

YP SPACE MNC Inc.

AGM Report

2014/15



YP SPACE MNC Inc.

Table of Content:

AGM 2015 Agenda

Minutes of last AGM

Chairperson Report

Executive Officer Report

- Social Enterprise - That PlaYce Cafe

Operations Manager Report

- Young People Laving Care
- Specialist Homelessness Service
- Housing Statistics Crisis, transitional, medium & private market
- Homeless Youth Assistance Program – unaccompanied minors
- Community Development, Advocacy, Service Development

Audited Financial Statements

YP Space MNC

YP Space MNC Inc

continues to forge new ground and promote leadership in the youth sector across the Mid North Coast.

Our agency see's participation and social inclusion for young people as a basic right- and strives to build opportunities for young people to utilize and promote their unquie talents & skills.

YP SPACE MNC Inc.

AGM AGENDA

Thursday 10th December, 2015

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Welcome to Country
3. Adoption of previous minutes
4. Business arising from previous minutes
5. Chairperson's Report
6. Treasurers/Auditor's Report
7. Executive Officer Report
8. Operation Managers Report
9. Appointment of Auditor

Returning Officer - Current Committee Stands down
Election of Board of Management

Close of Meeting


YPS 2013/2014 AGM Minutes

YP SPACE MNC INC

Annual General Meeting 28th November 2014

Present, Nerida Ackerman, Michelle Ackerman, Sue Seager, Lin Duncan, Debb Wright, Belinda Fowler, Andrea Priestley, Nathan Paff, Danielle Riley, Leish Morrison, Julie Priestley, Jon Hart

Apologies- Paul Ryan, Bec Sharman, Kirri Hawes

Lin Duncan welcomed everyone to meeting 

Last minutes past by Lin Duncan and second by Andrea Priestley.

Chairperson's report- Nathan Paff gave an overview of chairperson's report.

Executive Officer report- Nerida Ackerman

☐ Nerida Ackerman gave an over view of Executive Officers report

☐ **Operations Manager Report-**

☐ Michelle Ackerman thanked staff

☐ Michelle Ackerman gave an overview on Operations Managers report

☐ **Treasurers Report-** Belinda Flower gave an overview of financial report.

☐ **Appointment of Auditor**

☐ Kel Wright & Co to be appointed as auditor. (YP Space to ask for a signed agreement to have audit back on an agreed date)

☐ Chairperson's report, Executive Officers report and Operations Managers reports **Moved** Belinda Fowler **Second** Theresa Thorne

- **Auditor's report Moved** Lin Duncan **Second** Leish Morrison
- **Returning Officer** Eliza Jones
- Current Board stood down
- **New Nominations** forms read for YPS Board of Management 2014-2015.
- **Nathan Paff**
- **Sue Seager**
- **Lin Duncan**
- **Belinda Fowler**
- **Deb Wright**
- **Danielle Riley**
- **Returning Officer Nerida Ackerman**
- **Moved** Nathan Paff **Second** Sue Seager
- **Update of Constitution**
- Constitution to be updated to include the statement:
 - 'All its remaining community housing assets in a participating jurisdiction on its winding up will be transferred to another registered community housing provider or to a Housing Agency in the jurisdiction in which the asset is located.'
 - This addition to the Constitution was unanimously agreed to be the members. Motion to update Constitution Moved by Lin Duncan and Second Nathan Paff.

Chairperson Report

After the reforms and changes in the housing and homelessness sector which occurred in 2014, YPSpace MNC headed into 2015 in a strong place having successfully taken on the new services in Port Macquarie, including the 24/7 refuge and further youth housing. These services have excelled in this first 12 month period garnering fantastic outcomes, and provided the highest quality services to the young people that need it most. These new services have dovetailed fantastically with our previously existing services in Kempsey which have continued to maintain the high quality of service for which it has always been associated. YPSpace MNC is very fortunate to have such a dedicated, skilled, experienced and respected team of frontline staff working across our service locations.

YPSpace MNC in 2015 has undertaken an incredible project in the development, purchase and ultimately successful operation of our first social enterprise, That PlaYce Café. The Board and management of YPSpace MNC have been exploring the idea of a social enterprise for many years. In 2015 the organisation undertook careful planning in order to bring this plan to fruition, and made the most of a fantastic opportunity to move into what really is a sector leading model. Through an amazing amount of hard work and especially passionate and committed effort from our organisations Executive Officer Nerida Ackerman, YPSpace MNC can now proudly promote our fantastic social enterprise model. For this enterprise to be so successful, so soon, has been an amazing feat which deserves the highest accolades for all involved. YPSpace MNC is not only providing high quality service to young people in need, but now YP Space MNC, through the cafe is contributing, and giving back to the Kempsey community in a meaningful, valuable and sustainable way.

As 2015 comes to an end the organisation is continuing to solidify its position as a significant regional youth organisation. The funding landscape which changed so rapidly in 2014 continues to develop and morph, and because of the excellent position the organisation finds itself in we are very able to adapt and respond to be able to provide young people in the region the services they need and want. There are many new funding and tender opportunities currently being explored by the organisation in order to further compliment the suite of services we are able to provide. 2016 is shaping up to be another fantastic year for YPSpace MNC.

Nathan Paff

President

Executive Officer Report

The work of YP SPACE MNC Inc. for the past year has been largely dominated by the “Going Home Staying Home” (GHS) reform, in particular regarding the challenges that arose from the transfer of 24/7 crisis accommodation service located in Port Macquarie, to YP SPACE.



This financial year was a roller coaster of events which the Operations Manager Michelle Ackerman successfully navigated and supported the team during a turbulent time, hence her theme in this report ‘everything is awesome’.

We have continued this year, to work with both the Government and the sector to try to get the best outcomes for young people. For example on a state level we have directly participated in the: HYAP (unaccompanied minors) Metro working groups; Yfoundations NSW Peak Body Youth Homelessness; FaCS Practioners Advisory Group (PAG);

National AIHW SHS Data Collection User Advisory Group and the National Youth Coalition of Housing (NYCH);

MYfoundations the NSW Peak Social Housing Provider for young people officially kicked off this year. The MNC was lucky enough to see a housing increase in Port Macquarie, Kempsey and Coffs Harbor. YP SPACE MNC has been managing all the MNC properties for MYfoundations until it successfully became a registered housing provider. YP SPACE has employed a MNC Housing Manager Jo Stalker to now formally manage the ‘property management’ of all the MNC housing stock under MYFoundations via formal arrangement.



Whilst the timing was challenging YP SPACE MNC also started our 'social enterprise' arm of the organization with the purchase of 'That PlaYce' Café located in West Kempsey. Purchased from Jo & Bec the café is an asset to the community, employing young people and providing them with certificates II and III in Hospitality, business management and community development. YP

SPACE chose a local RTO in Macleay Valley Workplace Learning Centre Inc. to provide on the job training and

support for the majority of our youngin's. Leanne 'That PlaYce' café manager is an asset to our organization. Emma, El, Jonnie & Alexa make up the team. Ramona has moved from the café into a fulltime position in Sea Street.

I want to thank our youngin's for their amazing resilience, persistence and charm but most of all for continuing to challenge us- without their trust our skills would rust!

YP SPACE MNC has an outstanding team lead by Michelle who are always pushing for positive outcomes for young people. Julie, Paul, Bec, Leish, Andrea, Jo, Ty, Joel, Ramona and Michelle thank you!

Our Board members again this year ensured YP SPACE kept young people at the fore front of all their decisions and in a time of funding uncertainty remained focused on the big picture. YPS financial team are Theresa and Kirri – thanks to all.

Nerida Ackerman
Executive Officer



Operation Manager's Report:

Michelle Ackerman

It has been another incredibly busy year for YP Space MNC across both our target locations. YPS took over the management of the Youth Crisis Accommodation Service in Port Macquarie on the 30th September, 2014 and was required to implement service delivery immediately (with a 2 hour lead in time) to ensure service interruptions to young people were minimalized. This situation again demonstrates the effective systems YPS has in place and our agencies ability to respond to crisis situations in an efficient, targeted and best practice framework.

The Going Home Staying Home reforms have seen changes across the NSW homelessness sector, and across the Mid North Coast. New service delivery types have been implemented and a focus on early intervention and prevention of homelessness is a priority across the region and State.

From YPS's direct service delivery perspective the reform has had an impact on the way we work across the Kempsey and Port Macquarie locations and as a result of YPS's quality organizational systems more coordinated, targeted and effective responses are in place for young people experiencing homelessness within our area.

A major factor of the GSHS reform has been the introduction of a new criteria for data collection and categorization of the support effort levels the SHS system provides to people accessing services. While little guidance has been provided in determining what constitutes these categories, by the Department, YPS has worked with our region to develop a regionally endorsed Support Effort Matrix to ensure consistency across the Mid North Coast. This financial year has seen the projected targets for YPS, in regards to the SHS Support Effort levels, completely incongruent with the actual work being completed and the outcomes achieved with young people across the Macleay & Hastings LGAs.



Again YPS's team have worked diligently to achieve some outstanding outcomes for and with young people, under difficult and a constantly changing service & system environment. YPS's team never fail to impress me with their commitment to young people & the dedication they demonstrate to implementing best practice and cohesive strategies- to respond to individual young people, as well as the social constructs that impact on the young people we support.

With the extension of the NPAH HAP funding until the end of October 2015, this 2014/2015 report includes the finalization of the YPS Switch Young People Leaving Care and YPS Switch Juvenile Justice programs. Also included in this report is the new and exciting investment into young people that YPS as an agency has undertaken – the Youth Social Enterprise arm- and the 'That PlaYce' Café journey.

The YPS team worked with a total of 229 young people this financial year, with a total of 241 support periods being provided across our funded programs. Once again, new young people to our service represented 95% of all young people supported this financial year & demonstrates that youth homelessness continues to be a primary social issue for our region.

Specialist Homelessness Services- SHS:

2014/2015 saw the implementation of the Going Home Staying Home (GHS) SHS reform outcomes across NSW. For YPS the reform created an opportunity for our agency to consolidate and strengthen the service deliver mechanisms implemented in both the Kempsey/ Macleay and Port Macquarie/ Hastings LGA's. While YPS had been working within the Port Macquarie location for a 4 year period, as a result of the NPAH Switch funded programs, the GHS reform cemented our presence in this location & formalized our homelessness responses for young people across this LGA.

As has been the trend over previous years, access to YPS has been greater for young women than young men, with 56% of all young people supported identifying as Female.

Consistency in access across the diverse cultural groups was also evident this financial year, with representation of Culturally & Linguistically diverse young people having a stronger presence than previous years.

Cultural breakdown:

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander – 50% Kempsey & 20% Port Macquarie;

Non-Aboriginal – 46%

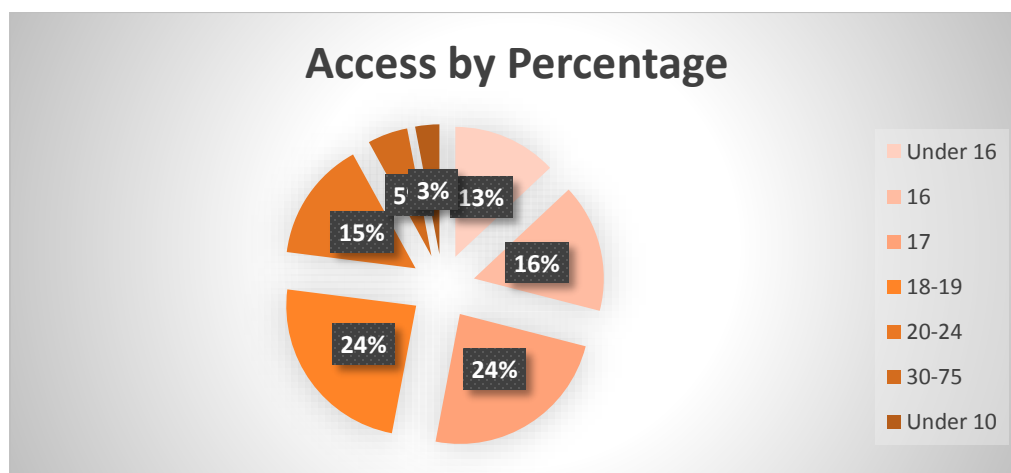
CALD- 4%.

Countries of birth represented in the CALD statistics include: Republic of Congo; Kenya; Pakistan; Philippines; New Zealand; South Africa & the United States of America.

Language barriers for some young people created challenges for the YPS team in implementing basic support responses and encouraged creative, non-verbal communication strategies in the form of 'charades'! Explaining rights and responsibilities under the Residential Tenancy Act (RTA 2010) was particularly theatrical, yet the challenge created opportunities to investigate appropriate and relevant support options for non-English speaking young people within our region.

Age Range:

Within the implementation of YPS 2Triple4 crisis accommodation service in Port Macquarie this financial year, access by the younger age groups was anticipated. However, even with this focus on 16 to 17 year olds data suggests that access by 18 & 19 years olds remained firm.

Access by Age Range (%)

A new focus for the SHS sector in NSW has been the introduction of the 'No Wrong Door' Policy – a common & standardized assessment approach into the homelessness 'System' as opposed to an individual service. The No Wrong Door Policy has seen all SHS services across the state responsible for providing CIMS Assessments for any age group who accesses a service & implies a responsibility for

all services to follow up with a person accessing to ensure they are supported into the most appropriate homelessness response and service available.

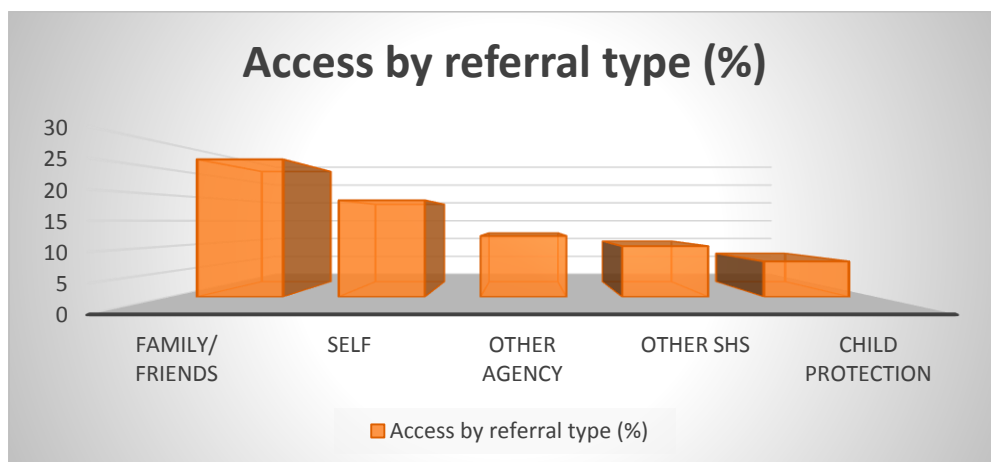
For YPS, the No Wrong Door policy has increased administrative responsibilities related to completing CIMS Assessments for people outside of our agencies target group. As identified in the chart above YPS provided CIMS assessments and follow-up obligations to people aged between 30 to 75 years & this age range represented 5% of all access to YPS's SHS services.

The other impact the No Wrong Door policy has had on direct service delivery is the expectation that services, regardless of their capacity at the time of access, will provide relevant follow-up services to people completing CIMS Assessments. This has created a further demand on YPS's already overstretched resources and has impacted on our ability to ensure appropriate responses to young people when all SHS services in the region are at capacity.

Referrals and Access:

Consistently YPS's main referrals have been through family and friends of young people who have been assisted by YPS in the past or currently. This has continued again this financial year & again highlights that 'word of mouth' and the positive and sustainable outcomes secured with young people accessing YPS services are the best promotion tool available.

Access by referral type in %



An increase in referrals from Child Protection agencies and FaCS specifically has been experienced predominately due to YPS now implementing the 24/7 crisis accommodation service in Port Macquarie as well as the implementation of the HYAP Stage 1 program.

Referrals from other SHS services across the region have also increased this financial year & with the move into the implementation of the GHSH reforms. A number of service providers are now funded to provide services to young people aged between 18 to 25 years, which has increased the cross over between YPS and the rest of the SHS service system. Collaboration with other providers has been an essential element of implementation this financial year – particularly when all currently funded agencies are at capacity & are required to provide follow up services to anyone who has completed a CIMS Assessment. Monitoring & management of the challenges of this situation are being addressed at the regional DHOG meetings.



Reasons for Presentation:

Across this financial year there has been a slight change in the reasons for presentation at YPS SHS services by young people across the region. Due to the implementation of the 24/7Crisis accommodation service (2Triple4) 'relationship & family breakdown' has had a slight rise in the percentage of access.

Again this year 'Housing crisis' has been identified as the top reason for presentation equally with 'Relationship/ Family breakdown'. Domestic & Family violence has dropped slightly as well this financial year, within interpersonal and lateral violence being identified as significant issues. The difficulty in obtaining realistic statistics regarding the number of young people who originally became homeless as a result

of domestic or family violence occurs due to the data collection criteria obtained by SHS services on access to support. Data collection within the sector only identifies the reasons young people are experiencing homelessness based on the 'Week before' and 'on presentation'. For many of the young people, YPS works with, the initial reason for them leaving the family home is related to domestic/ family violence, however there has generally been a number of months or even years before young people access support services & data related to this is not captured on initial Assessment or Intake.

On further unpacking of the histories of the young people YPS supports, Domestic and/or family violence plays a significant part in their experience of homelessness. 66% of all young people supported by YPS this financial year identified DFV as the predominate reason for their initial homelessness experience, and for many a continuing significant factor in their current homelessness status. In terms of comparison against the state average for access, by young people under the age of 25 years to SHS services due to DFV, YPS data indicates the Kempsey & Port Macquarie areas as being 5% to 20% higher than the state average over the last five (5) years.

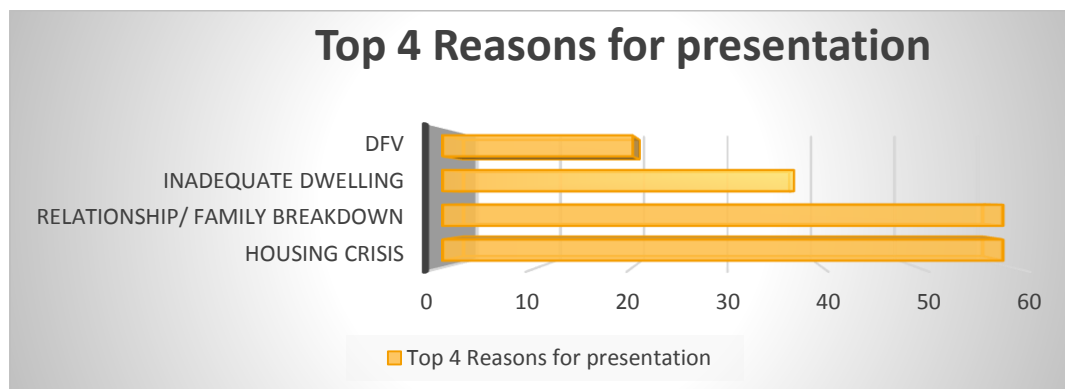
To further compound the alarming tragedy, of the prevalence of DFV in the lives of young people across our community, is the number of young people under the age of 18 years who are pregnant or have existing dependent children & who are escaping or continue to live in DFV situations.

IN the 2014/2015 financial year 18% of the total young people supported by YPS were aged between 14 to 18 years & were pregnant or had existing dependent children.

70% of these young people were escaping or still living in a domestic &/or family violence situation.

Of these, 50% were aged 16 years or under and 45% identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Top Reasons for Presentation in %



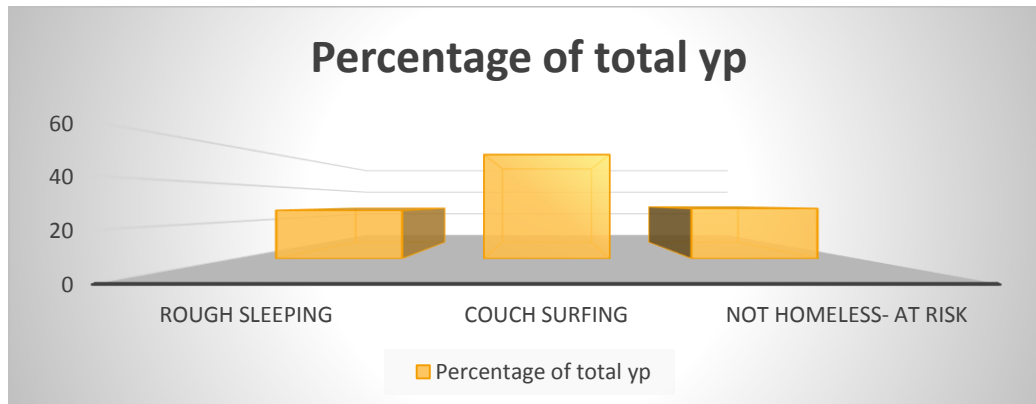
Inappropriate or inadequate dwelling is a rising area of concern, particularly across the Kempsey LGA. Overcrowding is the main category identified with this issue with more and more families being forced to share smaller properties with extended family members. Key factors that are driving this issue forward is the reduced appropriate & affordable housing stock available in the Kempsey LGA – due, in part to the continuing Highway development across the MNC, and the limited investment in the Social Housing market across the Macleay LGA.

Experience of Homelessness:

This financial year saw a slight change in the context of young people's experience of homelessness in the 12 months before and on presentation to YPS for support. Statistically in Australia the majority of young people experiencing homelessness experience secondary homelessness or 'couch surfing'. While primary homelessness, or 'rough sleeping' is experienced by young people, statistically this generally occurs less frequently.

In the 2014/ 2015 financial year 26% of young people who accessed YPS for support had experienced 'rough sleeping' in the 12 months before presentation to the service. This is an increase of 2% from the last financial year.

Homelessness Experience in previous 12months (%)



The 'Not Homeless- At risk' category identifies the percentage of young people (27%) YPS is implementing targeted Early Intervention & Prevention service responses to. Predominately these young people have not yet reached a housing crisis point and either are currently in a family placement or are in an existing independent tenancy and risk factors for placement/ tenancy breakdown are identified.

Early intervention and prevention services, within this context, include: family mediation; negotiation and advocacy with private market or social housing providers; tenancy support; living skills development; financial management support; CTTT- Tribunal support; referral & support to access relevant mental health/ AOD services; advocacy regarding appropriate Income support; education, training & employment pathway support through an Outreach framework.



Housing Statistics- Crisis/transitional, Medium-term Social housing & Private market:

The YPS Case Work team never cease to amaze with the work they do to assist young people to secure housing/ tenancies across our targeted locations. Port Macquarie has challenged our team to build their relationships with new private market providers within a difficult & challenging market environment. The YPS team has implemented effective advocacy work to reframe 'young people' to the private market & challenge the stereotypes associated with young people from a housing context.

YPS's relationship & partnership with My Foundations Youth Housing Company (MFYH) has created a strong youth specific social housing presence within the Port Macquarie location, with a portfolio of 8 2 bedroom properties on board in the 2014/2015 financial year. Across the broader Mid North Coast region MFYH currently holds 4 2 bedroom properties in Kempsey and 5 2 bedroom properties in Coffs Harbour giving a total of 17 properties across

YPS continues to have a strong relationship with other social housing providers across the Kempsey region, with the Kempsey Youth Accord Agreement still in place with Community Housing Limited (CHL) and access to other CHL stock within the community.

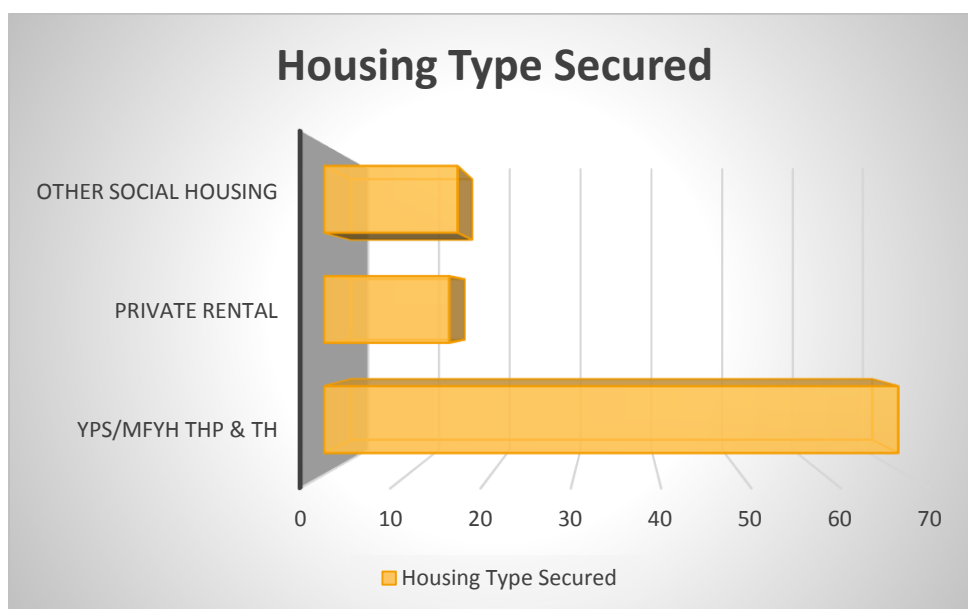
Our relationship with private market providers in the Kempsey area remains strong, however reduced affordable housing stock; increased market rents; higher demand for affordable properties and a reduced number of available providers across the LGA has seen a marked decrease in the number of young people successfully housed in the private market this financial year compared to the 68% secured last year.

This financial year saw YPS successfully secure housing for **156** young people and their dependent children. The majority of housing secured were through YPS and MFYH Transitional Housing Plus and Transitional Housing products across Kempsey and Port Macquarie.

108 young people were provided accommodation through these products, including 48 young people in short-term/emergency accommodation through YPS 2Triple4 Crisis accommodation service & our Kempsey crisis bedsits. The housing stock held by YPS/ MFYH across the two locations totals 14 properties and has the potential to house a total of 31 young people at any one time.

28% of all young people housed this financial year identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and 4% identified as Culturally and/or Linguistically diverse.

Housing Type Secured (%)



Family types accessing YPS/ MFYH properties identified as the following:

- Single, no dependents – 76%
- Couples - 17%
- Dependent child - 7%.

Homeless Youth Assistance Program- HYAP Stage One.

In January 2015 YPS began the implementation of the Homeless Youth Assistance Program – HYAP Stage 1. HYAP targets Unaccompanied Minors (under 16 years) accessing SHS services across the Kempsey/ Macleay & Port Macquarie/ Hastings LGAs.

The HYAP program targets young people aged 12 to 15 years. The Unaccompanied Minors Accessing SHS Policy released by FaCS identifies that crisis accommodation provision is appropriate for over 13 year olds but not for anyone aged 12 or under. This Policy has provided a general guideline for the implementation of the HYAP

program across the State, particularly related to NGO & FaCS responsibilities for HYAP young people, however FaCS Local Protocols are still not in place. This situation has created some uncertainty and a lack of clarity regarding FaCS accountabilities to the target group & challenges implementing an escalation framework for HYAP service providers.

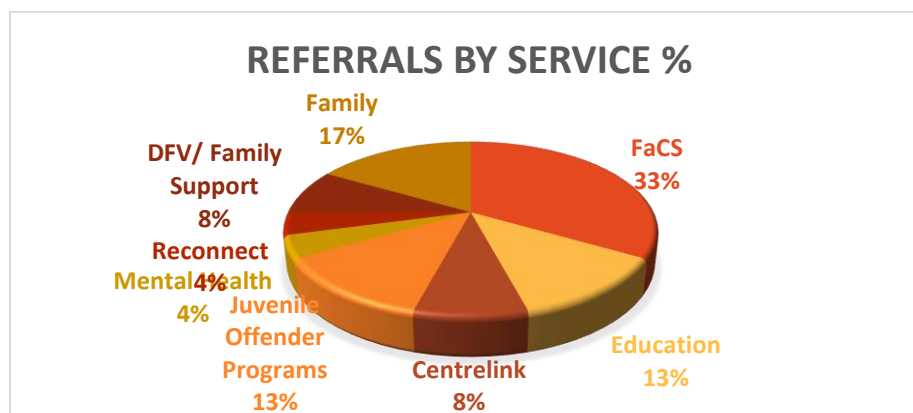
YPS continues to work collaboratively with FaCS to advocate for appropriate responses to this challenging & complex target group, particularly related to the development of HYAP Stage 2 model and evaluation strategy. YPS has attended multiple Consultations with FaCS locally, regionally and with FaCS Head Office to ensure HYAP young people from the Mid North Coast have their needs represented to inform program development.

Referrals

In the six (6) months the YPS HYAP program has been implemented YPS has received 25 referrals for young people under the age of 16 years. Of these YPS has provided services to 19 young people, with the other 6 not being picked up due to capacity, young person being out of area or the young person was referred back to FaCS Child Protection or the OOHC sector.

The referral process for the YPS HYAP program allowed any service, family or young person to refer an Under 16 year old to support across the Kempsey & Port Macquarie region. It was envisaged that FaCS Child Protection would be the predominate referrer, and while statistically this was correct other mainstream & specialist services have also provided referrals to the program.

Referrals By Service %



Access by Age

Given the age criteria of the HYAP program, & the primary focus being on young people who do not meet FaCS Child Protection Risk Of Significant Harm (ROSH) threshold the majority of young people accessing are aged 15 years.

- 15 years – 14 yp;
- 14 years- 3, and
- 13 years- 2.

YPS HYAP Model and Crisis Accommodation

The HYAP model implemented by YPS includes intensive Case Management, early intervention & prevention, crisis accommodation and post-crisis support. To ensure a consistent crisis response to HYAP young people is in place across Kempsey/ Port Macquarie, YPS 2Triple4 Crisis Residential service has one (1) bed designated to HYAP young people. During the period between initial implementation of YPS HYAP Stage 1 program (1st January 2015) and the 30th June 2015 the HYAP crisis bed at YPS 2Triple4 has never been vacant. Throughout this six (6) month period YPS 2Triple4 has provided crisis accommodation to 9 young people under the age of 16 years. A further 3 young people required 24/7 crisis accommodation, which YPS could not provide due to being at capacity in the crisis residential service at the time of referral.

Outcomes:

Over the six (6) month period the following outcomes have been achieved with the young people accessing YPS HYAP:

- 1 young person housed in Social housing with a family member;
- 1 young person secured boarding agreement in a private rental property;
- 5 young people returned to family after time at YPS 2Triple4;
- 9 young people were supported to remain in the family home with family mediation and support plans in place;
- 6 young people re-engaged with education after being disengaged for a period of time;

Community Development/ Advocacy/ Service development

The Going Home Staying Home reform has had a major impact on YPS's capacity to continue to provide community development and education programs compared to previous years where a designated Community Development position was in place. While every effort has been made to ensure YPS continues to work within a community development environment, the capacity issues YPS faces has reduced the amount of resources available for this framework. While the resources and capacity have been limited our commitment and desire to work from a developmental framework has not dwindled and YPS staff have continued to be part of a community response to young people & homelessness within our region.

Networking & collaboration has continued to be a strong focus for our agency & relationships with key stakeholders have been further fostered & supported to develop. Across the Hastings's LGA new relationships & connections have been made with primary stakeholders and referral agencies across the area and firm relationships are now in place with essential support services required by young people within the community. YPS has continued to have a strong presence in local and regional network groups and meetings and attendance at key local & National events.

Local/Regional Network Meetings attended by YPS this financial year include:

- Hastings Youth Workers Network;
- Hasting Housing Forum;
- Kempsey Youth Network;
- Kempsey/ Macleay Housing Forum;
- Mid North Coast Regional Homelessness & Housing Forum;
- Mental Health Partnership meetings PMQ and KMC;
- Kempsey Domestic Violence Monitoring Committee;
- Kempsey Community Services Network;
- Kempsey Child and Family Interagency;
- District Homelessness Operational Group;
- District Homelessness Implementation Group;
- Lovebites committee meetings;
- Community Connect Planning meetings;
- Youth Homelessness Matters Day Planning meetings.

Advocacy

YPS continues to ensure a strong voice for regional young people experiencing homelessness and disadvantage is provided through our advocacy efforts. New district Operational and Implementation Groups have been developed under the GHSH reform umbrella with SHS services and Governmental representation to ensure streamlined and targeted responses to homelessness across the MNC.

YPS again has representation on Peak State and National Boards and groups to ensure regional young people's needs remain firmly on the agenda and social policy platform. YPS has representation on:

- Yfoundations NSW Peak Body Youth Homelessness – Co-chair;
- FaCS Practitioners Advisory Group (PAG);
- National AIHW SHS Data Collection User Advisory Group;
- National Youth Coalition of Housing (NYCH);
- District Homelessness Operational Group (DHOG);
- District Homelessness Implementation Group (DHIG).

YPS participated in a number of Consultation processes implemented across this financial year, including:

- Social Housing in NSW reform and
- The Premiers Innovation Initiative: Social Housing;



Advocacy on a local and individual basis is a core component of the work the YPS Case Work team implements on a daily basis.

Youth Homelessness Matters Day 2015:

YPS took a major role in the planning & organization of the Port Macquarie and Kempsey Youth Homelessness Matters Day events. YPS was also a major player in the online Thunderclap campaign facilitated by NYCH, through both our Twitter and Facebook social media sites.

This year in Kempsey YPS worked with the Kempsey TAFE Campus Diploma Community Services class & Reconnect to plan an information dissemination event in the Kempsey Mall on Market day. The TAFE students worked hard to identify effective strategies to increase the general community understanding & knowledge of the issues pertaining to youth homelessness across our region. While the number of contacts made on the day was down on previous years, every contact with community members increases the opportunity to build community capacity and a more appropriate response to young people experiencing homelessness across the district.

The YHMD 2015 campaign in Port Macquarie also targeted providing general community members with information as to the pathways to & causes of youth homelessness across the Hastings LGA as well as tailoring information relevant to the NSW Peak Youth Homelessness Body – Yfoundations- 5 Foundations of youth homelessness & support. The event was a collaborative initiative with other members of the Hastings Youth Workers Network and 10 other organizations participated on the day.

The event made over 200 contacts with local Port Macquarie residents who then participated by identifying what the 5 Foundations meant to them on designated 'jigsaw' puzzle pieces –

- Home & Place;
- Education & Employment;
- Safety & Stability;
- Connections;
- Health & Wellbeing.

YPS provided a free BBQ on the day & kept the enthusiasm going throughout the day by spontaneous musical acts, chants & interesting dancing!

Reality Rental Program:

YPS continues to implement the Reality Rental program with young people to increase their understanding and awareness of being an independent young person

in the private rental or social housing market. The program targets key skills and knowledge on:

- Preparing to apply for housing, things to think about & plan;
- Budgeting and financial management;
- Completing application forms and being an attractive tenant;
- Connecting with & communication with Tenancy Managers;
- Beginning a Tenancy – Bonds, HNSW products, utilities, costs;
- Residential Tenancy Act 2010 – young people's rights & responsibilities;
- Managing a tenancy;
- Ending a Tenancy correctly;
- Advocacy & support services available.

YPS partners with local private Real Estate Tenancy Managers to facilitate part of the program, so young people have direct information regarding what Tenancy Managers are looking for in applications, in presentation and in communication. This factor has been a huge success in not only providing young people with accurate information, but with YPS building relationships with the private market providers & them gaining an understanding of the support young tenants will have in place if housed. Through this relationship building YPS has successfully housed 5 young people in the private market, in Port Macquarie, specifically due to the Reality Rental program.

Community Events:

While YPS's capacity in community development has been reduced we remain committed to supporting community events and ensuring information about YPS services are available to young people across our target region. In the 2014/2015 financial year YPS participated in:

- Port Macquarie Community Connect Day;
- Kempsey Connect event;
- Lovebites Program at Melville High (co-facilitation);
- Mid North Coast Regional Homelessness & Housing Forum;
- **National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness-
Homeless Action Plan (NPAH HAP)-**
- In mid-2014 the State and Federal Governments advised that the NPAH HAP funding would continue until the 31st October 2014. This provided YPS with

an opportunity to develop and implement extensive Exit Plans for all young people being supported under the Switch Young People Leaving Care and Switch Juvenile Justice program. This was particularly valuable given the GSH reforms and the changed and unstable service environment across the region & state. On the 1st July 2014 YPS continued to have 18 young people still connected to the Switch YPLC and DJJ programs & continued their support until 31st October 2015.

Switch Young People Leaving Care:

From **July 2014 to 31st October** 2014 YPS Switch YPLC program worked with 14 young people across the MNC, from Coffs Harbour to Taree. The majority of the young people who continued support during this period were picked up throughout the year & had not received the full 12 months Switch support program generally provided.

A key focus of this period was securing and establishing independent tenancies for young people and building skills and protective behaviours around, and with, these young people to ensure sustainable outcomes into the future.

At the end of the program (31st October 2014) the following outcomes had been achieved with the 14 young people still being supported throughout the July to October period.

Housing Outcomes:

Housing Type	Number of yp
Private Rental	5
Social Housing – including transitional and Public housing	6
Family placement	3

On exit:

- 3 young people were engaged in Education;
- 4 young people were employed, either full-time or part-time.

Brokerage:

From July to October 2014 brokerage funds were spent on young people leaving care in the following streams:

- **Establishing/ Maintaining a Tenancy-** 3 yp (totaling \$2201.94)

Switch Department of Juvenile Justice

Throughout the **July to October** 2015 time period the YPS Switch DJJ program worked with 4 young people, from Nambucca Heads to Taree. The primary focus of this work was directed towards sustaining tenancies secured early in the year and supporting new young people to secure tenancies and engage in education and training opportunities.

At the end of the Switch DJJ program the following outcomes were achieved with the 4 young people being supported at the time.

Housing Outcomes:

Housing Type	Number of young people
Private Rental	1
Social Housing	2
Family placement	1

On exit:

- 3 young people were engaged in education.

Brokerage:

From July to October 2014 brokerage funds were spent on young people engaged in the Switch DJJ program in the following streams:

- **Establishing/ Maintaining a Tenancy-** 2 young people (totaling \$1223);
- **Training/ Education/ Employment-** 1 young person (totaling \$540).

The end of the NPAH HAP funding saw YPS lose 3 valuable team members. Phill Pilgrim, Kim West and Flow Oakley demonstrated a commitment to the young people

they worked with above and beyond, and their level of expertise and experience is greatly missed by the YPS team.

