nerida Ackerman

Moved Riddhi Buckley **Second** Paul Ryan

Chairpersons Report

The 2010 – 2011 has been a truly challenging and rewarding year for YP Space, proving to be a significant time in our development and growth as an organisation.

Our clients, the homeless (or at risk of homelessness) young people of Kempsey regularly face a very difficult path, often becoming trapped in a cycle of homelessness. This can develop into a range of physical, psychological and spiritual health issues, failure to access education or employment and isolation from society generally.

To address and support young people through extremely challenging times and transitions in their lives, YP Space and Northern Rivers Social Development Council worked collaboratively and tirelessly.

From this partnership developed The 'Switch' Consortium of YP Space MNC and Northern Rivers Social Development Council. Switch were successful in securing funding for two regional projects:

- Funding available through the North Coast Homelessness Action Plan for Young People Leaving Care (NSW Community Services).
This grant is for the provision of early intervention case management for young people leaving care who reside in the area between Tweed Heads in the North and to the Southern area of Great Lakes.
- Funding from the Homelessness Action Plan (HAP), Department of Juvenile Justice to provide intensive case management services to young people engaged with the Juvenile Justice System

Welcome to the new Casework Team Leader (Rochelle) and Caseworkers Lennie, Meg and Phill and Indigenous trainees Kim and Patrick. A strong, skilled team working with our young people. The Community Development role has also altered somewhat due to the Switch funding. Community development is also a component of the Switch CS funding.

Breaking the homelessness cycle requires providing and / or engaging young people in a broad range of support services including housing, healthcare, drug and alcohol, mental health, counselling, education and employment.

Funding from Family and Community Services through the Specialist Homelessness Services Program provides housing support workers and a community development worker to improve our young people's life chances.

Our extremely experienced Housing Support Worker and Outreach Support Worker, Paul and Julie, with many decades of commitment to young people, are focused on providing support to assist the young people of the Macleay Valley to achieve an independent life. Julie has also worked with other services to provide "the Young Mums Group" which has been a successful, well attended program for many years. The 'Reality Renting' program Paul facilitates with Peter (Hastings Macleay Housing Support) has assisted young people in accessing and maintaining tenancies.

Michelle is out there raising awareness of youth issues in varied ways; the 2012 KYSSR (Keeping Youth Strong, Supported, Resilient) Youth Diary, Youth Homelessness Matters Day, Connect4Life Anti Poverty/Homelessness Day, YP Space Talk newsletter, YP Space Evaluation and much more...

Theresa (Administration) and Julie (Bookkeeper) are 'wizards' at keeping everything on track and running smoothly – not an easy task with the growth spurt experienced this year.

Although many people have worked hard to achieve this year's successful outcome, none have contributed more to the process than our manager, Nerida. The expansion of YP Space is an indication of her extensive experience and commitment to young people.

I would like to congratulate the Management Committee for their dedication and vision and look forward to another year of working together.

Lin Duncan

Manager's Report

YP SPACE MNC Inc. (YPS) has achieved some outstanding outcomes over the last financial year. The capacity, sustainability and relevance of the agency has been increased through building stronger networks, connections, support structures and internal growth. 2010/2011 saw our service build on the strong foundations achieved through the reconfiguration process of 2008 and blossom into an agency that continually achieves excellent outcomes for young people and positions our service firmly as a quality service provider. The Management Committee and staff of YPS continue to respond to the responsibilities required of them with a growing passion and commitment to supporting young people and work from and with both a quality governance framework and best practice focus.

The last financial year saw YPS's program base, and staffing level, grow substantially, through new funding secured (May & June 2011) from Community Services and the Department of Juvenile Justice (Attorney Generals Department) for the Switch program. The new program has provided YPS the capacity to provide services to more young people across the entire mid north coast region. The Switch program is managed through a consortium of YPS and Northern Rivers Social Development

Council (based in Lismore) to implement intensive case management and support to young people connected to Out of Home Care or the Department of Juvenile Justice. The Switch program is broken into 2 areas: Switch MNC (Taree to Coffs Harbour) is managed by YPS, with Switch NR (Grafton to Tweed Heads) is managed by Northern Rivers Social Development Council.

YPS MNC Inc. employees 11 full time staff and a pool of casual staff. The team works across various programs which include;

- Specialist Homelessness Service
- Department of Juvenile Justice - Attorney Generals Department
- Department of Community Services

SWITCH MNC

Switch comprises of 1 Case Work Leader who is located in the YPS main office in Kempsey but works across the MNC, - Youth Programs workers located in Kempsey, Coffs Harbour and Taree office. 1 part time Community Development worker along with two Aboriginal Trainees who are also located in the YPS main office in Kempsey.

The Switch program is for young people aged 16-25 who:

- Are in OOHC or foster/kinship care and who are at risk of placement breakdown
- Who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and have previously been in a care placement **OR**
- Have previously been in a care placement and are involved with juvenile justice or adult corrections.

The program provides 12 month intensive case management to young people and respectfully supports the plans they have for their lives, focussing on developing connectedness with family and community. Through collaborative relationships with other services and relevant networks, appropriate supports where identified will be developed. The program focuses on building capacity and supports for young people transitioning to independence through:

- Client Focused Strengths Based case work

- Working collaboratively to establish leaving care plans
- Providing assistance in accessing & maintaining appropriate accommodation
- supporting young people to connect with family, community and cultural heritage.
- working with young people towards empowerment through fostering emotional and mental well being and a healthy sense of self.

The YPS Switch MNC program began in late may 2011 and has been developing service frameworks to suit the needs of the young people being referred to the program. We look forward to

presenting a report in the coming financial year.

SHS -Specialist Homelessness Service

SHS comprises of 1 Youth Support Worker, 1 Youth Housing Support Worker and 1 Community Development worker. YPS has been managing this program for 26 years.

Management and Financial Management YPS employs a fulltime Manager, Finance & Administration worker and a part time bookkeeper.

Governance

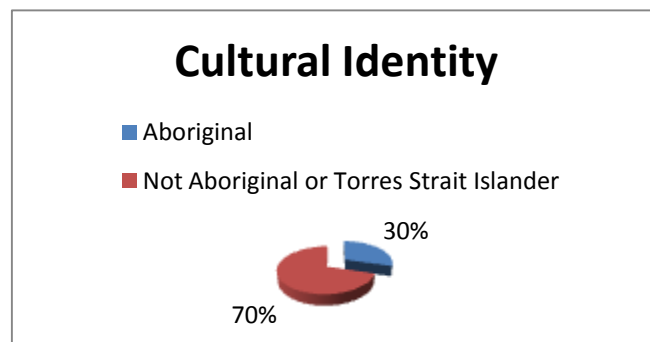
YPS Board of Governance comprises of local professional from a diverse range of skills. During 2010/11 the Board comprised of ;

Lin Duncan - Manager, Kempsey Neighbourhood Centre
Sue Seager - Manager, AC Employment
Nathan Paff, Coordinator, Mid North Coast Tenancy Support Service
Sheila Scott - Long standing Community Member
Tracey Foley - JJO Department of Juvenile Justice
Michael Foxwell - Manny Rivers Anti Violence Service
Riddhi Buckley - Student, Volunteer
June Wilson - Kempsey Womens Refuge

Interesting facts...

In terms of the YPS SHS program, 227 individual young people have accessed the program in this financial year, with 75.8% of support periods lasting approximately 12 weeks. Of this the majority of young people accessing YPS SHS has changed over the last year and now denotes 20-24 year olds yrs accessing at a much higher rate. 15-17 year olds continue to access YPS regularly, yet a slight decrease has occurred in the 10-14 year age bracket.

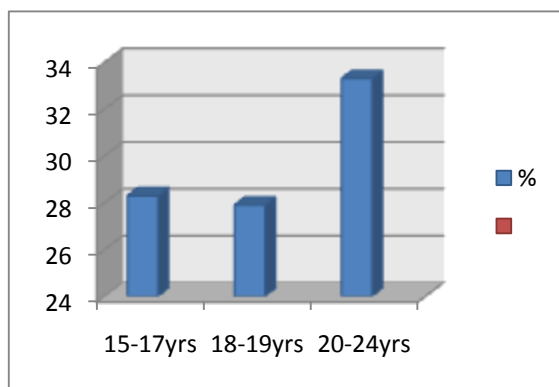
Cultural Identify % (SHS Program)



(Source Smart database 01/07/2010-30/6/11)

This financial year has also seen a slight increase in the number of young people accessing YPS SHS program who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Age of Young People Accessing% (SHS Program)



(Source Smart database 01/07/2010-30/6/2011)

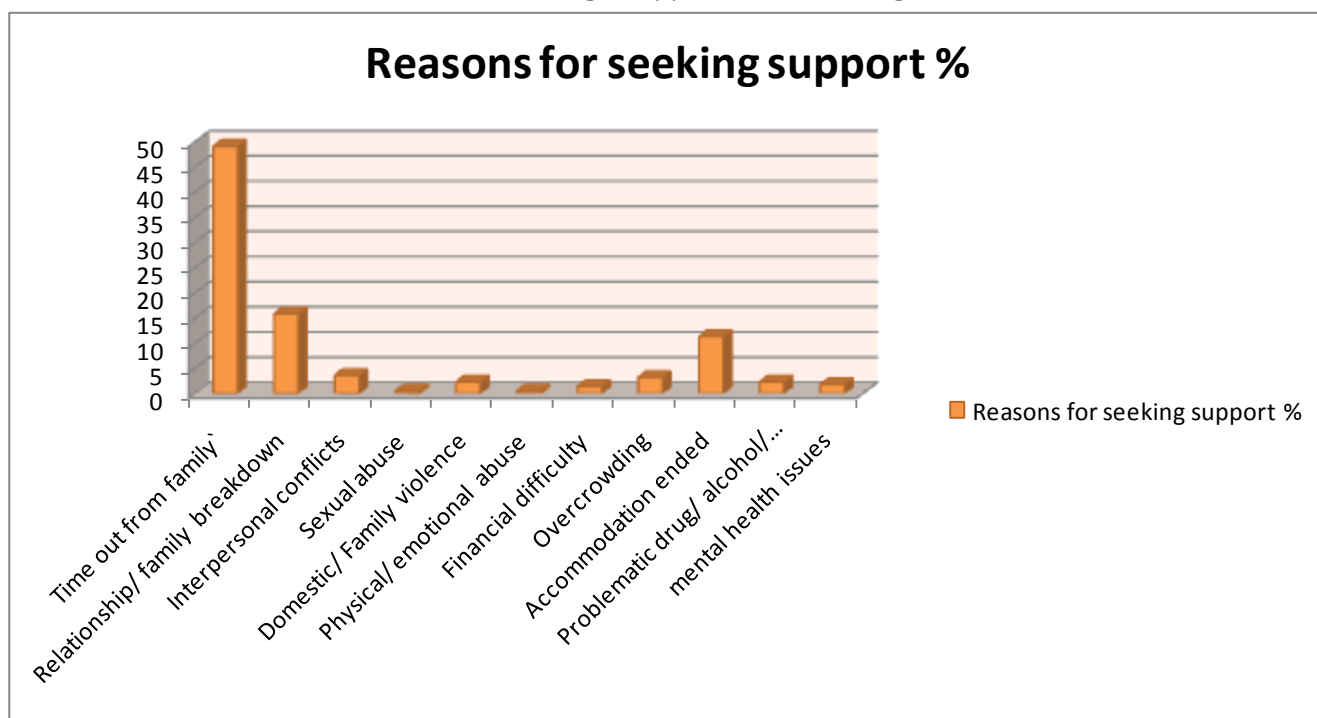
YOUNG PEOPLE AND CASE MANAGEMENT...

YPS has continued to refine the case management process we utilise with young people across our community. Both the YPS SHS and the YPS Switch MNC programs implement a case management framework with young people, to support the young person to plan, develop and facilitate a comprehensive case management plan. YPS Case Management structure encourages full participation from the young people we work with, YPS actively seeks to ensure young people are the driving force of the strategies put into place to address their individual needs. Housing support and advocacy are continually a key focus of our case management practice, yet ensuring

support and interventions are provided to address the underlying cause of a young person's homelessness is an essential focus of our service.

The YPS staff team (now numbering 11) has also continued to develop their skills and capacity in key areas associated with supporting young people. Professional development and training has been important for our staff to ensure we are in a position to respond effectively to young people's needs and respond to emerging issues for our community. Capacity building for young people is also a key feature of the case management process YPS employs. Working in a sustainable way to assist young people build on their strengths and resilience continues to permeate all aspects of the work we do.

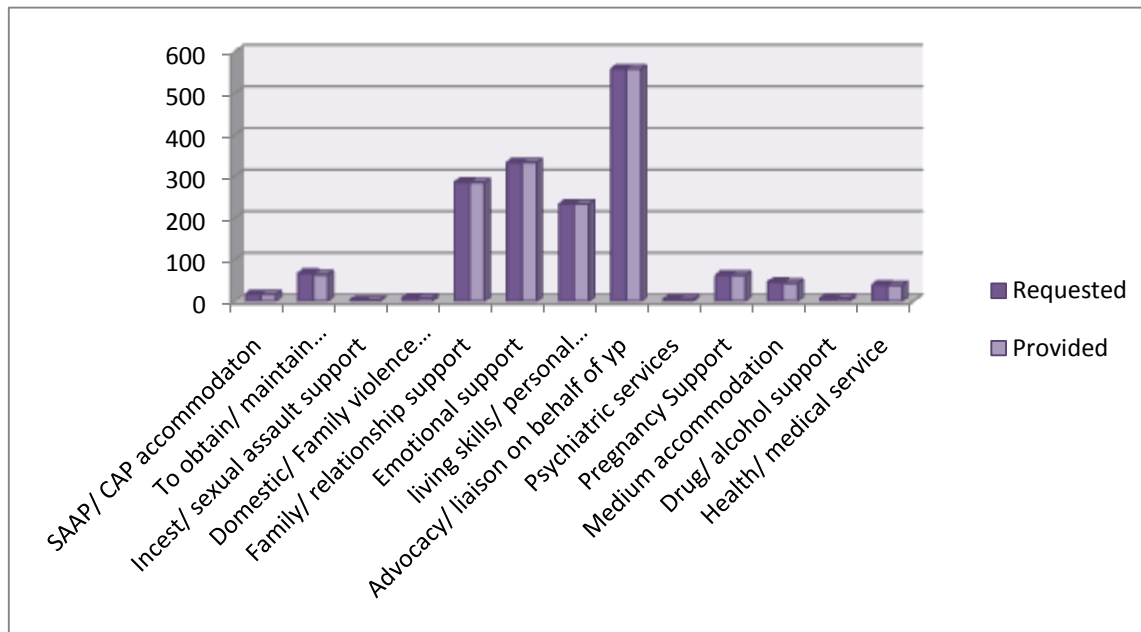
Reason for Seeking Support (SHS Program)



(Source Smart database 01/07/2010-30/6/11)

This year has seen a marked increase in the need for YPS to work more effectively and in collaboration with diverse housing providers. Demand for social housing has increased over the last financial year and the limited stock available in our targeted area has decreased for a range of reasons. YPS staffs have worked diligently with local Social and Community Housing Providers to negotiate safe and affordable housing for young people accessing our service, yet they have also continued to build effective relationships with the private rental agencies in our local area. This is a component of our work that will continue to be built on in the coming years as the need to diversify housing options for young people continues.

Examples of support requested and provided - comparative data % (SHS Program)



**Note: More than one type of support may have been appropriate so % do not total to 100.
(Source Smart database 01/07/2010-30/6/2011)**

These statistics show a marked increase in most support types being requested and provided, compared to last year. Dramatic increases were seen in the following support types requested & provided by YP Space MNC staff:

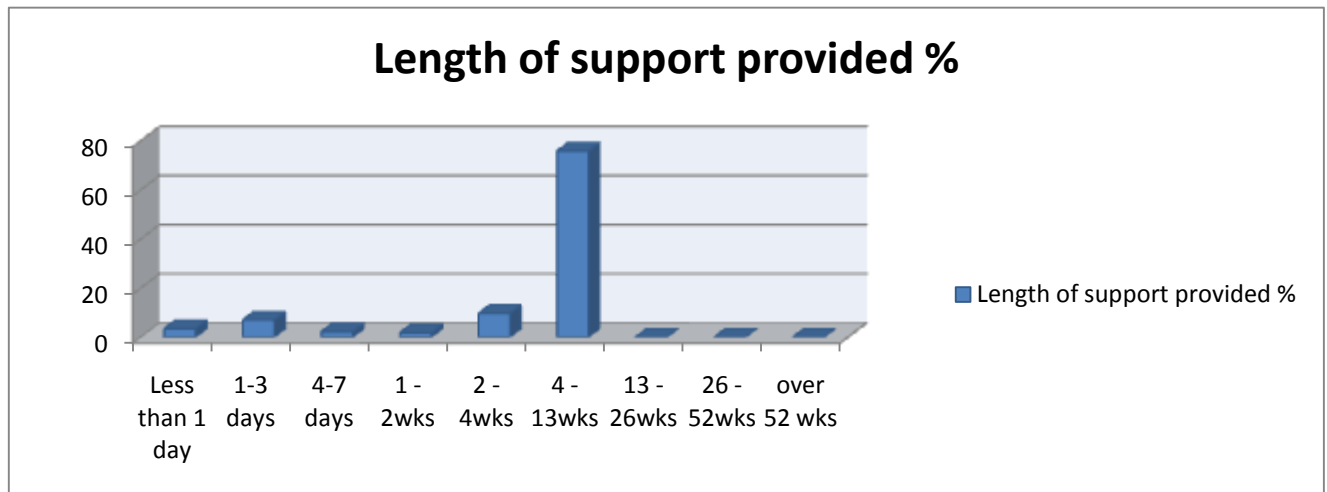
- Assistance to obtain/ maintain independent housing;
- Living skills/ personal development;
- Advocacy/ liaison on behalf of young person and
- Pregnancy support.

In contrast we have seen a slight decrease in support requested and provided in the following support types:

- Incest and sexual assault support;
- Drug and alcohol support;
- Health & medical services.

YPS incorporates capacity building strategies in our case management and group work programs, in an attempt to assist young people to build sustainable outcomes for their housing, health and wellbeing.

Length of Support Provided (SHS Program)



(Source Smart database 01/07/2010-30/6/11)

YOUNG PEOPLE AND HOUSING...

24/7 Crisis Accommodation

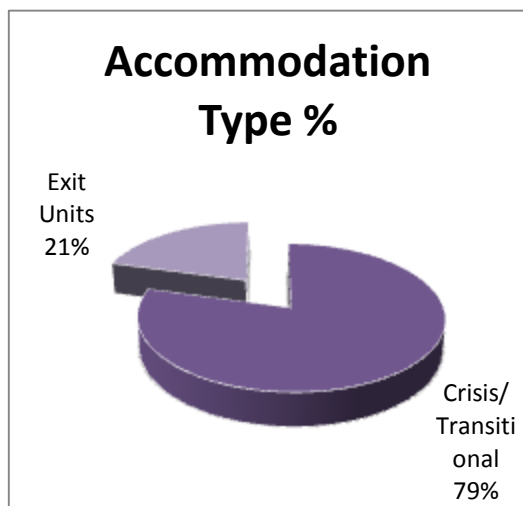
The crisis support program provides 'crisis' supported accommodation for homeless young people, or those at risk of becoming homeless. This program targets young people between the ages of 14yrs 9mths and 16 years inclusive. We provide crisis accommodation for young people primarily within the geographical area of Macleay Valley LGA, Nambucca to the North, Comara to the West and Kundabung to the South. YPS provides this program when funds are permitting. Crisis accommodation is also available for a 'fee for service'. The 24/7 is staffed during hours of operation.

Transitional Accommodation

The YPS Transitional Units located at the end of the main building have been a valuable source of accommodation for young people in the Kempsey area. A key focus for the Transitional Units has been to provide young people an opportunity to develop a Rental history and rental reference. Young people housed through the Transitional Units over the last financial year have achieved positive outcomes through this accommodation type and over 80% have exited to private housing in the private rental market.

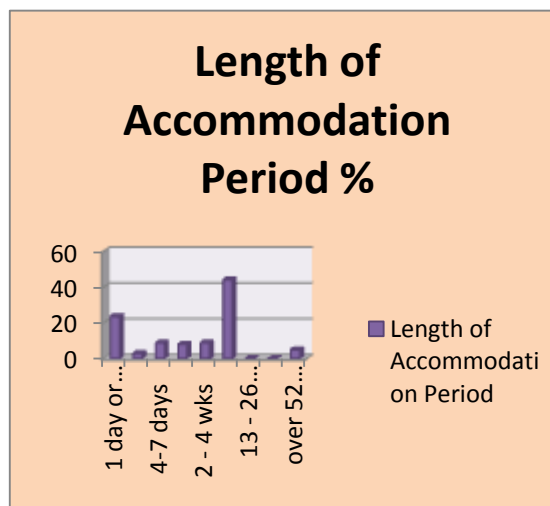
YPS has provided 709 nights of accommodation and housed 7 young people in the transitional units this financial year.

Type of Accommodation Provided



(Source Smart database 01/07/10-30/6/11)

Length of Accommodation Periods



Source Smart database 01/07/2010-30/6/11)

Medium/long term housing (Exit Units) program has been established since 1994.

YPS manages two(2) x two(2) bedroom units under the CAP (Crisis Accommodation Program), the units are located and sit side by side at South Kempsey, with each consisting of;

- 2 bedrooms
- 1 bathroom
- Combined Kitchen, lounge room
- 1 lockup garage

These units are targeted towards young people equipped with the necessary skills and commitment to live independently, with a low level of support.

YPS has provided 658 nights of accommodation and housed 6 young people and 2 dependent children in this financial year in these units.

PARTNERSHIPS– NETWORKS, COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

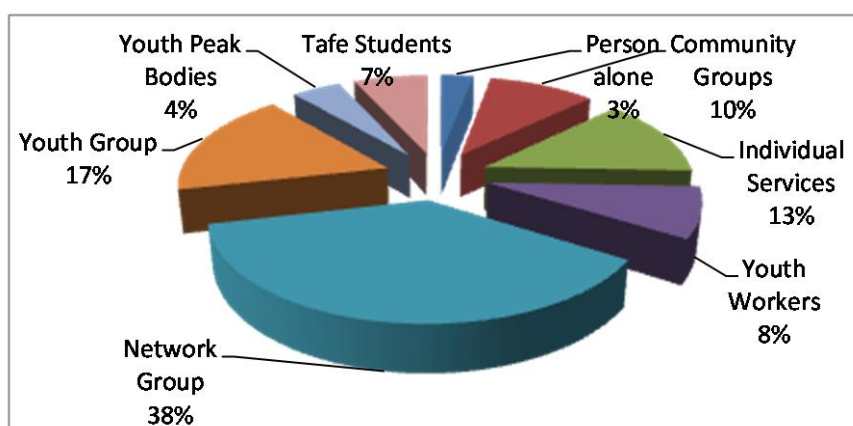
- YFoundations- Board Member
- Northern River Social Development Council - Consortium Partners
- Mid North Coast Youth Services Forum - Chairperson
- Kempsey Youth Network - member
- Kempsey Housing Forum- member
- Youth Accord Kempsey - Convenor
- Kempsey Interagency - Kempsey Neighbourhood Centre
- Jetty Bunker Youth Service - Committee Member

Young Mum's Groups - Kempsey Family Support Service
 Reality Rental Group - Kempsey Neighbourhood Centre
 Tenancy Support Mid North Coast Good Samaritans - Coordination Group
 Macleay Mental Health Network
 Independent Mental Health facilitator
 YHMD 2012 Planning Committee - PMQ & Kempsey
 Port Macquarie Youth Network
 YNET Coffs Harbour
 TAFE Outreach

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

The Community Development position has been progressing nicely over the last 12 months. YP Space MNC has connected with a large number of community agencies in the region and developed strong relationships with the youth sector in our local region.

Over the last 12 month period, from July 1st 2010 and 30th June 2011, the Community Development position has had **1360** contacts with a diverse range of community agencies, community members and young people, in an Early Intervention and Homelessness Prevention capacity. These contacts were made up **1254** individuals over 18 years and **106** individuals under 18 years. Youth focus groups, mental health groups with young people and youth consultations have increased this year which has seen an increase in the number of contacts with young people in younger age brackets.



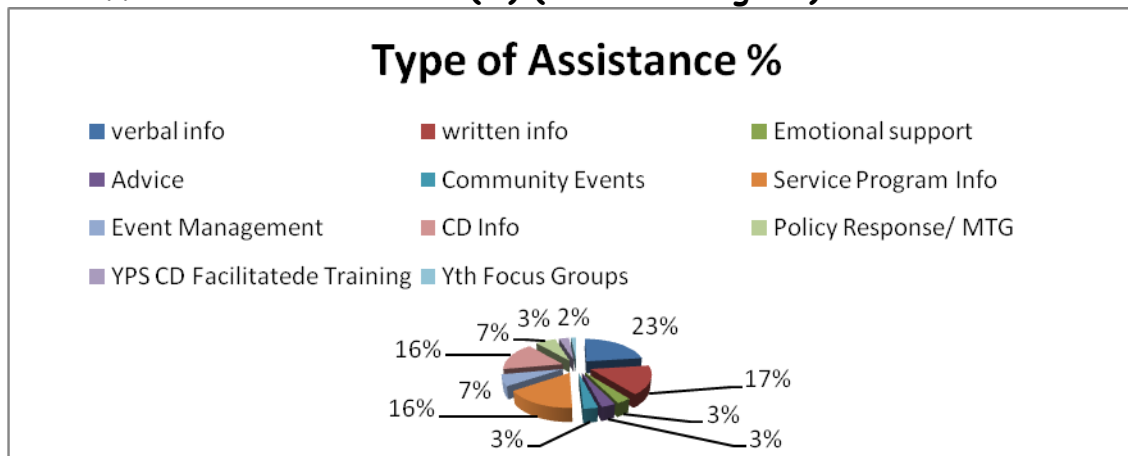
Person (s) Receiving Assistance breakdown (%) (SHS CD Program)

(Source: SMART Data - Casual Clients 1/7/2010 - 30/6/2011)

The types of assistance provided under the community development banner, revolves around information pertaining to early intervention or the prevention of homelessness. Increasing community members and service provider's awareness of the pathways into youth homelessness is essential in addressing the societal and

systemic issues related to youth homelessness. The following graph indicates the type of information, programs and support provided during the last 12 months:

One-off Assistance Provided (%) (SHS CD Program)



(Source: SMART Data - Casual Clients 1/7/2010 - 30/6/2011)

Communication & Information Dissemination:

Newsletter:

The YPS Newsletter continues to be a leading communication tool used to disseminate information to service providers across the region, and to promote the services YPS provide to young people in our community. The YPS Newsletter has been reduced to bi-monthly editions this year as the work load of the CD worker has increased in other priority areas. The Newsletter continues to go out to over 200 services across the region.

Social Media:

YPS's social media and networking sites have continued to grow steadily. Young people and other National and International agencies are having regular connection with our agency through our Facebook and Twitter sites. Currently YPS has 85 young people connected to Facebook account and 91 National and International services following us on Twitter.

Community Events & Awareness Raising:

A key focus for YP Space MNC in addressing systemic and societal issues that impact on young people's homelessness status is ensuring that the issues are visible to the local community. Strategies to raise community members awareness include community based events and projects that bring youth issues into the public eye. YP Space MNC has created strong relationships with other local service provider agencies and is engaged in multiple projects that see the key issues impacting on youth kept on the local agenda. The community events, campaigns and projects undertaken in the last 12 months include:

Mental Health Week – Regional Friendship Chain:

Mental Health Week 2010's theme was "Good friends help us bounce back". As part of a regional campaign, YPS implemented a friendship chain - and asked young people to identify how they're friends helped them through rough times. Across the MNC region all youth services implemented the same campaign and collected over 400 links to the friendship chain. At the 2010 MYF Conference all MNC youth services links were joined up to create a 'Regional friendship chain'. Youth services across the MNC will each have an opportunity to display the regional friendship chain.

Youth Homelessness Matters Day 2011:

The 2011 Youth Homelessness Matters Day campaign was a great success in the Kempsey area. YP Space MNC initiated a community awareness raising campaign aimed at identifying the number of young people, under 25 years, who are homeless in Australia. The campaign was held in the Clyde Street Mall and ran for a one week period. The visual display, of over 300 cardboard and paper little people, created lots of interest from local community members. A number of Newspaper articles about Youth Homelessness appeared in the local paper and contributed to increasing the community's awareness of the issues.



"Help us TIE Up Youth Homelessness" Regional Campaign:

YP Space MNC once again ran with this successful campaign. Local business people were involved through the wearing of neck-ties with the Youth Homelessness Matters Day logo on it, and information sheets about youth homelessness were available in their stores. Feedback from the 43 businesses, who participated, in Kempsey, indicated that community members were interested in the campaign and sought out information from their business.

This year this campaign went regional, from Gloucester to Coffs Harbour, as a result of the MYF networks commitment to supporting young people and increasing awareness of key social issues that impact on young people in the MNC region. Over the region approximately 200 businesses and agencies supported the campaign and a number of media articles and radio interviews were implemented.



Anti-Poverty and Homeless Connect Event: 'Connect 4 Life':

YPS worked collaboratively with other local service providers, coordinated by the Kempsey Neighbourhood Centre, to implement a local Homeless Connect/ Anti-poverty week event. YPS held an information stall at the event and had contact with over 70 individuals seeking information about homelessness, housing options, and other social issues.

TAFE Stress Less Day:

As part of Mental Health Month the Kempsey TAFE campus implemented a Stress Less Day event, open to all TAFE students and community members. YPS attended the day and provided a presentation on youth homelessness, the leading pathways to youth homelessness and local support and housing options available to young people. YPS had contact with 26 people wanting information on youth housing options and support options for youth mental health issues.

White Ribbon Day - Swear Ceremony:

In recognition that Domestic and/or family violence is a leading contributor to youth homelessness YPS facilitated a "Swear" Ceremony at the 2010 MYF Conference. 42 individuals attended the ceremony and swore the pledge: *"I swear never to commit violence against women, never to excuse violence against women, and never to remain silent about violence against women. This is my pledge"*. These individuals were then provided information and connection to the White Ribbon foundation for further information and resources to use in their own communities.

APRILLA Festival:

Kempsey PCYC, Kempsey Shire Council YDO and Mission Australia developed a youth festival to be implemented as part of Youth Week 2011. YPS, with multiple other services, worked to support these agencies in the implementation of this event by providing volunteers on the day, equipment and transport. 2 young people connected to YPS volunteered to fill the role of 'Stage Managers', and were provided with valuable information on facilitating and managing a large music festival. Over 300 young people attended the festival.

Advocacy, Lobbying & Youth development:

KYSSR (Keeping YOUTH Strong, Supported, Resilient) Project:

YP Space MNC CD Worker formed a partnership agreement with Narelle Heywood (Youth Mental Health First Aid Master) and the North Coast TAFE Outreach

Program to develop & implement the KYSSR project, a Yellow Brick Road services program. The KYSSR program was a 16 week program that works with young people to build better resilience and life skills to keep themselves safe and address their mental health issues. 8 weeks of the program were directed at building stronger living skills and strategies to address the underlying causes and triggers of their mental health symptoms. The 8 week course looked at issues including:

- Communication;
- Relationships;
- Anger management skills;
- Stress management skills;
- General coping skills;
- Triggers;
- Positive self talk;
- Self-esteem;
- Local support options and support strategies;
- Reconnecting with education options and working towards being active citizens.

The second 8 weeks of the KYSSR program engages young people with TAFE to complete an IT/ Graphic Media course to build their skills in computer usage and employability skills. As part of this 8 week TAFE course the young people engaged in the project are developing a 2012 Youth Diary that will be distributed to local young people in 2012. The diary will provide a valuable resource to young people, as the contents include key tips and ideas for dealing with key issues that impact on young people in our local area, and will incorporate the skills the young people have learnt in the first 8 weeks. The topics included in the diary include:

- Communicating with parents/ care givers in a positive way;
- Dealing with anger;
- Dealing with stress;
- Your rights and responsibilities as a tenant;
- What you need to know about getting your own place (Budgeting, up-front costs, housing support, references);
- Local support options for young people;
- Positive self talk and self esteem boosters;
- Gambling and other addictions;
- Mental health issues young people may deal with;
- Grief and loss;
- Being a young parent - child care, supports;
- Alcohol and other drug use - the dangers and support options.

The KYSSR Diary has been completely developed by young people in the program, to ensure that the information and design of the diary is relevant to young people in our community, and is youth friendly. Young people engaged in the program have learnt key IT and graphic design techniques that has increased their connection to, and confidence in returning to education.

YFoundations Youth Political Forum:

YPS CD Worker and a YPS Board member supported a young person engaged with YP Space MNC to attend the Yfoundations Youth Political Forum and for her to present a talk on her experiences of homelessness in a regional area. This young person presented her story to over 60 people, including the then NSW Minister for Families, Linda Burney; the then NSW Shadow Treasurer, Mike Baird and a representative from the Green Party.

As a result of this forum, our young person has also presented her story to NSW Ombudsman staff during Youth Week 2011, has been involved in the Virgin Unite Community Program - End Youth Homelessness Campaign with her story in all Virgin Australia airplanes, and has had a feature article in Dolly Magazine.

Youth Focus Groups:

Nambucca Shire Council Community Service / Youth Services section approached YPS Community Development Worker with a request to implement a Youth Focus Group/ Consultation on a fee-for-service basis. In April 2011 the YPS CD position implemented the Focus group with 32 young people from the Nambucca Shire and developed a report on the outcome, which YPS has Intellectual property ownership over. The data obtained from this consultation will be used to inform program development and service provision for young people engaged in the SWITCH program and to inform our research and community profile reports.

Consultations attended by YPS CD Worker:

- National Quality Framework - To develop the regulatory framework for the homelessness sector;
- NSW Police Youth Policy - To develop and reform the Youth Policy in the NSW Police force
- Specialist Homelessness Information Platform (SHIP) & Specialist Homelessness Online Reporting (SHOR), Canberra - A lead up to the design and development of the new SHS data collection database and reporting systems.

End Youth Homelessness Campaign:

As part of YPS connection to Yfoundations, and as a result of the successful presentation by our young person at the Yfoundations Youth Political Forum, YPS and the young people we support were invited to contribute to the Virgin Unite End Youth Homelessness campaign. Three (3) young people from YPS provided their story and photographs that depict their experiences of homeless to the online campaign. One of these young people has their story on all Virgin planes across Australia in an effort to raise the general community's awareness of youth homelessness.



Network/ Sector Development and Research:

MYF 2010 Conference: 'Between the lines':

As Chairperson of the MYF network the YPS CD worker was involved in the development and facilitation of the 2010 MYF Conference. This conference provided two days of professional development workshops to local youth workers and workers whose core business is not youth, but who work with youth in a general sense. The conference attracted 40 participants across the MNC and evaluations indicated it was a successful training program.

SHS Data Collection Training Facilitation:

YPS CD Worker has been working with SHS Learning and Development Unit to facilitate training to SHS agencies across the MNC on the new SHS data collection process and tool - SHIP. In this financial year the YPS CD worker has provided three (3) training sessions across the MNC. This training is provided to ensure SHS data collection is captured correctly, with limited corruption of data. YPS CD Worker is also part of the 'Tiger Teams' who will be responsible for working individually with local agencies to address any data collection issues in the coming months.

Research project: Identifying Blockages in mainstream services (IBIMS):

A key issue for Switch- Community Development is to identify service system blockages for young people who are homeless or 'at risk' of homelessness in the North Coast area, and advocate for system reform to address these blockages. As such we have created a short surveymonkey (IBIMS - Identifying blockages in mainstream services) research tool to help us identify trends across the North Coast region. The main scope of the survey is too identify:

1. The reporting agencies core business (where and what type of services young people who experience homelessness or risk of homelessness are actually accessing)
2. The postcode of these agencies and the areas they cover (to capture trends in regions related to blockages and service access)
3. A 12 month snapshot of young people's experiences - Have they had difficulties in accessing mainstream services due to or complicated by their

experience of homelessness/ insecure housing (once again trends in locations and offending service systems)

4. What the difficulties were - (the support areas young people are experiencing difficulties - capture trends)

5. What were the outcomes for the young person from this service blockage?

This surveymonkey will be run for 12 months so we can capture some good data, to build recommendations to government and inform further research in 2012.

Currently 92 responses have been collected.

Youth Accord/ Housing options:

YPS has continued to negotiate with Department of Community Housing, over the last 3 years, to develop and implement the Kempsey Youth Accord Project. Unfortunately due to staff changes and illness at Department of Community Housing the actions developed for this project has had limited progress. YPS will continue to advocate for the development of this project and other housing options for young people in our community. YPS is now a Registered Housing Provider, which will increase our capacity to apply for and manage more social housing stock.

LGBT Training - PMQ TAFE:

YPS CD Worker was asked to facilitate LGBT training to 14 TAFE welfare students in Port Macquarie as part of their Cert IV Community Services course. All feedback provided indicated that it was a successful professional development opportunity for these students who will be new workers in the sector at the end of this year.

TAFE Service Talks:

YPS was once again invited to the Kempsey TAFE Campus to deliver a presentation on Youth Homelessness and the work our agency implements in our community. The Cert IV Community Services students displayed a focus on the political and systemic issues that impact on youth homelessness, the targets set by the White Paper and the local housing options available.

External Research Participation:

YPS has participated in two (2) external research projects to increase knowledge and understanding of the issues that impact on young people's health and wellbeing status and participation as active citizens. YPS provided comprehensive information for the University of technology Sydney (UTS) for the *Factors impacting on rates of crime in Aboriginal communities in NSW* and *Political Dialogue in the digital age - Institutional and Public rationalization of socially mediated youth political communication*.

Cert IV Training & Assessment Scholarship:

The YPS CD Worker was lucky enough to be successful in obtaining a Scholarship of \$2000 from the Mental Health Coordinating Council to undertake a Cert IV in

Training and Assessment. This course provided the YPS CD worker the opportunity to formalise her existing skills and improve her practice in training development and facilitation.

YOUNG MUM'S GROUP

The YMG (Young Mum's Group) has been operating from YPS premises for 3 years yet has been in operation for many more.

The YMS Group is facilitated by Julie Priestly YPS, Megan Dunbar from Kempsey Family Support and Trudy Woodward, South Kempsey playgroup. Over the last 12 months the Young mums Group has said goodbye to Kelly Eyeington, our wonderful worker from Community Health. The YMG still has our two lovely mentors Monique and Andrea. The group meets at YPS every Tuesday within school terms from 10am - 1pm.

This year was as successful as past years with this year's group growing with 8 new enrolments. Currently we have 18 young mums and or expectant mums. YMG had recreational outings this year including our yearly water confidence classes, pre natal and breast feeding classes, a pamper day, Christmas party and a trip to port Macquarie to scour the Op Shops.

Guest speakers have been -

The Baby Health Nurse
Legal Aid Solicitor
Family Law Solicitor
Centrelink Social worker and Generalist Worker
Career and Education opportunities
Durri Dental Technicians
Domestic Violence support options
Womens Sexual and General Health Information

Our Young Mums Group endeavours to break down any existing barriers to services by inviting guest speakers from within our community to offer a diverse range of information and knowledge. We make referrals when needed and necessary. Our group has provided a forum where friendships have developed socially, we have cooked some delicious and nutritious meals. We continue to assist with increase and strengthen living, parenting and cooking skills always checking with the mums to determine what they would like to learn or know about.