



ANNUAL REPORT

YPS 2018 / 2019 AGM REPORT

YP SPACE MNC INC Annual General Meeting Minutes
Friday 14 December 2018

Present. Nerida Ackerman, Michelle Ackerman, Lorraine Williamson, Theresa Thorne, Julie Priestley, Andrea Davidson, Jade Smith, Theresa Laybourn, Kirsty Atkins, Kate Moulton, Cathy Lynch, Mali Boller, Alicia Gordon, Tegan DeGioia, Taylor Roberts-Madigan, Toni Killin, Ramona Marsters, Danielle Riley, Chloe Boller (Returning Officer)

Apologies- Steve Martin, Kerry Lumby,
Katrina Cameron, Andrew Copelin

Nerida Ackerman - Welcome & open meeting

Jade Smith - Welcome to Country

Previous minutes - Passed Kate Moulton Second Andrea Davidson

Nerida Ackerman – Review of executive officer report.

Michelle Ackerman – Review of Operations Manager Report

Lorraine Williamson – Review of 17/18 Financials

All reports moved – Passed Jade Smith Second Ramona Marsters

Current Management Committee stood down
Management Committee for 18/19

Danielle Riley
Kerry Lumby
Katrina Cameron
Kirsty Atkins
Claudia Buckby
Jackie Dixon
Kate Moulton

Meeting Closed

18/19 ANNUAL REPORT

Welcome to YP SPACE MNC Inc's 2018/2019 Annual Report. YPS is excited to report on the outstanding achievements, quality improvements & developments that have occurred over this financial year. The organisation has continued to flourish, in an ever changing environment, & has built strong & ongoing relationships with key stakeholders across the LGA's that we provide services too. Broadening our reach has been a core focus of our Management team across this financial year- scoping new opportunities, building diversity in our relationships & strengthening our position in the broader youth sector through program & service development.

CEO REPORT

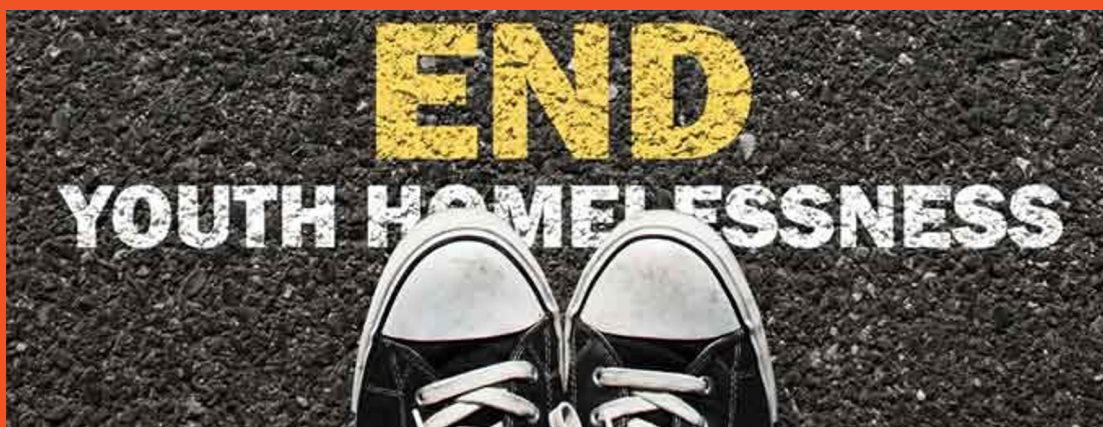
I would like to thank all members of the Board for their commitment to the organization. This year the Board welcomed Claudia Buckley and Jacky Dixon, Claudia has also taken on the treasurer's role. Claudia and Jacky bring a wealth of experience and knowledge from their years of Financial Management and TAFE.

Under the direct supervision of YPS Operations Manager (Michelle) YPS teams have continued to provide exceptional support to young people and their families. Michelle has also taken the lead for the organization to become compliant with the ASES National Accreditation. This is an enormous undertaking, and we thank Michelle for the work she has achieved.

This financial year we have;

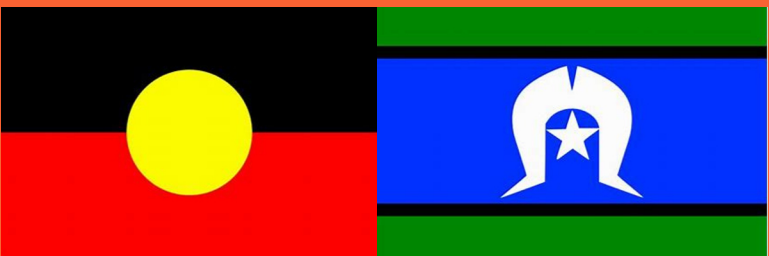
- Maintained Registration under the National Regulatory System for Community Housing (NRSCH).
- Almost, completed the accreditation of the Australian Services Excellence Standards (ASES)
- Complied with the SHS Quality Assurance System
- Remained accredited as an Out of Home Care (OOHC) provider
- Provided over 10 Trainee-ships to 'at risk' young people
- Reviewed, monitored and evaluated the Service, collected and received young peoples input
- Reviewed policies and procedures, to ensure compliance with various legislation & accreditation systems.

YPS continues to build its reputation both in the Macleay and Hastings regions with our dedicated teams and professionalism.



OUR PERFORMANCE

Our outcomes for this financial year are extensive, yet for YPS our story of success is just that- Stories. One story, two stories, just over 300 stories of the young people we have supported this year. Their stories of challenges, determination, strengths & achievements are the real measures of outcomes.



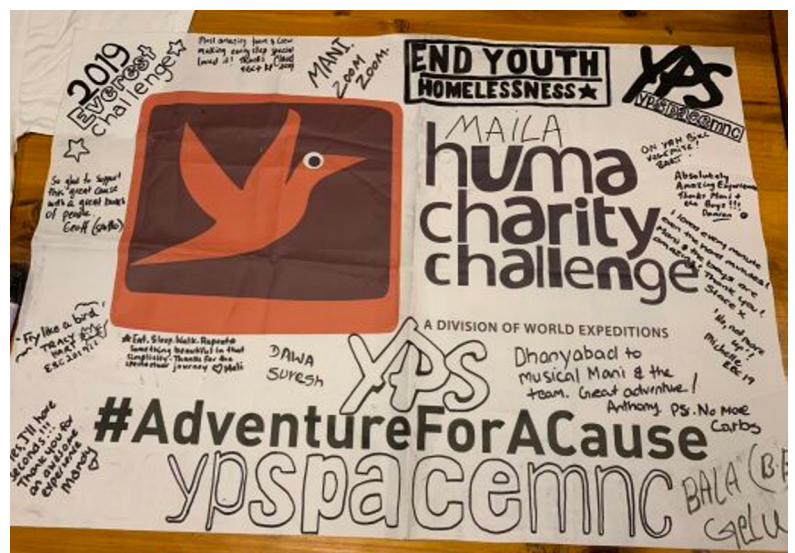
OUR PEOPLE

YPS is a diverse agency supporting diverse communities. Our staff have had some turn over this year- yet the team has stood together, through the challenges, creating a cohesive group of highly skilled & experienced workers determined to end youth homelessness!

OUR STATS

The following report provides further information on the work YPS has implemented over the last 12 months.

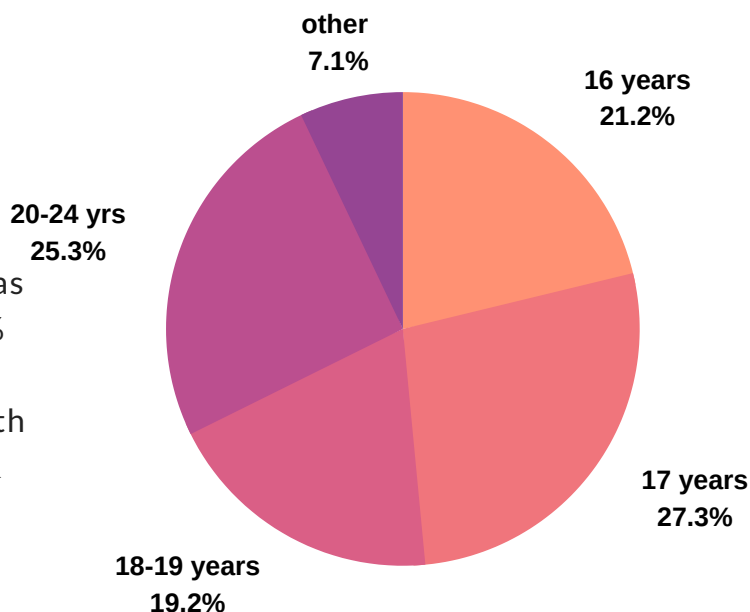
From conquering a mountain, to raising \$60,000, to implementing new service elements - this year has had it all!



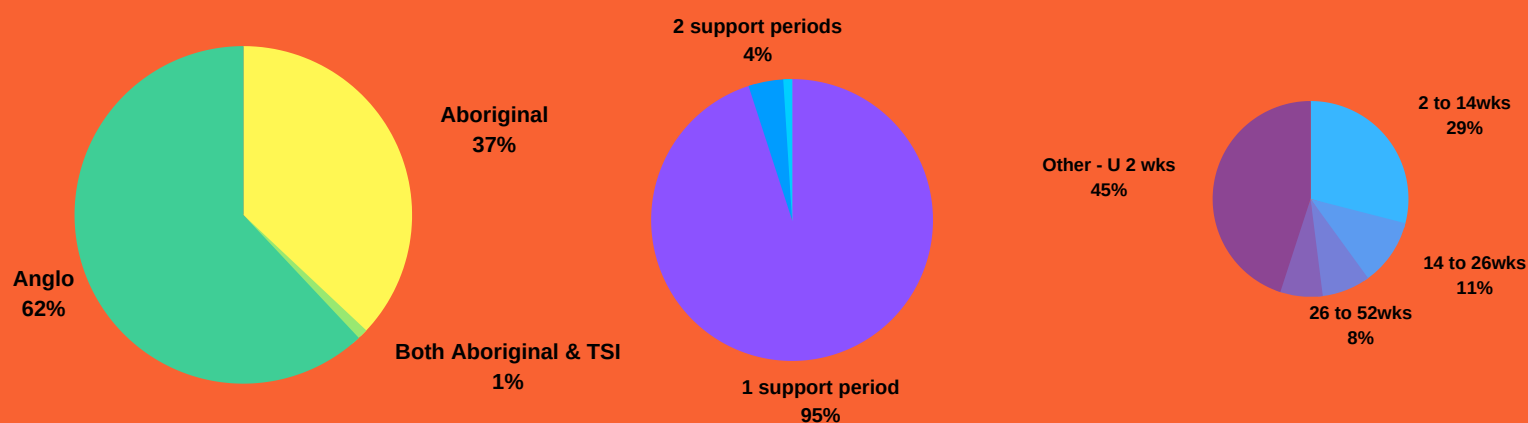
SHS PROGRAM

This financial year YPS has supported 289 young people through 306 Support Periods- this is an increase of 17% from last financial year. The access rates by males & females has remained steady to previous years, with 58% females & 42% males.

17 year olds presented most often (27%), with the 20-24 year age group following at 25%, & 16 year olds at 21%.



The following charts identify Cultural Identity, Number of Support Periods & Length of support



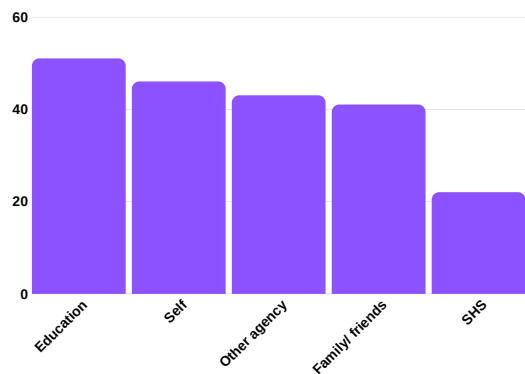
The data clearly shows that there has been an increase in Early Intervention & prevention services this financial year with 45% of support periods being under 2 weeks in lengths.

This has occurred through community development work with school students, employment agencies & other vulnerable groups- where education & information support has supported them to maintain their current placements or access alternative family support & housing options.

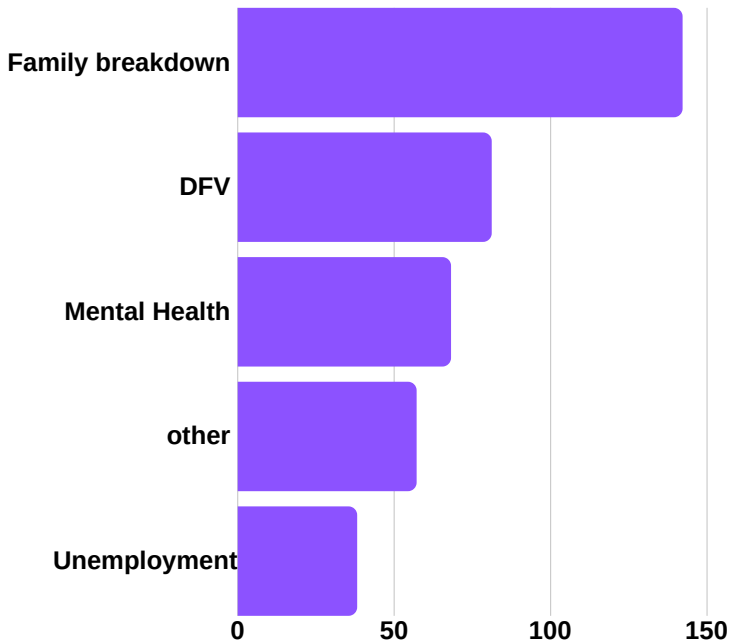
7% of support periods have exceeded 52 weeks in length due to the contracted support requirement to 8 MFYH Transitional Housing Plus properties across Kempsey & Port Macquarie. YPS is currently supporting 17 young people & their dependant children in THP properties.

Referral sources have remained comparable with previous years, with referrals being received from:

- 1.Schools & Education
- 2.Self referral
- 3.Other agency (government & non-government)
- 4.Family/ friends
- 5.Specialist Homelessness Services (external)



This referral data indicates that YPS has a strong reputation in the community & systems that connect with children & young people & that children/ young people identify YPS as a service that can provide them with appropriate support.



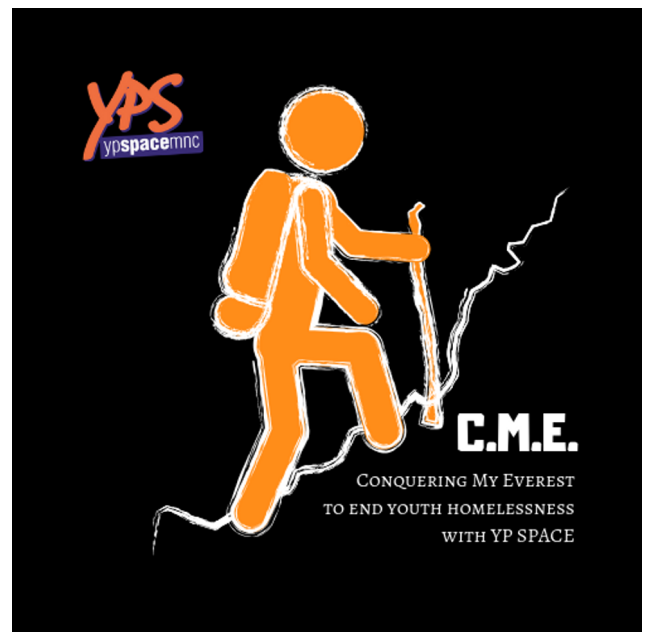
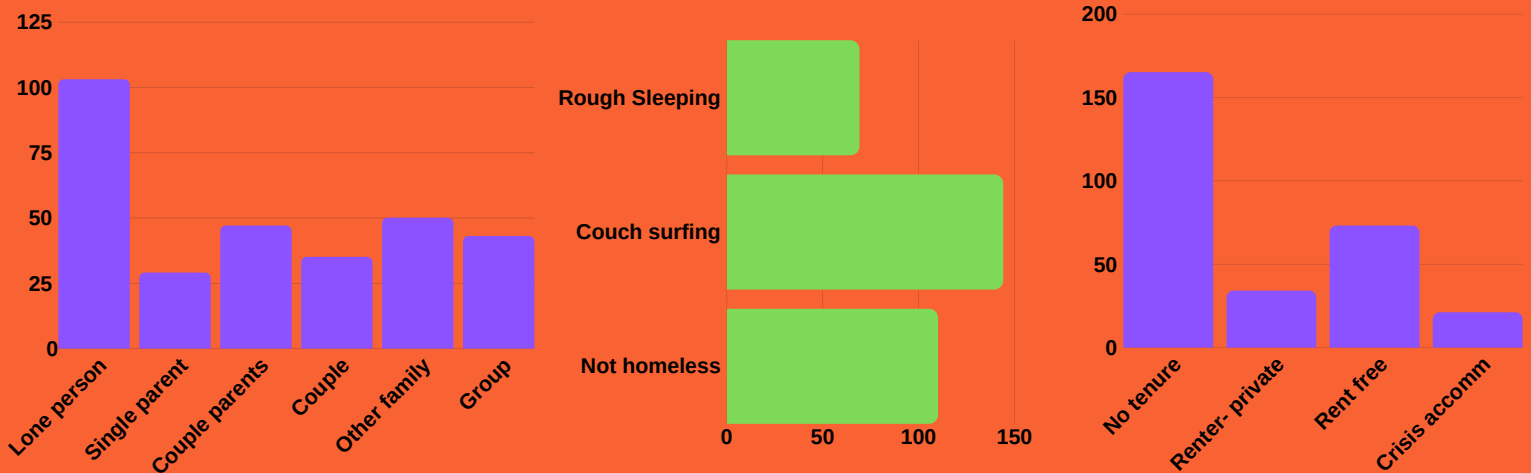
Reasons children & young people are accessing YPS SHS program have also remained consistent with previous years & the trends across both NSW & Australia.

Family breakdown & Domestic/ Family violence continue to be the main presenting reason young people are accessing Homelessness services this year.

Mental health issues have increased as a presenting issue this year - with Parents Mental Health issues & the conflict this creates at home being the context for this presentation type.



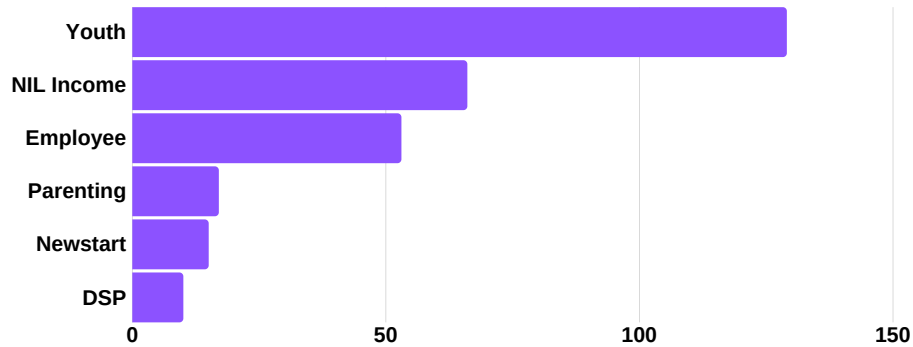
The following graphs identify 'Access composition', categorisation of homelessness in the month before presenting to YPS and the type of Tenure young people had when presenting to YPS for services.



The majority of the young people who accessed YPS SHS program this financial year were accessing Youth Allowance as their primary income. YPS has been active in the 'Raise the Rate' campaign over the last 12 months- advocating for Youth Allowance to be raised to an appropriate level & at least above the poverty line. This campaign gained momentum before the Federal election- however at the conclusion of the processes no increase in Youth Allowance or Newstart was approved by the Federal Government & young people continue to live on \$32 per day.

Income sources included:

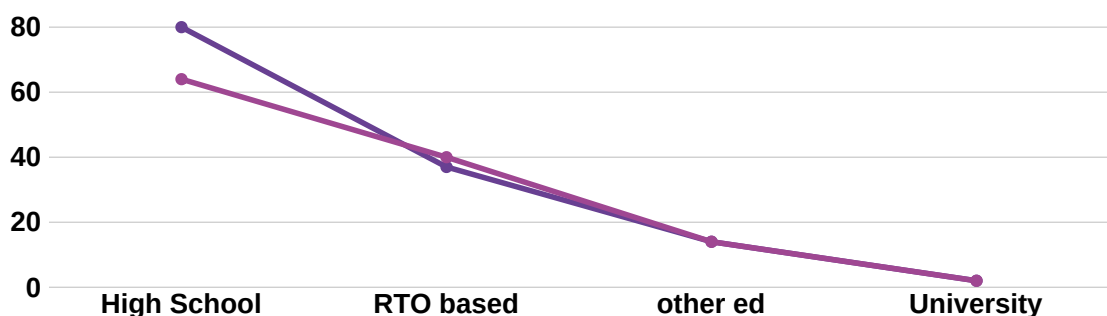
- 1.Youth Allowance
- 2.NIL Income
- 3.Employee income
- 4.Parenting Payment
- 5.Newstart
- 6.DSP



Education, training & employment are key focuses of the SHS system as a strategy to reduce young peoples connection to the homelessness sector & in turn resolve their experience of homelessness. This year access to YPS from young people who were employed on entry was higher then in previous years- suggesting that 'employment' is not neccessarily protecting young people from entering an experience of homelessness as affordability & limited stock continues to impact across the community.

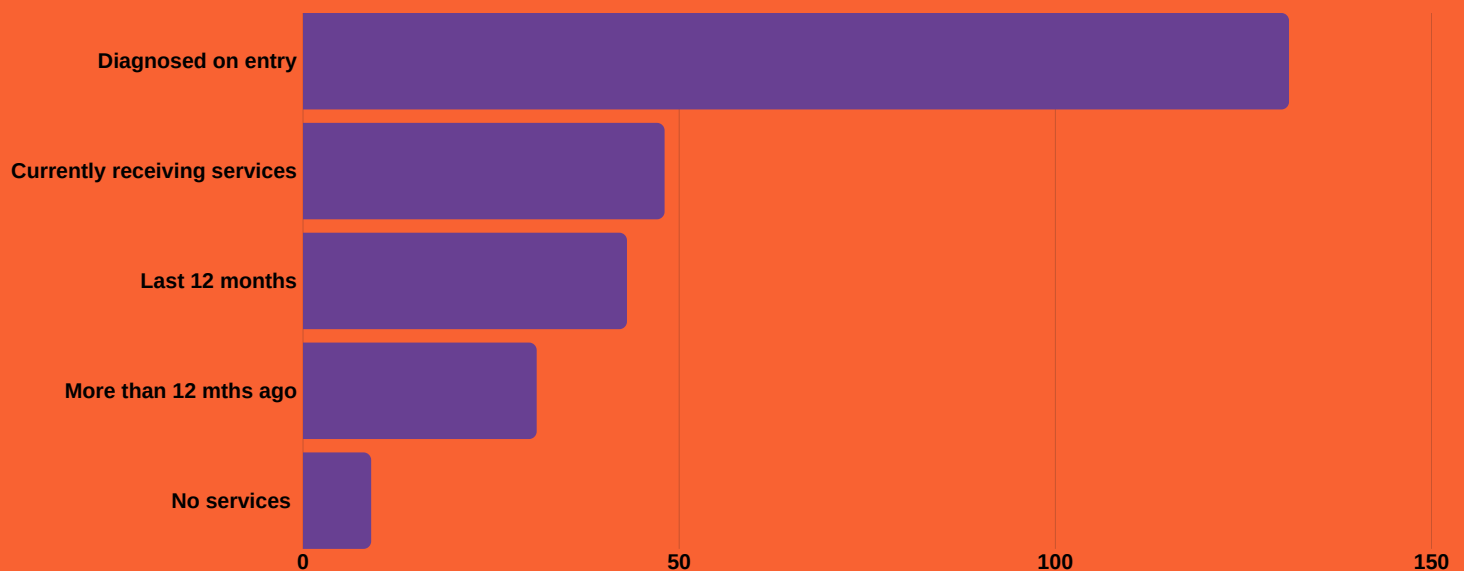


In terms of education, 134 young people were engaged in some form of education &/or training on entry to YPS support. Case Management practices provide targeted support to young people to re-engage young people in education or keep them engaged in education. While YPS has limited control over the education system & their Policies, YPS has been successful in working collaboratively & creatively with schools & RTO's to meet the educational needs of the young people we support. The following graph identifies education/ training type on entry & at exit from YPS support.



As noted referral due to mental health issues- both young people's & their parent/ care givers- has increased this year to be in the top 3 reason for presentation. This has also been evident in the mental health status of children & young people accessing YPS services this year, with a slightly higher number of young people having diagnosed mental health issues on entry to support. 45% (#131) of young people accessing YPS this year had a pre-diagnosed mental health issue, an increase of 5% from last financial year. Again this year, the majority of diagnosis's were related to depression, anxiety & social anxiety- however Borderline Personality Disorder saw a resurgence along with Bi-polar Disorder.

Of the 131 young people accessing with a diagnosis, only 37% (#48) were currently receiving mental health supports, a further 33% (#43) had received services in the last 12 months, 24% (#31) had received services more than 12 months ago & 6% had never received any mental health services past diagnosis.



The services YPS have provided to young people this year have been consistent across all previous years- particularly as the SHS system has a specific role in supporting young people across a holistic platform. The top service responses included:

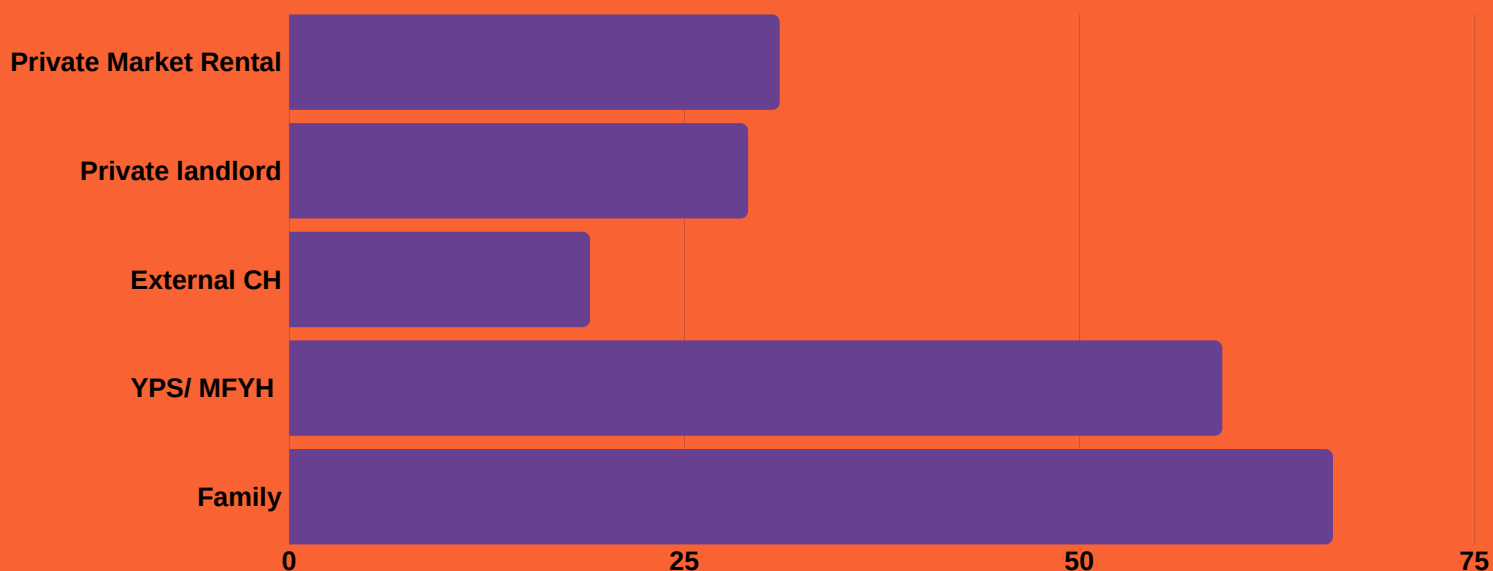
- Advice/ Information
- Living skills/ personal development
- Medium term/ transitional accommodation
- Assistance for DFV
- Advocacy/ liaison on behalf of cyp
- Family/ relationship assistance
- Legal information
- Financial information
- Assistance to sustain tenancy or prevent tenancy failure or eviction
- Assistance to obtain/ maintain Government allowance
- Transport

SHS OUTCOMES

Housing outcomes have been very positive this year- despite the constant tightening of the housing market & the increasing un-affordability of the private sector for our young people.

YPS provided crisis accommodation to 43 young people this year- a reduction from previous years due to the challenges of securing appropriate & safe exit options for these young people. This year the 17 year olds accessed crisis accommodation more frequently than 16 year olds- in contrast to previous years where the young age group required crisis support more frequently.

YPS also supported 146 young people into independent tenancies, across multiple housing types, & supported 66 young people to return to family/ extended family options. Overall 204 positive housing outcomes for our young people.



Support Satisfaction:

YPS participated in the SHS Sector Satisfaction Survey, which measured YPS's success based off feedback from young people accessing our service through the 18/19 financial year. While the number of participants was relatively low, with 29 cyp responding to the survey, the outcomes highlighted by these participants was extremely positive & encouraging.

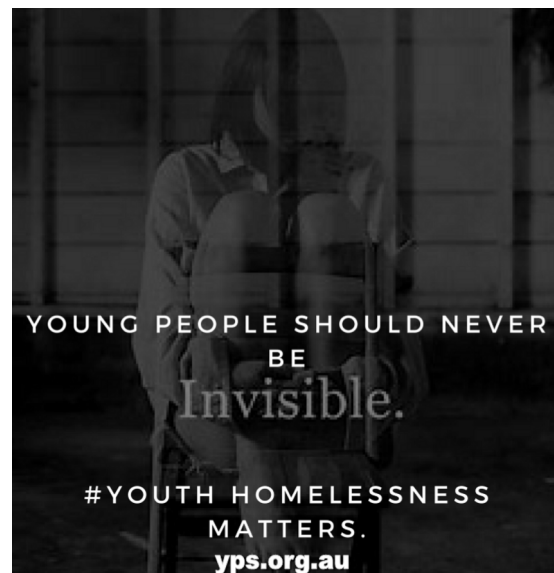
The top response categories for YPS included:

- Staff treated me with respect (100% Positive)
- Staff understood my needs (100% Positive)
- Staff referred me to other services to support my other needs (100% Positive)
- Staff told me bout my accommodation options (100%)

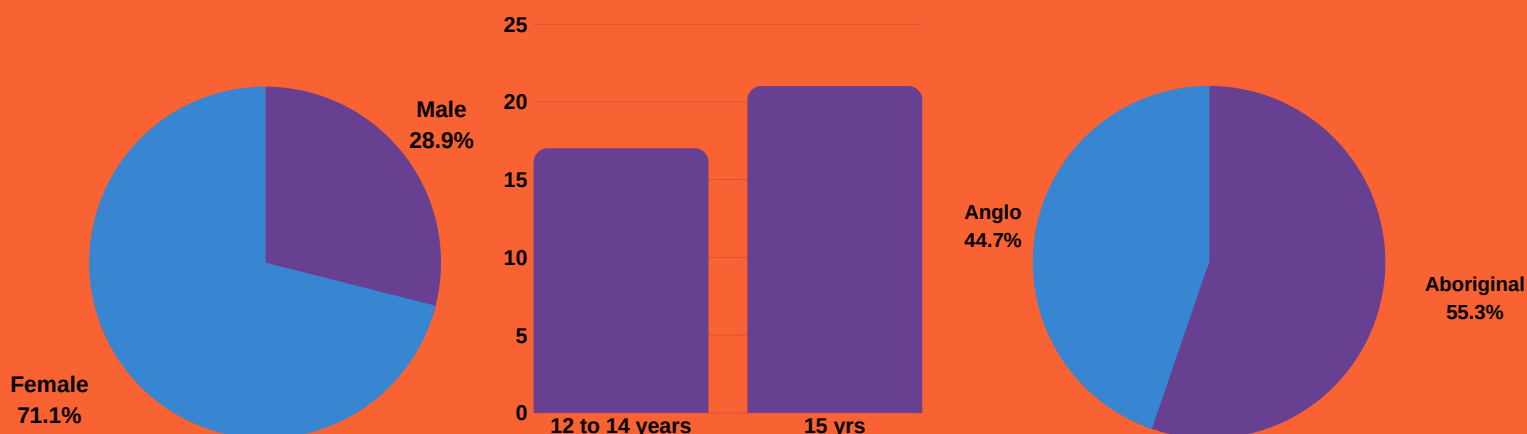
Overall satisfaction with services provided= 96%. This is over the benchmark set for the sector & indicates YPS is on track for meeting the needs & expectations of our young people

HYAP PROGRAM

YPS supported 38 children/ young people with 41 Support Periods from the HYAP program this financial year. Of these cyp 38 accessed requiring a crisis response to homelessness experience & 3 cyp were supported under an early intervention framework before their placement had broken down.



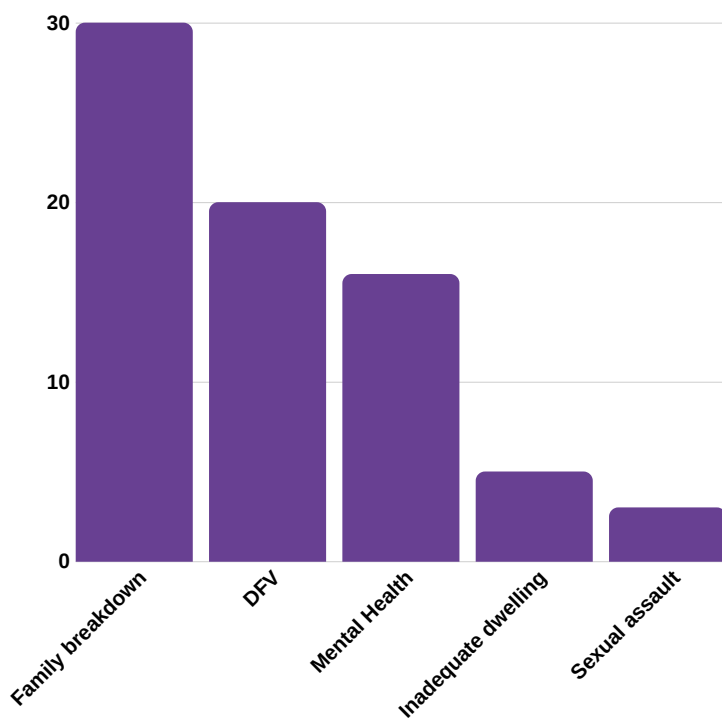
The following charts identify Gender of cyp; Age of cyp & Cultural Identity:



The average length of support this year has been 14 wks (53%), with 29% of cyp accessing services up to 56 wks. Trends indicate that support period time-frames are longer for HYAP cyp than young people over the age of 16 yrs due to the complexities of negotiating with family, FaCS & legislative barriers.

Referral data shows that Schools are the highest referral point for the HYAP cohort followed by family & friends. Word of mouth & promotion of YPS HYAP services by children/ young people has remained a significant source of referral over many years- indicating satisfaction with our services & the willingness to refer other people to our service. Other referral sources include Hospitals, Police, Centrelink, Mental Health services & SHS services.

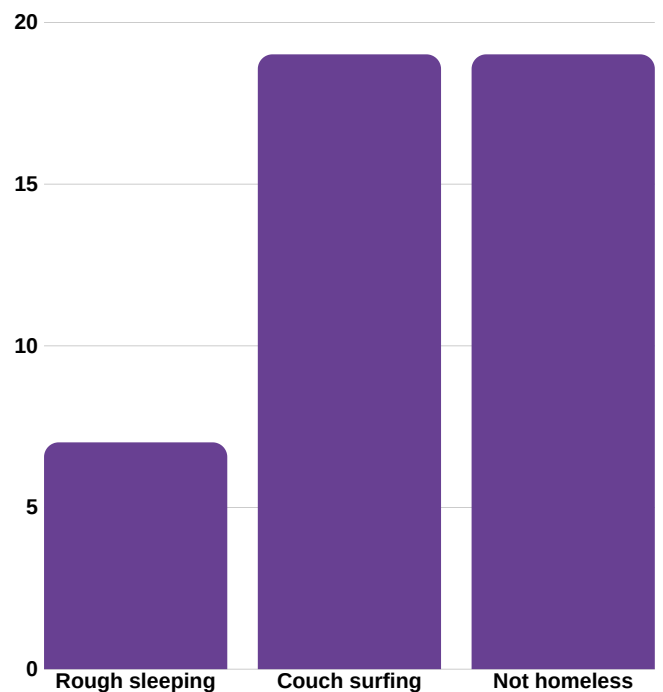




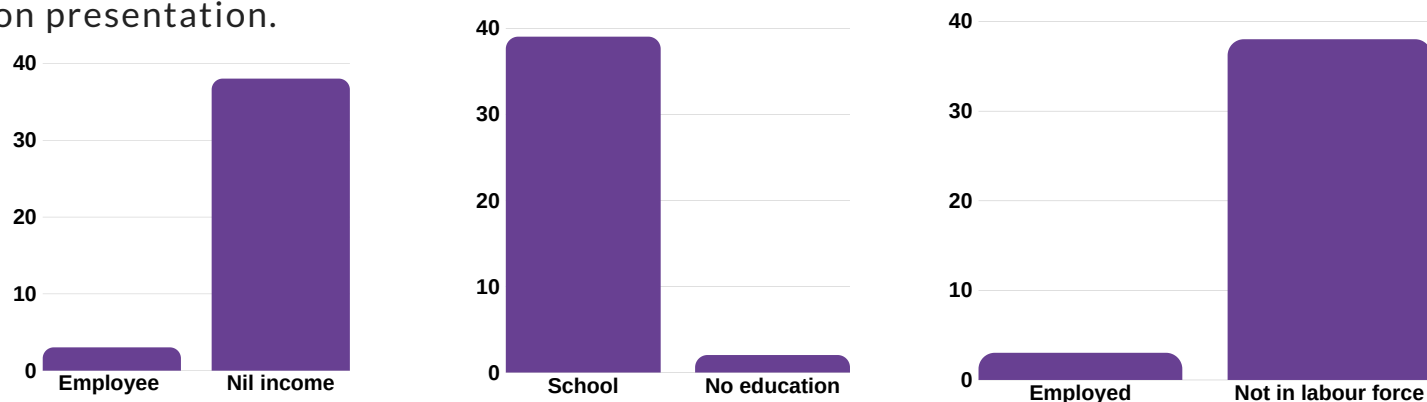
Again this year the main reasons for cyp accessing HYAP services across our region included DFV and Family breakdown. Mental health issues also featured highly for this cohort, as a reason for access, with the context primarily being related to parents mental health & the conflict within the family unit due to this. Sexual assault was also identified as a key reason for cyp accessing HYAP services this year, with YPS working with the JIRT team in a higher capacity across the year due to these presentations.



This year saw an increase in early intervention responses to the HYAP cohort- with YPS being able to provide support & intervention before the family placement had completely broken down. However, crisis response to cyp who had been experiencing primary & secondary homelessness was still a key response type from YPS. The graph identifies that HYAP cyp were experiencing rough sleeping & couch surfing in the 12 months prior to accessing YPS services for support.



In terms of education, training & employment, due to the age range of cyp accessing the HYAP program most are engaged in education as per legislative requirements. 3 of the cyp YPS have supported this year have been employed on a part-time basis, with the remainder not yet in the labour force. The following graph identify Income on presentation, education on presentation & employment on presentation.



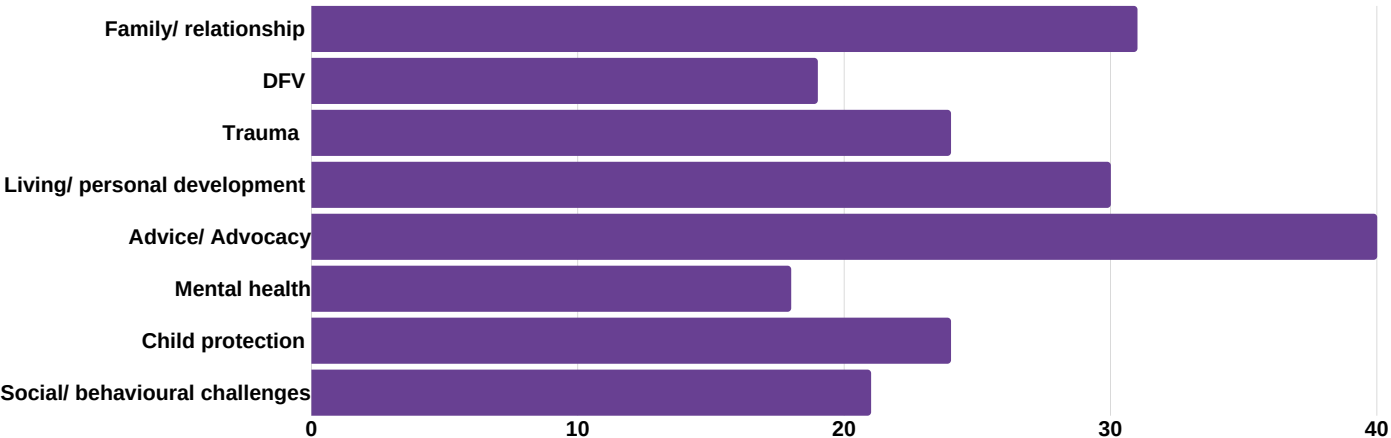
5 of the cyp YPS has provided services to this year have been Parental Responsibility to the Minister (PRM) & engaged with either FaCS or the OoHC system. While these cyp are not the focus of HYAP YPS have provided short-term 24/7 accommodation to these cyp to support their transition to more permanent placements in the OoHC space.

32% (#13) of cyp had been experiencing homelessness for less than one week on presentation, 12% (#5) had been homeless for between 1 week to 1 month, 12% (#5) had benn homeless for more than 1 month but less than 6 months, & 5% (#2) had been experiencing homelessness for more than 5 years.

As noted mental health issues featured strongly in the presentation of cyp accessing support this year. Of the 38 cyp who were supported by YPS 19 (50%) had a diagnosed mental health issue on entry to our service. Of these 19 cyp 15 (79%) were currently & proactively accessing mental health supports &/or had accessed them in the previous 12 months. This is an extremely positive trend as engaging or keeping cyp engaged with their mental health supports has been a challenge in previous years- typically due to cyp having a negative experience or expectation of Mental Health services in our region.



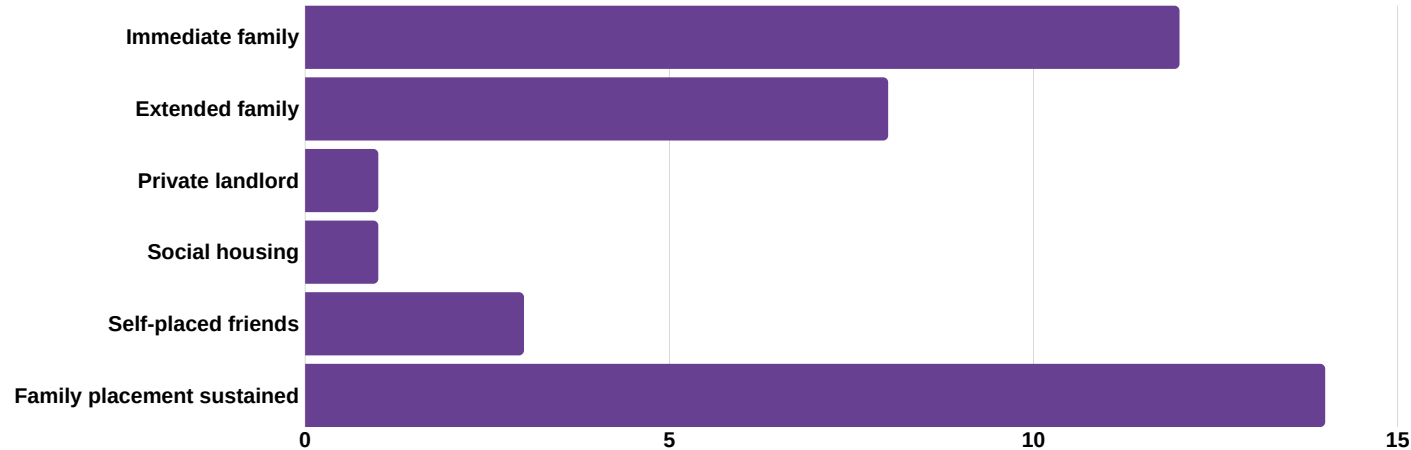
The following graph identifies the key service responses YPS has implemented in the HYAP program this year.



YPS has provided 15 HYAP cyp with 24/7 Supported Crisis Accommodation this year. The average length of stay (33%-#5) has been 4 to 7 days- with cyp being exited back into immediate or extended family placements. 27% (#-4) of cyp have stayed for 2 to 14 weeks & 13% (#-2) have stayed in crisis accommodation for 14 to 26 weeks. The predominant exit point for cyp have been family/ extended family.



YPS has achieved some fantastic outcomes with & for our HYAP cyp this year, particularly in relation to housing outcomes, family restoration & preservation- the core focus of the HYAP program. The following graph identifies housing outcomes achieved this year.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT

It has been a busy year again for the YPS Youth Social Inclusion & Development Worker, as well as the rest of the YPS team across the community development & engagement space.

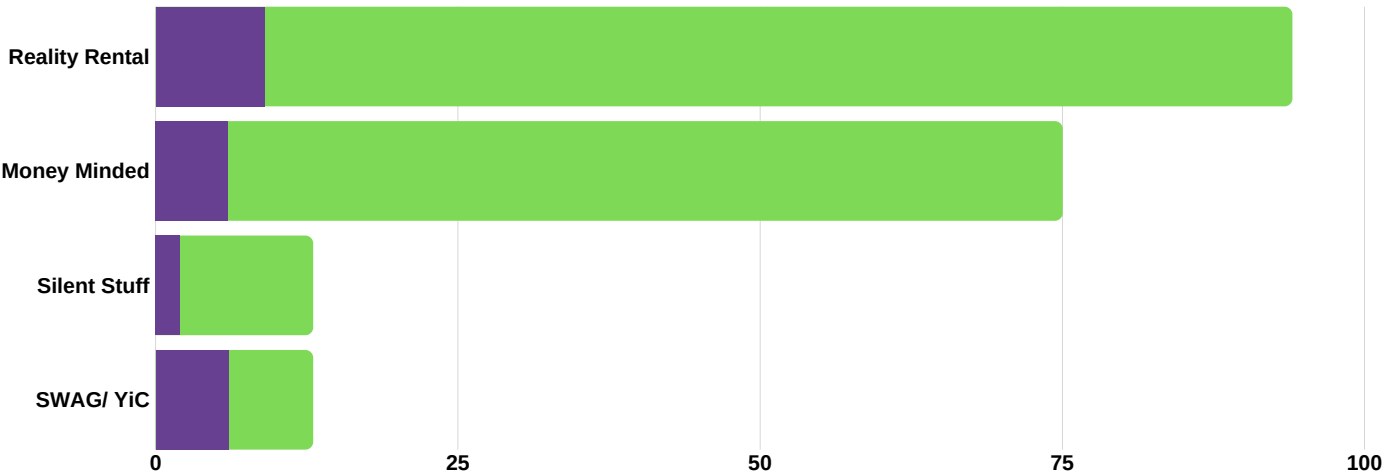
YPS has again taken the lead in coordinating youth services across the Kempsey LGA, with the facilitation of the Kempsey Youth Network & key projects implemented through this network. A significant focus has been engaging with school students to develop their understanding of the supports available to them, as an early intervention strategy, as well as skill development through structured group work programs. The connections & outcomes have been significant & YPS has built a stronger relationship with key education facilities through these programs & as a result of our reputation as a quality provider.



This year has seen YPS group programs strengthen, through the delivery to year 12 students at Kempsey High, & through our ongoing connection to local Real Estate agents who co-facilitate sessions in our Reality Rental program. Providing a space for young people to build their skill sets & develop relationships with key players in the community will provide a stronger foundation for success & sustainability- which has been evident in our housing outcomes this year.

Program Delivery:

The following graphs identify the Programs implemented & the number of children/ young people who have participated this year.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

For the second year YPS took a coordination role in the Kempsey School Connect project- which saw an average of 10 Youth Support Agencies access all local High Schools to provide valuable information to students regarding support options, access pathways to ongoing training, development & employment & capacity building options into their future. The event was highly successful this year with over 1510 students participating & positive feedback obtained in relation to the project.

Due to the success of this project Youth services in Port Macquarie are currently replicating the program to bring this opportunity to students within the Hastings LGA. YPS is supporting the development of this program in Port & will implement it over the next financial year.



Also this year YPS participated in the development & implementation of the following Community Events:

- Mental Health Month
- Youth Pool Party
- YPS Christmas Party
- YPS Youth Consultation
- Dash with a Splash
- Naidoc Week
- YHMD- Conquering MY Everest campaign
- Mental Health Youth Consultation
- Family Fun Day

These community programs provided YPS with the opportunity to connect with over 1200 children, young people & community members & built our presence across the region.



The Everest Fundraiser Campaign has been a major focus for YPS & our partner Port City Bowling Club for the past 12 months & the challenge was conquered by our superhero participants in April this year.

Through this project \$60,000 was raised for YPS through individual fundraising efforts as well as events held by Port City Bowling Club & YPS throughout the year. An outstanding effort from an extraordinary group of people & a supportive community.

A MASSIVE thank you & congratulations to our Everest Crew:

Claudia Buckby

Mali Boller

Ramona Marsters

Damien McAnarney

Amanda Larkin

Michelle Ackerman

Geoff Kelly

Anthony Ali-Saab

Stacey Williams

Bart Lawler

Tracey Hart

Theresa Thorne



COLLABORATION, NETWORKING & SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY

YPS has continually worked to build a strong engagement & advocacy platform- not just in our local areas but also from a State-wide & National perspective. Our team are part of all youth focused Networks & committee's locally and the YPS CEO & OM continue to build our participation in broader systemic focused groups, committee's & Peak Bodies.

YPS has held 4 Youth Consultations this year with our local KMC children & young people, to ensure the voices of our young people inform our practice & programs, & so YPS can advocate & share knowledge with our broader service system to achieve better outcomes for our communities.

YPS also participated in Yfoundations 'Opening the Door' Real Estate Engagement project & through this have built even stronger relationships with our local agents.

The YPS team are currently engaged in the following networks, groups, committee's:

Kempsey Youth Network	Hastings Youth Workers Network
Child & Family Interagencies	Kempsey Community Services
Child/ Adolescent Pathways	Aboriginal Community of Practice
Youth Community of Practice	SHS Aboriginal Reference Group
HYAP Reference Group	Yfoundations HYAP Reference Group
SHS Practitions Advisory Group	Kempsey School Connect
District Homelessness Implementation Group	SHS Induction Training Reference Group
Premiers Priority Steering Group	Bearlay Aboriginal Network
OCG Residential Oversight Working Group	Unaccompanied Minor Response Committee
Yfoundations Board- President	AIHW User Advisory Group
NYHC	Homelessness Australia Board
Yfoundations JJ's Research Committee	Aboriginal Interagency Network
KMC Domestic Violence Monitoring	Lovebites Committee
PaC- Police & Community Network	KMC Healing Together Events Committee

YPS was fortunate to have the new Minister for Regional Youth, Bronnie Taylor, attend our Kempsey Dropin site & speak to young people from Kempsey & Port Macquarie.



SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

Through community youth consultation YPS has continued to address gaps & barriers for children/ young people across our region this year. Children & young people from Kempsey identified a need for a Dropin space- a safe space for children/ young people to attend to access support & have an opportunity to connect with their peers & services in a youth friendly environment. YPS heard the call & have created the 'Kempsey Youth Centre', a Dropin program for our young people. While at the moment this program is unfunded YPS is scoping funding opportunities to ensure this value resource remains available to our community.

YPS will continue to seek input from our children/ young people to ensure service responses meet the needs of our cohorts & to advocate appropriately with the power's that be for the youth of our communities. Further developments have been planned into the coming year & we look forward to working with our young people to meet their needs.

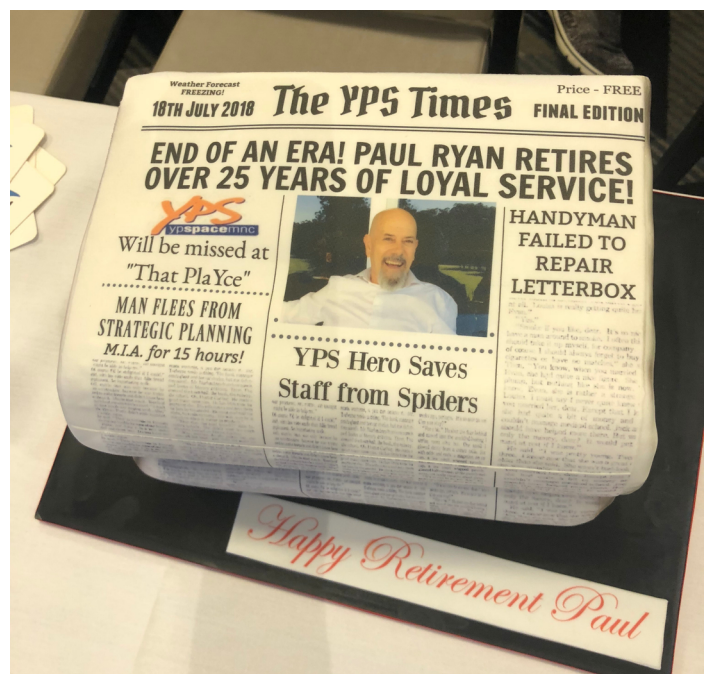
YPS is now in its fourth (4) year of the Social Enterprise takeaway. During this time, we have provided over 10 traineeships, with some Jnrs undertaking their second traineeship in Business Management. This has by far exceeded our expectations. To date all of the Jnrs after their traineeship/s have remained in the workforce.

We recently relocated the takeaway, reducing overheads. Our market research also informed the decision to branch into Kebabs & Vegetarian food- providing the opportunity for a stronger revenue base.



A SPECIAL FAREWELL

This year YPS said farewell to longtime Case Worker Paul Ryan as he retired from the sector. Paul had been working for YPS (across our multiple name changes) for 34 years- working with young people to achieve some fantastic outcomes & helping support our young people to thrive. Paul had a fierce dedication to social justice & never stopped fighting for young people's rights. YPS wishes Paul the best of luck for his retirement & thanks him for his many years of service to our young people & community.



RAMONA MARSTERS- MACLEAY YOUNG WOMEN OF THE YEAR!

This year one of YPS's own was recognised by the Kempsey/ Macleay area for her outstanding contribution to our community. Ramona was named 'Young Women of the Year'- an achievement she not only thoroughly deserves but that recognises her commitment to positive change for all young people in our community. Ramona you are a legend - your skills & talents shine through in all that you do. Congratulations!

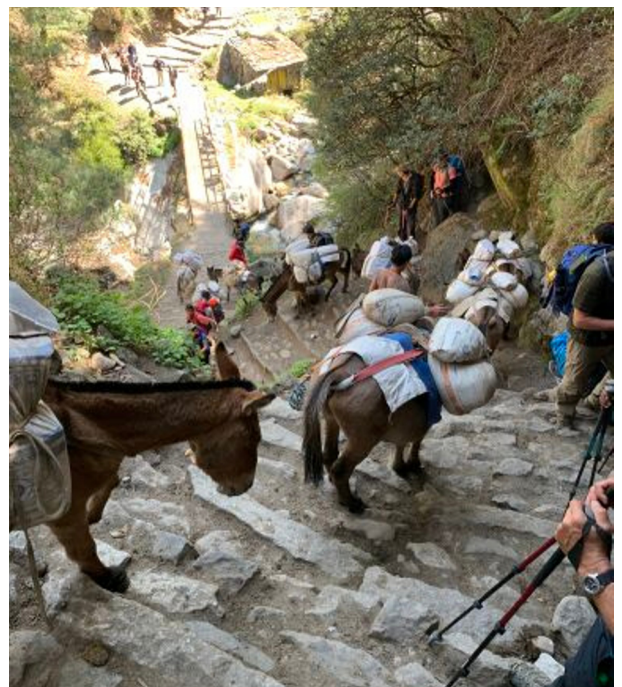


A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONATORS

YPS has been completely overwhelmed by the generosity of our community over the last 12 months.

Donations have been received from:

- Port City Bowling Club
- Kendall Community Op Shop
- South West Roxy Cinema
- Rotary- Port Macquarie
- A1 Duct Cleaning
- Hastings Secondary College
- Quest Tap
- Paypal Giving



FINANCIAL REPORT

YP SPACE is in a strong financial position to continue its work for Homeless Youth on the Mid North Coast. YP SPACE MNC Incorporated has received funding for the 2018/2019 financial year from the Department of Family and Community Services for the SHS and HYAP programs.

YP SPACE holds a Term Deposit for staff entitlements. In December 2018, the balance of \$150019.71 was held by Bendigo bank. Interest earned to that date was credited of \$3600.47. The deposit was then transferred into a Term Deposit and topped up from previous years entitlements. We now hold entitlements of \$229873.70 at 2% to mature on 19 December 2019.

YP SPACE continues to be well supported by the Port City Bowling Club with the following donations

Monthly Staff Donations	\$6175.58
Club Raffle	\$1469.90

Port City Bowling Club has also provided YP SPACE with a \$5000 grant for brokerage to be used to provide white goods for young people moving into a tenancy. The generosity of the staff of Port City Bowling Club has been greatly appreciated by YP SPACE.

Other donations include:

Port Macquarie Rotary Club	\$ 1650.00
A1 Duct Cleaning (café contractor)	\$ 200.00
Hastings College	\$ 300.00
Kendall Op Shop	\$ 1000.00
South West Rocks Cinema	\$ 1183.15
Raffles, Donation Tins, Bottle Refunds	\$ 1046.40
Go Fund Me, Quest Tap & PayPal Giving	\$28040.26

YP SPACE have been fortunate in the generosity of our local communities and are greatly appreciative of the enormous financial support they give.

CAFÉ & TAKEAWAY

In November 2018, YP SPACE Association purchased 2 properties at 14 & 16 Elbow St, Kempsey. A Drop-in centre has been set up at 16 Elbow St and a Takeaway kebab shop will be set up at 14 Elbow St to open in August 2019. That Playce Café will eventually be moved to the takeaway shop thus reducing the cost of rent, which will make a huge difference to the café's bottom line.

As expected the café continued to run at a loss during the 2018 /2019 financial year, however continues in its success to train and support young people. The purchase of the new buildings should assist in reducing overheads and also allows YP SPACE to investigate new ways to save funds such as solar panels etc.

Lorraine Williamson
Finance