

Supplementary questions

YP SPACE MNC (YPS)

1. How long has the issue of youth crime been prevalent in your region and why do you think it's continued?

The issue of youth crime has been an ongoing issue in Kempsey for many years, however it has escalated in the past 2 years. Youth crime is a regular topic at Macleay Youth Interagency meetings, and the issues contributing to it are complex and deeply entrenched.

The children involved in these activities are carrying the weight of intergenerational trauma, living in poverty-stricken conditions that include hunger, malnutrition, overcrowded housing, and exposure to domestic and family violence. There is also a high rates of undiagnosed disabilities and mental health issues—including foetal alcohol spectrum disorder. They are disconnecting and engaging in anti-social behaviour at increasingly younger ages.

Disconnection from school and truancy are contributing factors towards youth crime. Truancy Officers have large areas to cover and this adds to children and young people not attending school. School refusal is rising, and for many, a lack of accessible after-hours activities only deepens their sense of boredom and disconnection.

The young people are lacking basic life skills, which compounds their challenges. There is a general distrust of government and programs.

2. With respect to any programs you deliver for young people for which you receive funding:

a. How many programs are you currently delivering and what is each program called?

Reality Rentals, Money Minded, Coaching YP for Success, Specialist Homelessness Service (SHS) and Homeless Youth Assistance Program (HYAP).

b. What is the purpose and audience of each program?

Reality Rentals: Tenancy management

Audience: Children and Young People 16-25years who are experiencing homelessness.

Aim: We equip Children and Young People with the skills needed to successfully secure and maintain a rental property. The program covers tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities, the rental application process, legal documentation, rental bonds, Bond loans, electricity, condition report, and family and domestic violence awareness.

Money Minded: Financial management

Audience: Children and Young People 16-25years who are experiencing homelessness.

Aim: Money Minded is an education program that builds knowledge and confidence to help Children and Young People to make informed decisions about how to manage money.

We provide Children and Young People with essential financial management skills, covering topics like budgeting and spending wisely, credit cards, taxes, superannuation, recognising scams, managing debt, and building savings.

Coaching YP for Success:

Audience: Children and Young People 16-25 years who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Aim: We support young people in identifying their strengths, skills, and life aspirations, helping them set personal, educational, and career goals based on these insights.

SHS

Audience: Children and Young People 16-25 years who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Aim: To help young people find suitable long-term housing, whether with family or independently, we provide crisis accommodation, transitional housing, and outreach support. Additionally, we offer a range of skill-building programs to enhance their success in securing and maintaining a rental property and living independently. We have 24/7 supported crisis accommodation available across Kempsey and Port Macquarie for children aged 16 to 17 years.

HYAP

Audience: Children 12-15 years who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Aim: Our primary goal is early intervention, family preservation, ensuring Children and Young People stay connected to family, friends, school, and employment or training opportunities. We have 24/7 supported crisis accommodation available across Kempsey and Port Macquarie for this age group.

c. How many young people do you have on your books within each of the programs that you deliver?

On the 6th November 2024 we are supporting 96 Children and Young People who are linked with our service under the SHS or HYAP program.

d. How many full-time equivalent staff in each program?

Workshops: 2

SHS: 8 caseworker staff during 9am to 5pm and (after hours from 5pm to 9am we have permanent part-time staff totalling 8)

HYAP: 2

e. How many days per week are you doing direct engagement with young people in each program?

Workshops: 1 day per month each, however this will increase to daily support once the Drop In opens in December 2024. YPS will aim to offer afterhours support 3 evenings per week until 8 pm.

SHS: 5 days per week (Monday to Friday)

HYAP: 5 days per week (Monday to Friday)

f. How many (if any) young people are on waiting lists or have been referred for each program but are not able to be supported at the moment?

We don't currently have a wait list for the SHS, HYAP or workshop programs.

3. In your evidence you raised concerns that police weren't aware of the Bail Accommodation and Support Service and that this may account for the low number of referrals. How do you collaborate with police to ensure awareness and uptake of services you provide?

The Bail and Accommodation Support Service (BASS)

Deb has spoke with [REDACTED] yesterday at a DCJ meeting, and she informed him that police stated they were unaware of the BASS program and YP are not being referred. He suggested an YPS rep attend the next Sergeant's meeting to explain the program. I suggested YJ also attend this meeting.

Andrea has also reached out to YJ to organise a meeting where Police, YJ and YPS can discuss program. Andrea has spoken to [REDACTED] about doing an in service at the

Sergeants meeting. Andrea has also reached out to the BASS Program Manager to also be part of the in-service meeting.

YJ (BASS) has been invited to be the guest speaker at the next Macleay Youth Interagency to inform network of program to increase awareness and hopefully promote more and referrals- by services badgering YJ and police.

4. Your website states that part of your work involves 'enhancing the capacity of communities to understand and support children and young people in a safe and respectful way'. Could you tell us more about how you undertake this outreach?

YP SPACE provides youth accommodation and development services in the areas of crisis & transitional housing, early intervention & prevention, as well as skill development and capacity building. We support youth in acquiring independent living skills and reuniting with family. Soon to open a Youth Drop In in Kempsey. The drop-in will be located within 'The Ngurra Youth Housing' project in town. We aim to open three nights a week till 8pm.

The primary objective of YPS Outreach Managers role is to increase YP SPACE's brand visibility, raise awareness about youth homelessness, and combat the stigma associated with it. This is accomplished by:

Having an active social media presence: social media is a powerful tool that not only amplifies our brand but also helps secure future corporate partnerships, raise awareness, and strengthen grant applications. This growth has expanded our digital reach, enhancing our efforts to educate the public and engage new supporters.

Attending community events: this is a great to connect with and educate community members. We attended 35 community events in the past FY.

Regularly speak at events, rallies, seminars, schools, TAFE and other service training events.

Hold big community events such as YHMD, Homelessness Week events.

Workshops: Our workshops saw 105 young people participating.

Soon to open a Youth Drop in Kempsey. YP SPACE are soon to open a youth drop-in located within Ngurra Youth Housing Project in town. We aim to open three nights a week till 8pm.

It will cost approximately \$152,000 annually, excluding the cost of specialty programs, and will rely on grants, fundraising, and sponsorship as we are not funded to run a drop in.

The drop in mission is to provide a diversionary, supportive environment focusing on wellbeing, life skills, and connection.

Our programs, developed based on surveys conducted with young people in Kempsey, will include cooking, access to free food, clothing, toiletries, showers, laundry services, life skills workshops, gardening, fun activities, and community events—all free. The drop-in will be led by a committee of local young people,