

2021/2022

ANNUAL REPORT



YPSpace MNC

PREPARED BY
Deb Tougher





TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 YPSpace OVERVIEW
- 4 PRESIDENT REPORT
- 5 CEO REPORT
- 7 CASE WORK REPORT
- 10 OUTREACH REPORT
- 16 FUNDRAISING HIKE FOR HOMELESS
- 17 2021-2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our Purpose

YPSpace MNC (“YPS”) is a Specialist Youth Homelessness Service (SHS) providing assistance to Young People aged between 12 & 25 years old, living in Kempsey (Dunghutti Country) & Port Macquarie (Birpai Country), on the Mid North Coast of NSW.

YPS is a registered charity whose purpose is to help Young People who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, by providing 24/7 crisis accommodation, medium and long term accommodation support, outreach programs and training. YPS works collaboratively and pro-actively with all levels of government, NGOs, Youth & Community Services to provide Sustainable Housing Solutions for Young People, through:



President Report

Dear Team and Community

It is with pride that I write this President's report. Supporting Young People in our communities is such an important task and I believe YPSpace is making a difference in addressing youth homelessness.

You will likely note as you read this report that all the achievements are born from the amazing team that make up YPSpace. The new leadership style and structure have settled, creating a culture of collaboration and collegiality. New initiatives for well-being have been implemented to support the recognition of the commitment of the team and we intend to keep growing on this in the future. We continually look for ways to improve and do things better using a strengths-based framework in all that we do and as a result, the team are thriving!

YPSpace has been fortunate to be in the position to be able to purchase Gnurra (The Park), an exciting and innovative plan to create more accommodation solutions for young people. This has brought the community together, sharing ideas and resources and Gnurra is progressing nicely. I can't tell you how excited we all are to be watching this happen!

YPSpace has increased our community activity, being involved in more networks and events than ever before, such as the Mid North Coast Youth Workers Conference. The programs such as reality rentals and coaching YP 4 success support positive outcomes by providing education about living and social skills. Together all of this not only means holistic service delivery for young people by developing and maintaining relationships but an increased awareness of what we do, how we do it and how we can all work together as a community to address the crisis many of our young people are experiencing.

I can confidently speak on behalf of the Board of Directors that we are proud to be associated with YPSpace and look forward to another successful year.

Regards

Katrina Cameron

President of the Board of Directors.

CEO Report

Members, Staff and Community Stakeholders,

As the CEO of YPSpace MNC it is my privilege to provide my first report on behalf of the amazing group of people who are YPSpace, following my first full year as CEO.

From the outset I have been overwhelmed by the commitment and capability of YPSpace staff to meet the needs of Young People at risk across the Mid North Coast. Equally, I have been overwhelmed by the support I have received from all staff and the Board of Directors in finding my feet in a new industry. Thank you.

2021-2022 has been a time of positive growth in culture, reach and reputation for YPSpace. Alongside the adoption of new staff welfare policies including an annual retreat, monthly rostered days off and regular group training, we are continuing to forge new partnerships with community stakeholders across the Kempsey / Dunghutti and Port Macquarie / Birpai regions that are yielding new opportunities and holistic solutions for Young People, at a time where the need is growing rapidly across our communities and beyond.

YPSpace has strengthened its financial position, organisational sustainability and future capacity through:

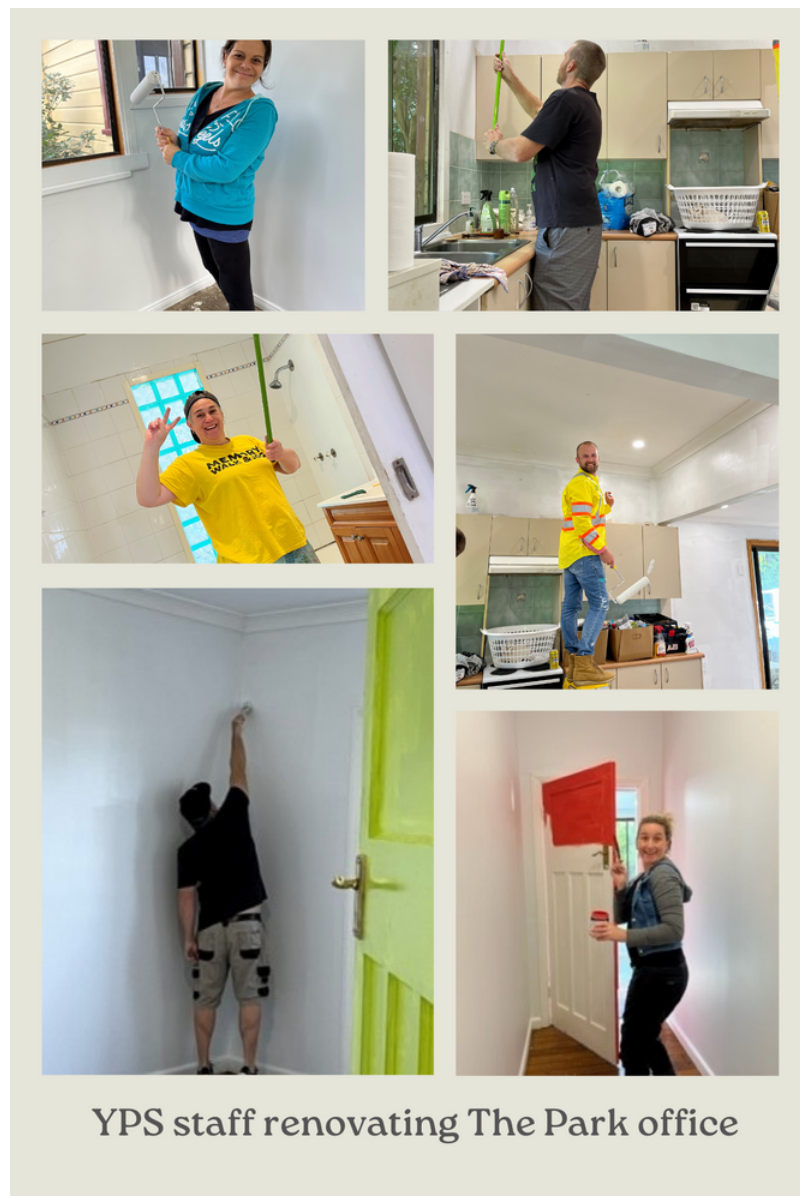
- Adoption of clearer accounting & financial management processes
- Adoption of new reporting processes to enable informed strategic and operational decision making, budgeting and forecasts
- Increased focus on service delivery quality and outcomes
- Development and adoption of a new strategic plan and direction for YPS
- Organisational re-design to improve service delivery, consistency, capability and staff satisfaction across multiple service areas, including:
 - o Revised leadership structure including clear lines of communication and accountability
 - o Collaborative, open and transparent decision making
 - o Increased delegation and multi-skilling across all staff, enabling informed decision making at all levels as well as clear pathways and internal career opportunities for staff
- Rationalisation and disposal of non-core business activities and assets including:
 - o Ceased trading in 2 cafés that had shown to be unprofitable
 - o Sale of 2 shopfronts in Elbow St Kempsey & a single house in Cameron St Wauchope
- Purchase and development of “Gnurra” (The Park) in Belgrave St Kempsey

The coming year will see Gnurra come to life. Our head office is already located at the park, along with 10 cabins to be used for Youth Housing in the very near future. A number of hurdles have been overcome to enable this project and we are continuing to work with all our stakeholders to ensure the best outcome for the community. A taste of what's to come can be found in this annual report and I look forward to reporting our progress at this and other locations in the near future.

Yours Sincerely

Caleb Rose

Caleb Rose - Chief Executive Officer



Case Work Report

Wow what a year it has been!

YPS Case Workers and RESI are the heart soul of YPS and without them, we all would not be working at YPS. Staff go above and beyond to support, motivate and advocate for the Children and Young People (CYP) they work with.

I would like to congratulate them all the hard work they do.

CYP accessing YPSpace has increased by 25%. This is an additional 41 CYP needing support from YPS in 2020-2021 financial year.

YPS Case Workers have between 8-12 CYP People on their caseload at a time ranging from low to high needs.

The top four reasons CYP are accessing YPS for support are family breakdown, domestic and family violence, mental health and housing crisis. These numbers have increased due to COVID and the current housing crisis gripping all of Australia.

YPS has access to several housing products to assist with affordable housing and ongoing wrap around supports for CYP. This is through housing agreements with My Foundations Youth Housing, Mission Australia Housing and Community Housing. We also have access to Rent Choice Youth a program that helps CYP ages 16 to 24 find a private rental or stay in a currently rental with a 3-year tapering rent assistance and ongoing support during the 3 years.

Total YP supported 2021-2022 financial year

HYAP 29

SHS 162

Housing Outcomes

HYAP 17

the remainder 12 are still receiving on-going support

SHS 119

the remainder 43 are still receiving on-going support



Staff have participated in many trainings and workshops over the last 12 months.

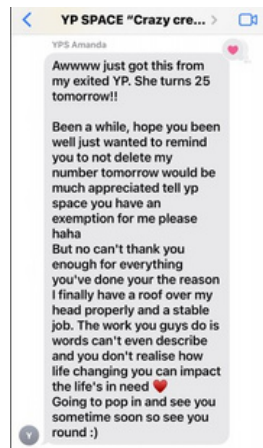
- Money Minded Training – Facilitator training.
- Suicide and Self harm prevention.
- Fire Safety Evacuation Training.
- Trauma Informed Workforce Counselling.
- JCPRP - Child abuse workshop.

Upcoming staff training will include:

- Sticky Stuff.
- Leadership Culture: Align + Unify. (Leadership Team)
- Cultural Awareness.

YPS has supported four TAFE/UNI students to complete their placement hours over the last financial year.

We had a great Christmas Party last year!



Here are just a couple of the grateful feedback messages the case workers receive throughout the year.



Weekend Outings

Weekend outings have been introduced for the Children and Young People residing in house. The first day out was held at Billabong Zoo. We received a fantastic offer from the zoo, which included a cheetah experience and a snake experience. The YP loved it and we will be organising more outings for weekends and school holidays. The umbrellas were kindly donated to us by our friends at Future Planning.



Andrea Davidson

Case Work Manager

Outreach Report

Workshops and Events



YPSpace regularly facilitate skill development workshops for the Children and Young People we support. The aim is to increase their life skills so they are able to live independently. The main programs we run are: Reality Rentals, Money Minded and Coaching Young People for Success.

YPSpace attends many community events to increase our profile amongst the general population to build awareness, understanding and support.

YPSpace was instrumental in organising the inaugural MNC Youth Workers Conference, which attracted over 100 youth workers from Taree to Coffs Harbour.



Other events attended throughout the year included Homeless Persons week activities, Kempsey Community Wellbeing Day, Ride the Wave Festival, Dash with a splash and Regional Women's yarn up. Covid restricted the amount of events that were taking place throughout the year.



Ride the Wave Festival



Dash with a Splash

Community Wellbeing Day Kempsey



Grants

YPSpace had success with grants applications over the past year, bringing in a total of \$72,586. YPSpace is extremely thankful to all the following grant providers for giving us the opportunity to provide better outcomes for YP in our service.

- Stronger Country Communities Fund 3A - Youth Projects- TREK **\$54,936**.

The TREK project provided YP in Kempsey a safe space to access essential supports and links to community resources. This assisted with the drop in set up and program implementation such as Reality Rentals and Money Minded.

- Youth Opportunities Program DCJ- Podcast Project **\$10,000**.

This grant provided the funds to set up the “What Matters to You(th)” podcast program. This involved staff and YP training, equipment purchase and gift cards. Season 1 is available on Spotify.



Podcast host Em with interviewee Bec

- Youth Grant Program Kempsey Council **\$2,200**. Purchased fitness equipment for use by residents within the service. BoostYouth will encourage young people experiencing homelessness to add exercise to their daily routine to decrease stress, anxiety, depression & promote better mental & physical health
- Community Grant Port Macquarie- Hastings Council **\$1,950**. BoostYouth will resource the YPS Youth Refuge with fitness equipment for use by residents within the service.
- Community Connection Grants Kempsey Shire Council **\$500.00**
This grant funded a community BBQ and Buddy Bench painting day.
- Community University Partnerships (CUP) Grant. Charles Sturt University. **\$1000**. This funded the beginning of a vegetable garden. This involved the purchase of three garden beds, soil, seedlings and garden tools.
- Thankful to the Greater Bank and everyone who voted for us in Greater Bank community group competition. We won **\$2000**, which we used to purchase flooring for 11 cabins.

Donations

YPSpace is very grateful to the following people, services and organisations for generously donating to our organisation throughout the year. Every little bit of assistance helps.

- Rotary Sunrise \$2000
- Rotary West \$5000
- Corrine Cunningham \$500 % McGrath Real Estate \$500
- Wauchope Patchwork Quilters Inc \$2000
- Nathan Wilson Licensed Estate Agent \$250
- Geoffrey Grahame \$500
- Donations via YPS website \$19,118
- Oz Harvest supplies fresh food every week.
- Regional College Port Macquarie donated 20 dignity bags, sleeping bags and blankets put together by a student.
- Sam's "Natty Knitters Knitting & Crocheting for the homeless and Rotary Club of Port Macquarie West Inc donated bags and bags of hand knitted beanies, blankets, socks and scarves.
- Inner Vision Surf N Skate donated a skateboard deck as a raffle prize.
- Share the Dignity donates toiletries and feminine hygiene products throughout the year.
- Coastal Music donated a ukulele as a raffle prize.
- Pretty Rad Store donated several items as raffle prizes.
- Stoney Aqua Park donated a family pass as a raffle prize.
- Sages and Sistahood donated a candle voucher as a raffle prize.
- Cassera's Pastry & Bakehouse supplying left over food and bread.
- Blackboy Creations donated proceeds from a luncheon.



Memberships

YPSpace representatives have joined several organisations and interagency groups to keep abreast of local issues and to increase our profile within community. The main memberships are listed below:

- Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce
- Hastings Business Women's Network
- Port Macquarie Homelessness Interagency
- Hastings Youth Worker Interagency
- Macleay Youth Interagency (chair)
- Hastings Homelessness Interagency
- Kempsey Housing Partnership Group

Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

A working group is working towards creating an Innovate Plan. An Innovate plan is valid for 2 years and will cost \$750.




Blackboy Creations

Social Media

YPSpace has increased their profile on several social media platforms to boost awareness of who we are and what we do. It is also a fantastic tool used to celebrate outcomes, sponsors and supporters. YPSpace now has a presence on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn and the numbers of followers is building. One thing we love to share on social media is a good news story. These give the public a glimpse into what we do everyday.


YPS Good News Stories



A Case worker recently re - housed a young woman where she was living in an unsafe and over crowded situation.

With the support of her case worker and appropriate referrals and classes, the young woman worked through personal challenges and was reunited with her young baby.

The young woman is now living independently, with 50% care of her son and doing amazingly...



YPS Good News Stories



A Case worker recently re - housed a young woman after years of couch surfing, often in unsafe situations. Years of living in survival mode had deteriorated her mental health and she struggled to see a future for herself..

With the support of her case worker, the young woman has secured a long term rental property and 2 jobs.

The young woman is now looking forward to her future...



Fundraising "Hike for Homeless"



- Huma Charity Challenge – is a division of the World Expeditions Travel Group.
- The Huma Charity Challenge brand was founded in 2013 as a separate division to specialise in Charity Challenges. Huma has collaborated with hundreds of charities across the globe and raised over \$6 million for charities.
- The fundraising target for each participant is \$2500. We will raise over \$35,000 for YpSpace if all the places on the trek are filled.
- Encourages a massive fundraising and awareness campaign spanning several months.
- Several staff members participate in the challenge to promote YPS to other participants on the trek.
- Sponsorship packages available \$5,000; \$3000: \$2500 (crew sponsor)

Deb Tougher

Outreach Manager