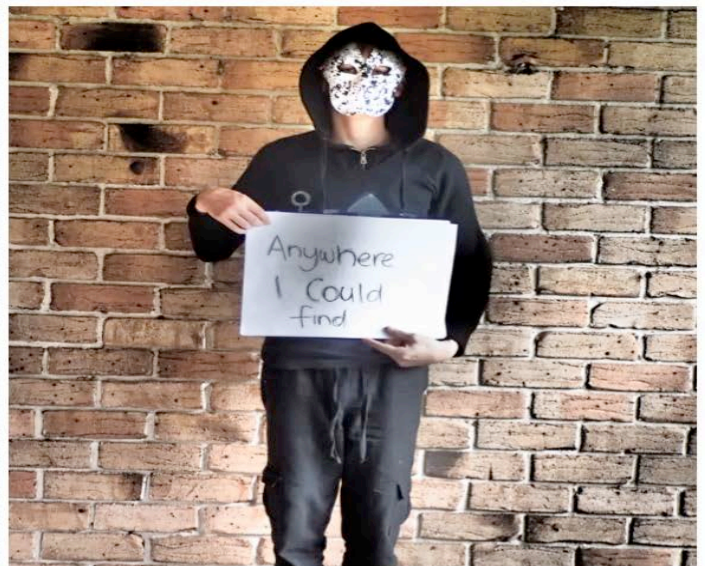
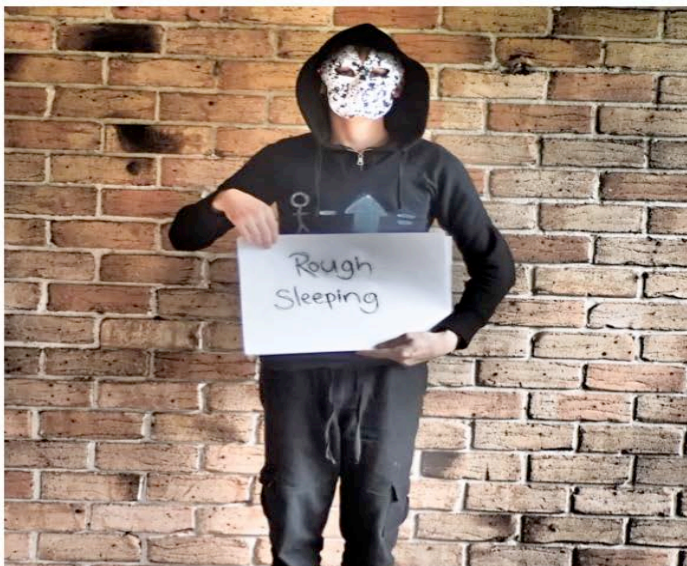
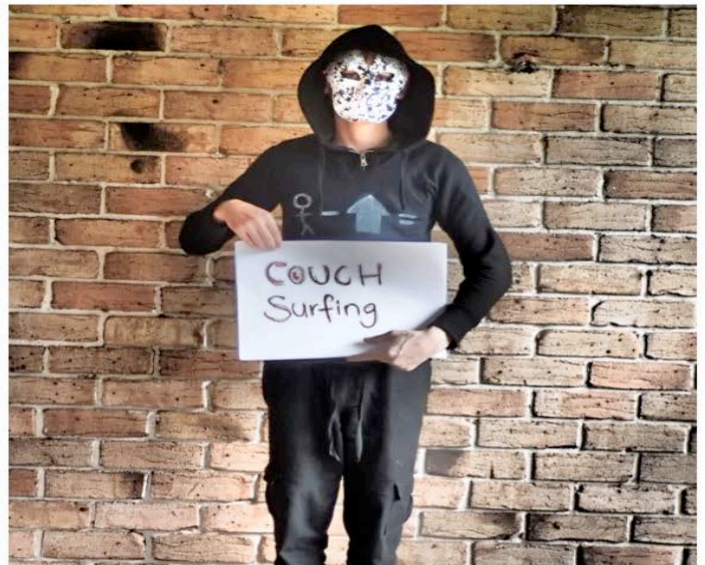
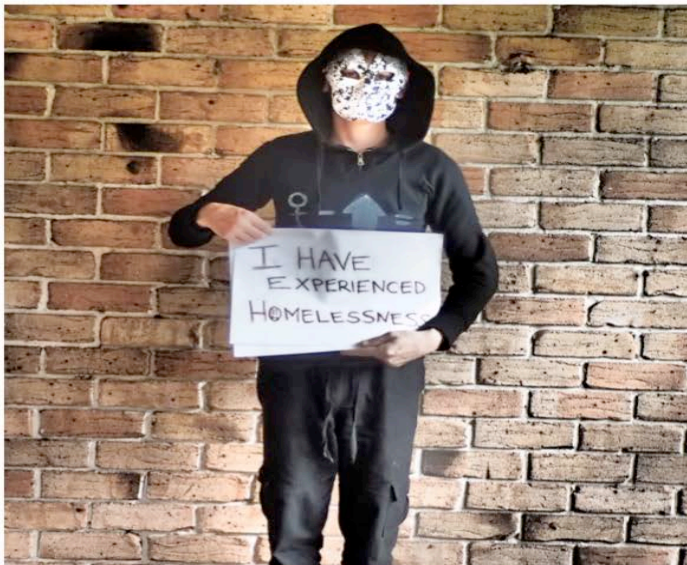


YP Space MNC Inc 2012/2013 AGM Report



AGM Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Annual General Meeting

Welcome and Apologies

Minutes of the last Annual Report

Chairperson's Report

Manager's Report

Treasurers/Auditor's Report

Appointment of Auditor / deferred

Election of Public Officer

Election of Management Committee:

Close of Meeting

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YP SPACE MNC INC Annual General Meeting 12th December 2012

Present, Julie Priestly, Paul Ryan, Theresa Thorne, Nerida Ackerman, Michelle Ackerman, Tracey Foley, Sheila Scott, Sue Seager, Leish Morrison, Phill Pilgrim, Zara Gilkison, Kim Dann, Kim West, Lawrence Oakley, Lin Duncan, Jon Heart, Tony Anderson, Danielle Riley, Debb Wright, Belinda Flower.

Apologies-

Lin Duncan welcomed everyone to meeting.

Last minutes past by Shelia Scott and second by Tracey Foley.

Chairperson's report- Lin Duncan gave an overview of chairperson's report.

Mangers report- Nerida Ackerman

- Nerida Ackerman gave an over view of the changes YP SPACE MNC had gone through - HAP funding and increasing number of staff.
- Michelle Ackerman gave an overview on Housing, Kisser diary and the IBBEMS resource document.

Treasurers Report- Belinda Flower gave an overview of financial report.
Kel Write will complete the 2012/2013 Audit

All reports moved- Belinda Flower **Second** Shelia Scott

Current Management Committee stood down

Management Committee for 2011/2012

Chairperson: Lyn Duncan

Vice Chairperson: Shelia Scott

Treasure: Belinda Flower

Security: Sue Seager

Committee member: Nathan Paff

Committee member: Tracey Foley

Office Bearer Nerida Ackerman

Moved Theresa Thorne **Second** Julie Priestley

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Chairpersons Report Lin Duncan

During 2012-2013 we have seen another year of growth for YP Space MNC. Through the vision of our Manager, Nerida, we have been able to capitalise on the opportunities presented to us, while continuing to provide a range of services addressing the needs of young people across the Mid North Coast region.

The SHS (Specialist Homelessness Service), HAP Young People Leaving Care, YPS HAP Juvenile Justice (DJJ), DJJ Youth Information, Referral and Court Support (YIRCS), Starting Off, Stepping Out (SOSO) programs have all shown an increase in service delivery, supporting a range of personal wellbeing and sustainable housing outcomes for young people.

As well supporting young people to access private and social housing options, staff has also provided a mix of housing options that meet needs of young people. This includes 24/7 accommodation for young people in crisis and longer term options available in the transitional units and exit units.

Importantly, YP Space values community development as an approach to address the issues that impact on youth homelessness and a range of a range of early intervention and prevention strategies are implemented; including Young Mums Group, Tenancy education, community building events etc.

I wish to thank the all of the staff from Coffs Harbour to Taree who has the responsibility on a day to day basis to provide services to our young people on the mid north coast – we are lucky to have staff with considerable skill and dedication, including some with decades of experience with young people.

During this year we have reluctantly bid farewell Sheila Scott after her many years of tireless commitment to our organization – an inspiring, much loved woman who has demonstrated her belief in the principles of social justice across the sector for decades. Although Sheila is unable to remain on the board, we regard her as an honorary member of YP Space and we certainly hope she will visit us in the future. On behalf of the board, thank you Sheila for your belief in our young people.

We have welcomed two new board members, Danielle Riley and Debra Wright, both of whom are strong advocates for their Indigenous communities.

Many thanks to the members of the board have worked hard to ensure the continued viability and development of the organization, and although I will not be standing for Chairperson this year, I plan to remain on the board to work together during this ever changing and unknown environment in the housing sector.

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Executive Office
Nerida Ackerman

28 YEARS AND COUNTING ...

For 28 years YP SPACE MNC Inc. (YPS) has worked to provide targeted, client focused and relevant services to young people in our MNC community, continually achieving sustainable outcomes for young people. Again achieved outstanding outcomes over the last financial year. The capacity, sustainability and relevance of the agency is continually increasing through building stronger networks, connections, support structures and internal growth locally and regionally. Examples of YPS's regional partnerships can be found in our participation in:

MNC Regional Homelessness & Housing Working Committee
MNC HAP Committee – Youth Specialist
MNC Confederation of Youth Services
Yfoundations – Peak Body, Co President (incoming). Board member for 5 years, previously Secretary
GSHS Service Delivery Road Shows MNC & NR
Youth Action – Peak Body
National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH) (In coming)

YPS's knowledge on a range of local youth issues has become increasingly sought after by generalist NGO's, OOHG Providers, local FACS CSC's and other government and mainstream service systems.

YP SPACE MNC Inc. (YPS) is currently funded through the National Affordable Housing Agreement 2009 (formally Supported Accommodation Assistance Program- SAAP). Essential core business of YPS from inception to the current day has been to provide support structures to young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and the issues that impact on young people's overall health and housing status. The service delivery model implemented has evolved throughout its existence to reflect the changing needs of young people who access the service, the structures in operation at the time, the best practice and service standard structures current for the period and the changing political environment in Australia. YPS works from a comprehensive case management model, to ensure young people are engaged in their process, have a strong voice in the support they receive and have the issues that are impacting on them addressed. YPS's framework and opportunity to expand our advocacy services and leadership position, has created a stable platform for our organisation to make constructive and sophisticated contribution to public policy and the accountability of the services systems we work within.

We know young people who are experiencing homelessness often feel disadvantaged, discriminated against and marginalised directly and indirectly. As such we actively provide programs, housing options and supports that work towards creating an environment and opportunities that empower young people to live with pride in their lives as valued and equal members of their communities. All aspects of YPS are underpinned by a genuine commitment to the principles of participation, access, equity and collaborative action. We have created an innovative and dynamic service delivery model, which works with young people in accessible and culturally appropriate ways that is pro active, reduces isolation, shares information, celebrate difference,

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develops support networks and enhances young people's participation and connection. YPS remains focused on our core business of providing realistic services to young people who identify as homeless or at risk of homelessness from a harm minimization, holistic, trauma-informed and client centered framework.

The model takes into account the learning's from twenty eight years of supporting and advocating for young people; the wealth of experience the team brings; and the knowledge we as workers have learnt thanks to what young people have taught us. Community capacity building is also a key target area for YPS. The Community Development position is about working collaboratively with young people, service provider agencies and community members to respond to and develop early intervention strategies, which address the identified causes of youth homelessness. YPS also works with service providers and communities to raise awareness and understanding of the dynamics of homelessness and the needs and experiences of young people. We meet with young people at the service or at other safe places and at all times work from a framework of culturally appropriate, respectful and confidential service provision. YPS seeks to define how we will effectively support young people discover pathways to a better future, through our service delivery as well as within our own internal service culture.

YP SPACE MNC Board of Governance and staff 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.

Ensuring sustainable quality outcomes for young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness is challenging. From an organizations view, YP SPACE success on the Mid North Coast/Taree and Foster is a credit to the skill of the current team and the supervision and support provided by Michelle.

YP SPACE will continue to learn from young people who access the service, which allows us to continually adapt and develop our case management process for the 'best outcomes' possible. On behalf of the young people we support and myself I'd like to acknowledge the Board and Team and extend my appreciation of the work that has been achieved.

Governance

YPS Board of Governance comprises of local professional from a diverse range of skills.

Lin Duncan – Manager, Kempsey Neighbourhood Centre

Sue Seager – RTO GENERAL MANAGER MACLEAY VALLEY WORKPLACE LEARNING CENTRE INC

Nathan Paff - Student Support Officer Chatham High School (formally, Coordinator, Mid North Coast Tenancy Support Service)

Sheila Scott – Long standing Community Member

Danielle Riley – Indigenous Financial Counsellor

Deb Wright – NILS and Financial Cousellor

Belinda Fowler – Accountant

Natalie Smee - Speak Out 4 Kids Project Manager Kempsey Women's Refuge

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YPS MNC Inc. employees The team works across various programs between Coffs Harbour to the North and Taree/Foster to the South

YPS Team members during this financial year

Nerida Ackerman – Executive Officer

Theresa Thorne – Finance and Administration

Kirstin Hawes – Bass Agent & Bookkeeper

Michelle Ackerman – Operations Manager

Julie Priestley – Youth Support Worker

Paul Ryan – YIRCS Worker

Liesh Morrison – Youth Support

Phill Pilgrim – Youth Programs

Zara Gilkison- Youth Programs

Kim West - Youth Programs

Flow Oakley - Youth Programs

Kim Dann - Youth Programs

Bec Sharman- Youth Programs

Kimbaley Kershaw – Indigenous Trainee - Youth Programs

Toni Killion – Crisis Support Worker

Lisa Greentree – Crisis Support Worker

Amber Hazell-Pihlajamaki –Community Development

Peter Lea – Community Development

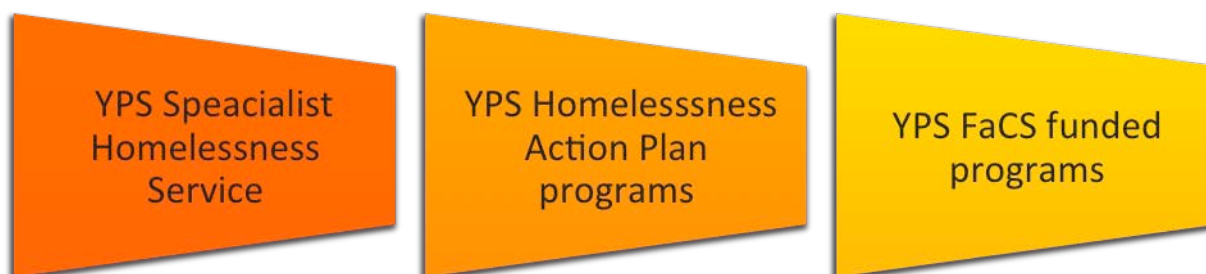
Andrea Priestley – Intake and Housing Worker

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Operations Manager – Michelle Ackerman Report: YPS Funded services

YP Space MNC Inc has now been providing services to young people across the Mid North Coast of NSW and Taree/Foster areas – working with young people, service systems and the community to provide a strong foundation for our vulnerable young people. Throughout this time YPS has achieved outstanding outcomes for our community, with young people at the heart of the work we do. The trends in achievements and outcomes for young people have continued again in the 2012/2013 financial year. YPS team has worked diligently to further advance our work within the community and in recognition of the need for diversification of the service types provided to young people, and the engagement of the private sector in assisting us to secure safe and affordable housing for young people.

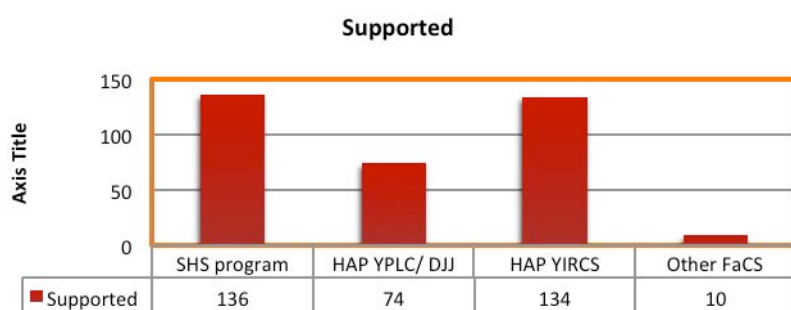
The reconfiguration of YPS's service delivery model has now been in implementation for a five year period and has provided YPS with a strong evidence base on the success of our exiting practice framework and the ability of our agency to tailor support to the needs of young people, as well as facilitate sustainable housing and personal outcomes for the youth of our community. Implementing a service model that has cemented our capacity to work across the service types required by young people with complex needs (including early intervention, crisis, post crisis and community building and development) has also broadened our service footprint across the entire Mid North Coast region and has facilitated a strengthening of our connection within the broader community services system.



The diversity in our funding streams have continued this financial years and we continue to focus on working with the most vulnerable young people in the Mid North Coast/Taree and Foster regions. The funding secured through Family and Community Services have increased to include the Starting Off Stepping Out program and our Header Agreement with FaCS is being utilized more often.

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Over the last financial year YPS has provided services to 354 young people across the Mid North Coast/Taree and Foster, through our range of support options and programs. The majority of these young people were supported through the SHS program, HAP Leaving Care and Juvenile Justice inclusive of Youth Information, Referral and Court Support program.



YPS continues to incorporate a strong focus on capacity building and community development for the young people of the MNC, as well as general community members. Our commitment to community engagement and social inclusion for young people remains a foundation for all the work we do across all the service types provided and in our relationship building with the private and community sector.

Service data shows that, of young people with open support periods during the financial year:

- 73% of young people supported in 2012/2013 were new to the service;
- 40% identified as Aboriginal;
- 32% were aged between 15 to 17 years;
- 39% were aged between 18 to 20 years;
- 31% accessed YPS because of Inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions;
- 86 young people had experienced relationship and family breakdown;
- 66 young people had experienced rough sleeping in the 12 months before accessing YPS;
- 42% identified a prior mental health diagnosis;
- 51% had no tenure on presentation with 20% couch surfing and 26% boarding;
- 18% had Nil income on presentation;
- 59% of young people were not engaged in education on presentation;
- 23 young people were housed in YPS housing, and
- 1825 nights of accommodation were provided.

SHS Program:- The Stats, The Facts, The Outcomes:

2012/2013 saw a whirlwind of movement in the SHS program with some changes in the staff team and strengthening of our internal systems and external connections. The work completed with young people by the SHS team has been well structured and delivered outstanding outcomes, complimented by the solid

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relationships and connections the SHS team has cemented with the private real estate market in our community. These relationships have had an impact on the ground, with more young people being supported into private market tenancies than ever before in the Kempsey area. The SHS team has delivered professional support services that are valued by the private market and meet the needs of the young people accessing our services.

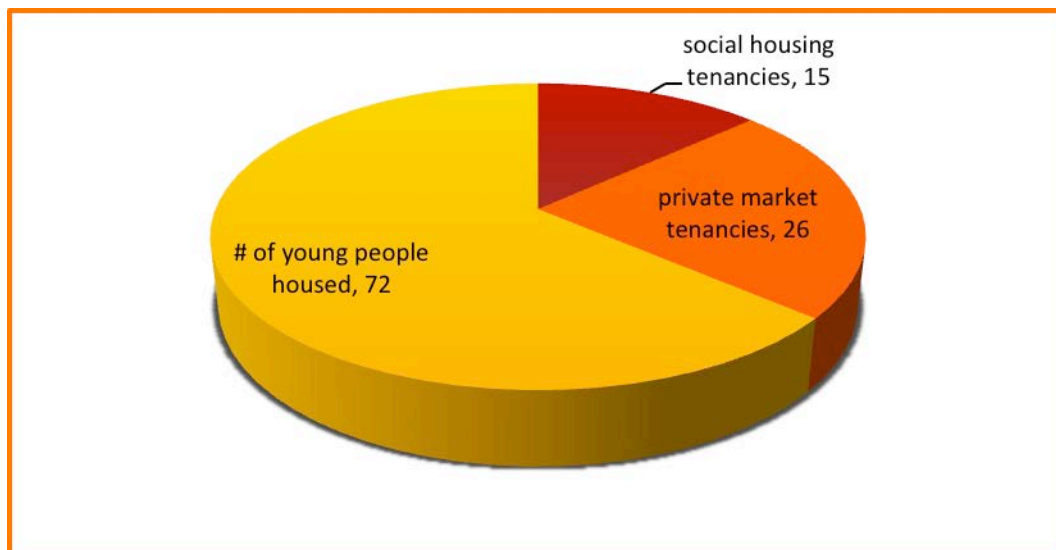
Collaboration, connection, respect, diligence and excellence are the words associated with YPS's support services from the community and service system we work within and the feedback provided by young people identify the individual and tailored support they receive as meeting their needs and linking them with the resources they need to achieve their goals.

Barriers continue to exist for young people in moving into independent living and YPS is continually advocating for a more responsive service system that meets young people's needs. The YPS SHS team has built strong relationships with key support agencies within the Kempsey area and these relationships have ensured a cohesive and integrated response to young people across the service systems they require.

The support I got from them was great, helped me find resources I didn't know were there. (Female, 17)

Over the 2012/2013 financial year the SHS team provided services to 136 young people within the wider Macleay Valley area. The gender breakdown saw SHS support 80 females and 56 males. In terms of housing outcomes the SHS team achieved outstanding results, with 72 young people housed in new tenancies secured through the work of the SHS team (41 individual leases). Early intervention and tenancy support was provided to a further 62 young people across the Macleay region, and this support maintained placements, tenancies and supported young people to re-engage with family.

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The relationship built by the SHS team with the private Real Estate agents in the Kempsey area has not only provided an increased opportunity for young people to be housed in the private market, but has also assisted breaking down some of the stereotypes and beliefs about young people as tenants and their ability to sustain tenancies.

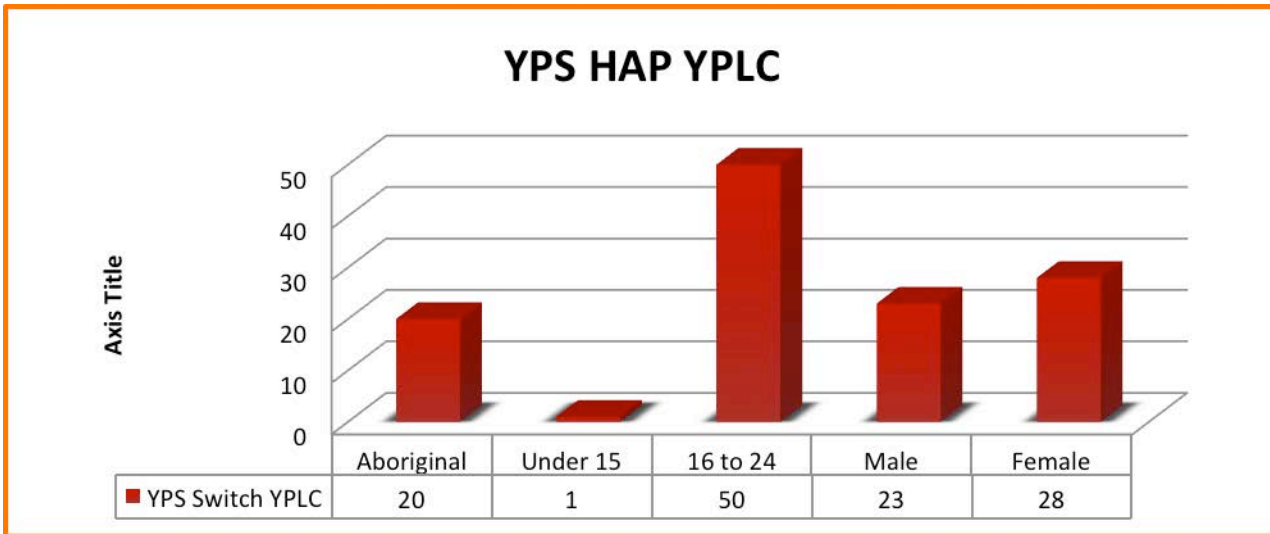
Non-housing outcomes have also been achieved through the SHS program. Community engagement, living skill development, engagement in education and employment opportunities and emotional development of young people has been key priorities for our support and advocacy work. Tailored support and goal plans are developed with young people to ensure they are at the centre of all support provided as well as to maximize potential for integrated service delivery with other key agencies.

HAP Young People Leaving Care (YPLC):

HAP YPLC program was refunded through to June 2014, and as such provided YPS the opportunity to continue to work with young people leaving care from Coffs Harbour to Taree. Consistently across the life of the HAP projects, the YPS team has achieved excellent housing and non-housing outcomes for the young people accessing the program.

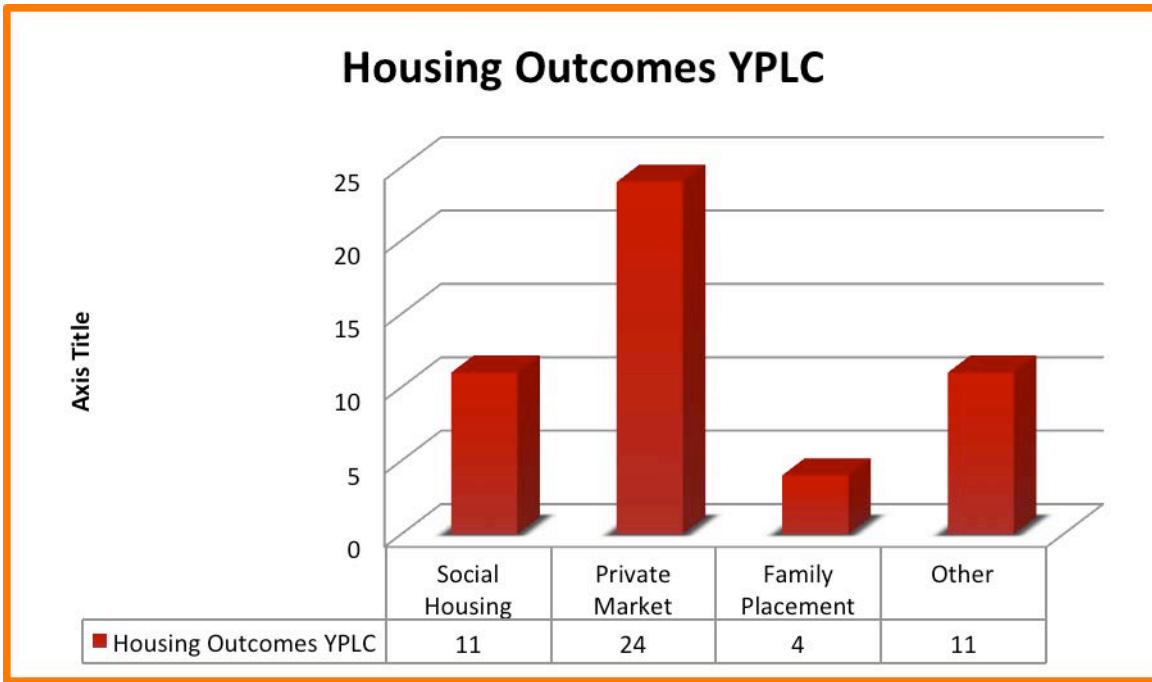
Over the 2012/2013 financial year YPS HAPLC provided support to 51 young people from Woolgoolga in the North to Forster/ Tuncurry in the South YPS has office locations in Coffs Harbour, Kempsey and Taree and services all regional areas in between.

YPS HAPLC program is a 3 staged support model (ranging from high level complex support to low exit focused support) that assists young people into independence and works to strengthen independent living skills as well as address the underlying, foundational issues that have an impact on young people's lives and capacity to engage in society. YPS HAPLC project works from a trauma informed foundation and incorporates practical support with therapeutic linkages and a strengths based solution focus.



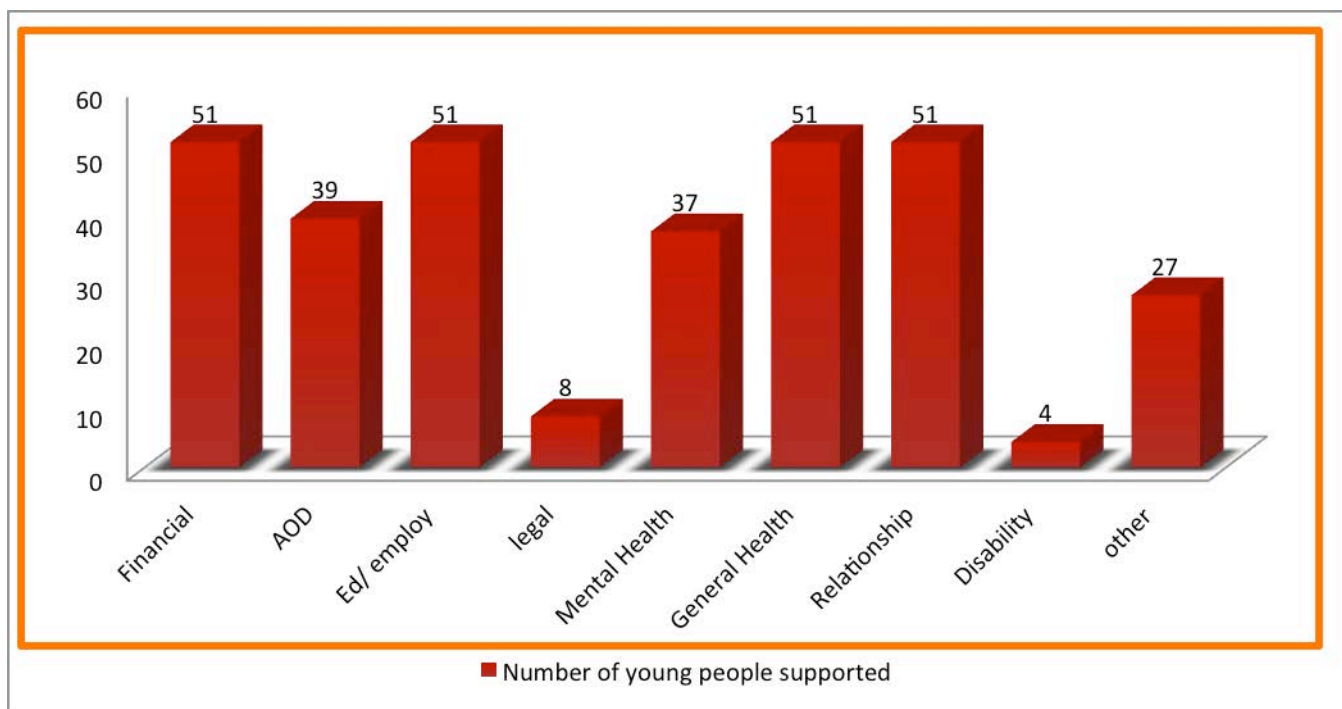
Key success factors of the program are the client-centred, collaborative and staged support model; the tailored young person centered case planning process that incorporates all agencies involved in supporting a young person to meet their identified goals and the essential relationships the YPS HAP team have developed with key stakeholders (both government & non-government, mainstream an specialized) across the region.

YPS has developed strong connections with all types of housing providers across the MNC region, with formal housing partnerships with Community Housing Limited, Coffs Harbour Accommodation Brokerage and Housing Support Service, Kempsey Youth Accord partnership with HNSW and CHL, and other 24/7 youth refuge’s across the region. Connections to and relationships built through the YPS HAP program with local private real estate agencies are increasingly ensuring the private market as a realistic housing option for young people across the MNC. This can be evidenced by the 24 new private market tenancies established by the team for young people across the funded region.



The early intervention aspect of the program has seen intense support, mediation and relationship building to secure and sustain placements for young people in Out of Home Care services, foster care and family placements.

The longer term support period of the program ensures support can be tailored to identified needs and move with the young person as their skills increase and their support needs decrease. Having the ability to support young people through all key service types, from early intervention to post crisis sustainability has provided YPS with strong evidence of the needs of young people and the complexities of the issues they experience.



YPS HAP Juvenile Justice (DJJ):

YPS HAP JJ program has also continued outstanding outcomes over this financial year, not only in housing outcomes for young people but also non-housing outcomes and foundational support work. The YPS HAP team has worked diligently with and across multiple service system streams to meet the needs and goals of the young people accessing the program. Working from a trauma informed, strengths-based framework has provided the right foundations for support work to not only address homelessness and housing, but the criminogenic factors for young people as well, to strengthen desistance pathways and build sustainable community connections.

Once again pivotal success factors of the YPS HAP DJJ program were identified as the staged support model; the relationships and connections built across multiple service systems and the tailored case management process implemented with young people. Evaluation of the program by young people engaged highlighted the importance of flexible support options, the relationship and consistency of their support worker and the diversity of service types that were provided to assist young people achieve their goals and build their capacity. These success factors were also supported by external agencies (mainstream & specialized) the YPS HAP project have worked with – where advocacy, strong networking and the commitment from the program to ensure young people’s voices are heard were also highlighted as critical aspects of the programs success. Over the 2012/2013 year the HAP DJJ program provided staged support to 23 young people from Coffs Harbour to Fortser/ Tuncurry.

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A key target for this project revolved not only around homelessness and housing outcomes but also recidivism of the young people engaged. The program achieved excellent outcomes for this target, in that **only 22% of** the young people engaged in the program faced new charges during their time in the program.

Key stats for the program include:

- 23 young people supported;
- 9 female, 14 males;
- 9 young people under 16 years old;
- 14 young people aged between 16 and 24 years;
- 6 private rental tenancies secured and established;
- 6 social housing tenancies secured and established;
- 6 young people supported with 7 dependent children across the MNC;
- 3 young people supported to secure ADAHC packages for intellectual disability;
- 13 young people supported to access relevant and on-going mental health support;
- 16 young people supported with family and relationship counseling;
- 7 young people referred to specialized counseling support for past trauma.

As service providers stated in the formal evaluation of the YPS HAP DJJ program :

"They are a diligent provider – they ensure that the views of young people are heard at all levels."

" I love the program. We have a very strong two-way relationship"

"The program has been amazing. They are very strong networkers"

YPS HAP DJJ Youth Information, Referral and Court Support (YIRCS) program:

YPS also implemented the **Youth Information, Referral and Court Support (YIRCS)** program within the HAPDJJ program on the Mid North Coast. The YIRCS program was targeted at young people aged under 18 years who are at court for a 1st or 2nd time appearance AND are homeless (over 16 years) or at risk of homelessness AND were not currently connected with Department of Juvenile Justice.

Information, Resource and court support Role of YIRCS Program:

- Attend court and provide information, support and referral to young people who are 1st or 2nd time offenders and who homeless (over 16 years) or at risk of homelessness;
- Link young people and families to support agencies in their local area;
- Provide information on services available in community;
- Provide general support to young people of each court location accessed;

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Case Management Role of YIRCS Program:

- Provide Case Management support to respond to homelessness or risk of homelessness;
- Link young people to appropriate support agencies in their local area;
- Provide information and advocacy with relevant stakeholders;
- Implement family mediation if required to stabilize housing;
- Provide limited brokerage if required to stabilise accommodation for young people;
- Referral young people to short-term/ emergency accommodation services if required;
- Link young people to appropriate education/ training support;
- Provide tenancy management information and skill development as required.

Throughout the 12 month timeframe the YIRCS program was implemented, the program provided Court support, Information and referral services to 132 young people across the 3 court locations (Kempsey, Port Macquarie and Taree).

The YIRCS program provided services to young people in 3 court locations:

Taree – 59 young people

Kempsey – 36 young people

Port Macquarie – 37 young people.

The age breakdown was 57 young people under the age of 16 years (with 12 being the youngest) and 75 young people aged over 16 years. 94 male young people were supported and 70 female young people were supported throughout the year. The cultural breakdown of young people provided YIRCS support was fairly evenly distributed with 70 Aboriginal young people, 61 Anglo-Australians and 1 CALD young person.

The YIRCS program also provided Case Management support to young people with higher support needs and with homelessness, or high level risk of homelessness, as a key factor in their offending behaviours. The Case Management aspect of the YIRCS program provided 6 weeks intensive support to young people to address and provide linkages to relevant external service providers regarding their housing, family relationships, education and employment opportunities, court proceedings, AOD and mental health issues and income support. Over the 12-month period the YIRCS program provided Case Management support to four (4) young people, 3 males and 1 female. All of these young people were at high risk of homelessness and one was couch surfing at multiple friends' properties.

All young people under the YIRCS Case Management were supported to access and secure appropriate housing types (2 in Social Housing and 2 mediation with family to secure placement), re-engage in education and develop employment skills. Links to on-going support agencies, for example Community Mental Health services, were provided to the 4 young people throughout their case management.

All have maintained their housing placement and have had no further connection to the Police or justice system.

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YPS Starting Off, Stepping Out (SOSO) program:

Due to the success of the YPS HAP YPLC program we were requested by FaCS to implement a new early intervention into homelessness program across the Mid North Coast for young people in statutory care or the Out of Home Care sector. The YPS SOSO program is designed to support young people 16 to 18 years to increase their skills, capacity and navigation of independence after leaving formal care arrangements. Research and evidence shows that young people leaving care arrangements are at high risk of homelessness and often don't have the skill sets required to live independently.

Over the 2012/2013 financial year the YPS SOSO program provided early intervention and skill development services to 8 young people from across the MNC region. The service types and outcomes achieved included:

- Facilitation of tailored case planning;
- Support to complete and finalize Leaving Care Plans;
- Access to brokerage funds for furniture purchases and access to education resources;
- Facilitation of 'Reality Rental' programs to increase knowledge and understanding of living independently, securing and sustaining independent affordable housing;
- Linkages to ongoing support options and specialized services;
- Support to develop current Resumes and increase employment opportunities;
- Future goal setting and personal development.

YPS FaCS Header Agreement:

YPS continues to work with FaCS across the MNC under our Header Agreement. Over the last financial year YPS has provided supervised contact and supervised transport under the agreement with Kempsey CSC and Port Macquarie CSC.

YPS Housing:

YPS is a Registered Community Housing provider with the NSW Housing Registrar, and continues to meet all legislative and service standards for accreditation. YPS's housing mix consists of 24/7 crisis accommodation; short-term emergency accommodation and medium term exit housing. Currently YPS manages 2 Transitional Units, attached to the head office in Kempsey and 2 Exit Units under CAP in Kempsey.

YPS also has existing MOU's and partnerships with other social housing providers to secure designated youth housing properties across the MNC. IN terms of housing and housing stock YPS:

- is the Lead Convener and support agency of the Kempsey Youth Accord agreement with HNSW and Community Housing Limited;

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- is working collaborative with Yfoundations newly developed Youth Housing Arm to provide support for youth designated housing stock purchased from the \$12.5 million dollar funding from HNSW;
- has a formal agreement with Coffs Harbour Accommodation, Brokerage and Housing Support Service (CHABHSS) for housing property in Coffs Harbour, and
- Has a formal agreement with CHL for transition into long-term housing for young people in YPS Exit Units.

Over the 2012/2013 financial year YPS provided tenancies for 23 young people, through our YPS housing stock. These tenancies equated to the provision of 1825 nights of accommodation to young people within the Kempsey area.

YPS Work and Development Orders:

YPS is an authorized Work and Development Order provider for young people being case managed by YPS across all of our office locations. YPS is authorized to provide: Case Management, volunteer community work; living skills and personal development programs, and coordination of external access to specialized services, for example psychologists and AOD counselors.

Over the 2012/2013 financial year YPS provided and supervised WDO services to 11 young people across the MNC region. The main service types approved were Case Management and Living Skill programs. 7 young people have completed their commitments under their individual WDO and to date \$4902.85 has been paid off via WDO processes.

Networks, Representation and Partnerships:

YPS continues to be committed to working collaboratively with all relevant external stakeholders, including government, non-government, private and corporate agencies. In terms of direct service provision and in recognition of the barriers young people experience as well as their diverse needs, YPS has formal MOU's and agreements with:

- Community Housing Limited;
- Kempsey Youth Accord;
- Coffs Harbour Accommodation, Brokerage & Housing Support Service;
- Youth Housing Support Port Macquarie – Joint case support
- Mid North Coast Community Legal Centre – monthly free legal clinics for young people facilitated from YPS;
- Community Health – Sexual Health – monthly Sexual Health clinics facilitated from YPS.

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From a systemic and NSW State level YPS's Executive Office is the Secretary of Yfoundations, the NSW youth homelessness Peak. This representation provides the opportunity for strong advocacy and lobbying on a state level to ensure regional young people and the issues they experience are on the broader agenda.

YPS also has representation on the new Yfoundations Housing Arm Working Party. This project will see an increase in designated youth housing stock, managed by Yfoundations, across NSW from a secured 12.5 million dollar grant from HNSW. This Working Party will be developing Policies and Procedures; locations and procurement; allocation and support options attached to the properties.

From a Regional level YPS has representation on the following committees and working parties:

- North Coast HAP Committee;
- NSW Going Home Staying Home Reform – Service Delivery Design Working Group;
- Mid North Coast Regional Homelessness and Housing Working Group.

On a local level YPS has representation and connection with the following networks, committees, working parties:

- Kempsey Community Services network;
- Kempsey Youth Network;
- Kempsey Mental Health Network;
- Domestic Violence Monitoring Committee;
- Community Drug Action Team (CDAT);
- Hasting Youth Network – Port Macquarie;
- Coffs Harbour YNET (Youth Network);
- Rough Sleepers coordination group – Coffs Harbour;
- Tenancy Support Coordinating Committee – Coffs Harbour, Kempsey and Taree;
- Manning Valley Youth Network – Taree;
- Manning Valley Community Services Network – Taree;
- LOVEBiTES Facilitation Group – Kempsey;
- Macleay Valley Housing Forum;
- Coffs Harbour Housing Forum;
- Real Estate Engagement Kit (REEK) Consultative group;
- Macleay Valley Youth Advisory Group.

In recognition of the importance of partnerships, relationships and an integrated service system YPS applied to the Industry Development Fund, through the Going Home Staying Home reform strategy, to secure funding to investigate and facilitate the development of a Mid North Coast Confederation of Youth Services. This funding was secured and the process for the development of this integrated and collaborative structure has begun.

YPS Community Development:

Due to staff changes over the last financial year the Community Development position has predominately focused on youth capacity building programs; education and information dissemination; early intervention strategies to youth homelessness; connecting with the private REA market and education institutes to build stronger relationships and re-grouping the youth service system to increase integrated service delivery. Social media and marketing are still a key focus for YPS to connect our agencies with young people across the region and we are experiencing an increase of young people connecting to YPS through these mediums.

Youth Capacity Building Programs:

Reality Rental Workshops:

The Reality Rental program is a Tenancy Establishment and Management program that YPS has been facilitating with young people for multiple years. The program is designed to provide relevant and essential information to young people on navigating the housing market; establishing a tenancy; budgeting and living skills requirements for living independently; rights and responsibilities under the Residential Tenancy Act 2012 (RTA); expectations of private REA's and landlords; obligations and tenancy maintenance skills; communication and personal responsibilities; ending a tenancy; access to support and advocacy services.

Over the 2012/2013 financial year YPS implemented Reality Rental workshops in the Kempsey area on a bi-monthly basis, for young people engaged with our service. YPS also provided workshops to young people attending the Macleay Vocational College in Kempsey to increase these young peoples opportunities to secure appropriate and affordable housing in the community.

Urban Survival Living Skills Workshops:

Supporting young people to develop their independent living skills is a core priority for YPS across all our locations. The Urban Survival Living Skills program was designed based off evidence collected from young people on the issues and needs they require skill development for. The planning process for these workshops were built from this information as well as collaboration with Case Workers on the needs of young people in this area.

This financial year YPS implemented workshops on budgeting and financial management; healthy and affordable food prep and cooking skills; independent tenancy management; and healthy relationships. Some of these programs have been in partnership with external agencies for example the Kempsey Neighborhood Centre Financial Counselors, to ensure accurate information and capacity building targets are appropriate.



Youth Homelessness Matters Day:

This year we saw one of YPS's young people, Ramona, be selected as the Yfoundations Youth Homelessness Ambassador for NSW. This is a remarkable outcome for not only Ramona herself, but also for regional young people as it ensures regional youth homelessness remains a key priority on the State level advocacy platform.

The Youth Homelessness Matters Day campaign is a core priority for YPS on a yearly basis, as this National campaign is designed to increase awareness of youth homelessness as well as celebrate the strengths of young people who experience homelessness across our region. YPS connects with this campaign not only on a local level but also on a regional level across our 3 locations and their youth networks.

2012/2013 saw a campaign that utilized the skills and diverse capabilities of the young people of our community, using various mediums to implement a social marketing campaign to increase awareness and build community response to youth homelessness.

YPS's campaign included connecting to community members at the community markets to provide information on youth homelessness, services available and ways the community can respond to the issues. Our campaign was also committed to ensuring the talents of our local young people were also showcased with the song, written specifically for YPS and youth homelessness by a young person, was performed and shared via social media sites – facebook & Youtube.

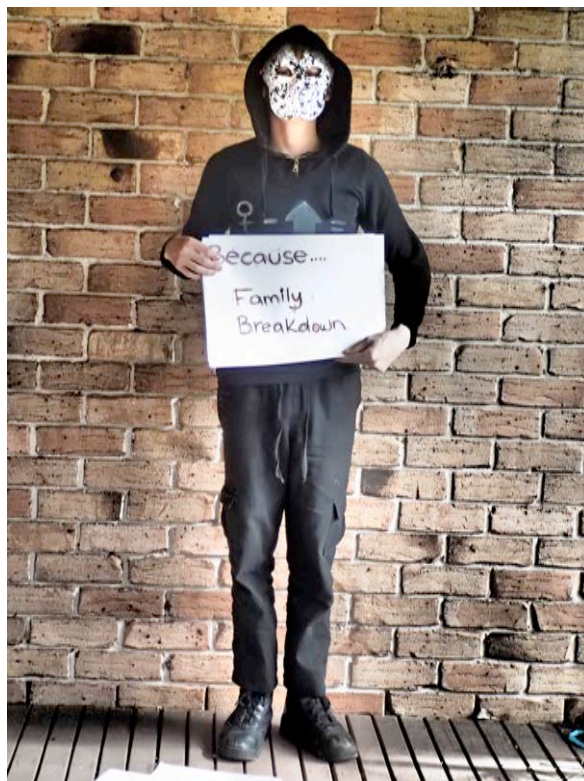
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Youth Homelessness Matters Video Project:

Part of our campaign to raise awareness of youth homelessness in our community has been to support young people to create a video on the important issues young people experience when homeless or at risk of homelessness. A dedicated crew of young people have been working over the last 6 months to develop a clear message; create a storyboard and script; develop a filming schedule; film scenes; edit the footage and finalize the production. The work these young people have achieved has been outstanding and their dedication and passion to all elements of the project has seen more young people come on board to be part of the experience.





The storyboard follows the experience of 3 young people and the different experience of homelessness and the pathway into homelessness each of them encounters. The message is that young people are more than just faceless numbers, that their experiences impact on their decisions and that finding support and resources can be difficult when you don't know what's out there. The footage is compelling and the songs used throughout the video have been specifically written by one of our young people, to share the message to the audience that "youth homelessness matters".

YPS also supported young people to engage in the video project coordinated by South Kempsey Community Centre. The "Roof over our houses" DVD was produced to provide information to general community members about strategies to reduce risk of tenancy breakdown and connection to homelessness. YPS young people were involved in the planning and filming elements of the project.

Young Mums Group:

Over the last financial year the Young Mum's Group has continued to be a popular program with young mothers in our community. Over the 40 weeks the program ran in 2012/2013 an average of 10 young mums, with 14 children, attended on a weekly basis.

A major focus of the program is the development of living skills, parenting skills and building young mum's capacity to remain safely housed and connected in the community. The YMG program incorporates regular workshop sessions with key agencies from the community, to ensure young mum's have access to relevant information and support systems. The YMG implements a weekly healthy eating on a budget with the young mums and this has proven very successful in supporting young mum's make more informed and healthy food options.

Over the 2012/2013 financial year, workshop session included:

- L.J.Hooker Real Estate – Property management;
- Community Mental Health – Services available and mental health issues in the community;
- Mid North Coast Legal Aide - Family Law, AVOs and families;
- Community Housing Limited – Community housing options in the community;
- New Horizons NCAP program – support available for tenancy establishment;
- Home Power Savings Program – keeping electricity costs low;
- Kempsey Neighborhood Centre Financial Planners – Budgeting and Financial management;
- Housing NSW – Social Housing processes and tenancy management;
- Centrelink – Income Support and Entitlements;
- Dalaigur Pre-school – Speech Therapy, Hearing & Drug and alcohol use;
- PCYC – Safe exercises and physical health;
- Women's Health – what services are available & important women's health issues;
- Manning Support Services;
- Schatz & Blackrose International Story Telling – Literacy & Connectedness project;
- Kempsey Maternity Unit – CPR;
- Accredited Water Safety Instructors – Accredited learn to swim project.

Over the 2012/2013 financial year the YMG supervised 3 young people with Work & Development Orders, to ensure they met their obligations under the program.

Multiple referrals were made to external agencies to support the participants address personal issues they experienced. Referral agencies included:

- DV Liaison Worker;
- Women's health Service;
- New Horizons;
- Port Macquarie Community Housing;
- Community Health Child & Family Team;
- Inter Relate;
- Sherri Forster (Parenting Program);

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- School Liaison Workers;
- School Counselors;
- Kempsey Neighborhood Centre – Legal Aide and Financial Planners;
- The Samaritans Tenancy Support program, and
- Centrelink Social Workers.

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