



Forum Summary

National Youth Strategy Conversation

Port Augusta YAC

TOPIC ONE: THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR YOUNG AUSTRALIANS

- *What role do you think the Australian Government should have in supporting young people to develop positively?*
 - Funding for relevant programs and youth services
 - Promoting early intervention and prevention strategies

- *How do you think the Government should communicate the National Strategy?*
 - Networking: promoting and connecting with young people in a user friendly way i.e. Facebook, television advertisements, magazines, radio.
 - Smaller agencies and organizations who might be involved in implementing the National Strategy would also benefit from developing facebook accounts to promote their involvement in the strategy; and also the services they have available for young people.

TOPIC TWO: THE VISION

- *What do you think is important for young people?*
 - Participants reported family, education, basic human necessities, social life and safe but fun social activities as the most important things for young people.
 - It was indicated that existing 'Youth Opportunity' Personal Leadership Programs - focused around topics such as self-esteem and planning for the future – have been valuable to those who have previously participated in them, and would prove beneficial for all young people to be involved in.
 - A greater knowledge of what services are available and how to access them is needed for young people.
 - It was reported that young people require a broader range of youth services that are more appealing, friendlier and approachable. Participants stated there needs to be more places for young people to go, where they actually WANT to and look forward to going.

- *How can we make this vision a reality?*

- Reach rural and remote locations, rather than focusing predominately on metropolitan areas.

- Early intervention and prevention – it was reported by participants, at present it appears as though information is being received too late.

- Participants suggested;

- Youth programs, starting at a younger age 12-24
- SACE Subject: Allocated in year 11, advance on within PLP (pastoral care)
- Intensive day long youth workshops
- Incentives: SACE and TAFE points, Awards etc.

To promote topics such as self esteem, self confidence, planning for the future and employment, communication and any other relevant topics arising in young people's lives.

- *What are some practical ideas to help communicate this vision to young people?*

- Information promoted should be more suited to and understandable for young people.

- As reported earlier, it is important to connect in a user friendly and appealing way to the target audience, i.e. facebook, television advertisements, magazines and radio.

- It was also identified that to reach a greater number of young people, the National Strategy Vision could be promoted at community events, school assemblies and in local newspapers.

TOPIC THREE: THE GOALS

- *How can we make these goals achievable?*

- Promote to young people through the use of letters, internet and radio - must be presented in a targeted format; appealing, easy to read and understand.

- Address these topics further within the school environment, possibly incorporated into educational curriculum; to ensure the right skills are being taught and attended to at an earlier age.

- *What is already happening in your community that helps young people achieve these goals?*

- Promotion through youth groups such as Port Augusta Youth Advisory Committee, Youth Health Advisory Committee, Port Augusta Youth Advisory Group (representation from local organizations), Church 'Kid's Clubs', SLC – opportunity to increase the level of support and promotion provided by these groups.

- *Is there any area you can identify where young people are not meeting these goals? What can we do to prevent this?*

- Participants indicated young people are currently lacking in information and support relating to work experience and planning for future employment. Following are the strategies presented as ways to tackle these gaps;

- More information and awareness regarding work experience; better preparation - begin planning ahead, what options are available, investigating areas of employment they may be interested in, expectations whilst on work experience, their rights as students etc.
- Increased work experience opportunities.
- Subject advisors to be compulsory in assisting with planning for future employment; what are they interested in doing later in life, support in exploring different fields of employment, what subjects should be taken (participants identified within their schools, they are expected to use a subject manual – some have found it difficult to determine which subjects will most benefit their plans for the future and which subjects are compulsory to meet requirements of specific university courses etc.)
- More support and information from schools and employers (it was discussed that young people are often not aware that they can seek work experience opportunities in their desired field of employment out of school hours and during school holidays – unaware that showing the initiative to do so, is often looked upon favorably by employers).
- Greater understanding of alternative choices i.e. school based apprenticeships, as well as support in transitioning from school to TAFE or University.

TOPIC FOUR: CORE PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

It was identified that acceptance and feeling good about yourself is fundamental for young people in achieving progress in relation to all of the areas addressed – either this is what is required in order to partake effectively, or, it is what these areas should/will encourage.

1-Schools, Institutes and Universities

- Availability in rural areas, costs in relocating to areas with greater access to education and employment, more trades, apprenticeships and courses, courses by correspondence, knowledge of what is available, education around life skills e.g. Budgeting, cooking, and living independently.

Programs working: Youth opportunities, PLP, Independent Living Skills Program (RYC)

2-Family

- Healthy relationships, money, treatment towards each other, amiability, adolescent independence, understanding of and agreement to boundaries for everyone in family, leniency.

- Parenting advice, more communication, promoting and seeing approachable counselors and services, confidentiality.

Programs working: Reconnect, Youth services

3-Community:

- Self-esteem, acceptance, inclusivity, interactive
- Promoting positive ways to be accepted into the community, better the self-esteem then the more involved and connected they will be with family, focus on the positive within the media rather than negative, social values, use more finance into events decided and run by the youth

Programs Working: Sport, Discos, YAC

4-Cyber Bullying:

- Being bullied and then bullying, interpretation of and reaction to what has been said, lowered self esteem at times resulting in self-harm.
- Knowledge of where to go for help, organised confrontation/mediation, learning to handle the issue, developing conscience through age , understanding of consequences.

5-Job importance:

- Money, understanding of need to be able to support yourself and family.

This area was discussed in detail throughout Topic Four (please refer to previous notes).

Programs Working: Youth Opportunities, Work Experience

6-Helping Young People:

- Identifying issue, solving and preventing future problems, it becomes worse with no acknowledgement.
- Early education, having the information ready for those struggling, business sized cards for local youth organizations available.

7-Consequences for behavior:

- Equal rights, same rules apply for everyone, consequences depending on action, repeat offending etc.
- Hard to define, as ultimately it comes down to the severity and intention of the act.

Programs Working: Operation Flinders

The young people involved in this forum were appreciative that the Government has recognized the importance of collaboration with those who will ultimately be affected by this strategy. Listening to the opinions of young people ensures the increased likelihood of greater outcomes.