

Submission
No 89

**INQUIRY INTO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITY IN NEW SOUTH WALES EDUCATIONAL
SETTINGS**

Organisation: NSW Police Force
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NSW Police Force

Submission

Inquiry into Children and Young People with disability in New South Wales educational settings

June 2024

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Sensitive: Official

28 June 2024

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Sent via email: portfoliocommittee3@parliament.nsw.gov.au

RE: Inquiry: Children and young people with disability in New South Wales educational settings

Dear Portfolio Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to this inquiry.

As requested from the Committee, this submission includes content relevant to the Committee's terms of reference in regard to "Youth Action Meetings" (YAMs). Led by the NSW Police Force, Youth Action Meetings (YAMs) provide a coordinated service approach for young people (10-17) at risk of (re)offending or (re)victimisation, to lessen their contact with the criminal justice system and improve their safety, welfare and wellbeing.

Youth Action Meetings involve local key government and non-government agencies. Coming together monthly, in a structured forum, they share information, develop multi-agency action plans, and implement tangible strategies to achieve improved outcomes for the young person, their families and communities. This coordinated approach allows for better allocation of resources, tangible and measurable outcomes, and reduced duplication in responding to the needs of the young person.

11 YAM Coordinator positions, based within Youth Command were established in July 2023, funded by the NSW Government. 5 of these positions are based within metropolitan Sydney and 6 are based in regional locations.

Attachment A of includes some statistics drawn from referrals made to YAMs between November 2023 and May 2024;

We thank you for consideration of this information.

Attachment A

Part 1 – Insights from data from referrals made to YAMs between November 2023 and May 2024

- 25% of young people that were referred to, or identified for the YAMs from November 2023 to May 2024 had a known disability.
- Young people, that have been referred to YAMs that are living with a disability have included neurological development disabilities (e.g., ASD), emotional and behavioural disturbances (e.g., ADHD) and physical disabilities (e.g., cerebral palsy).
- 65% of young people referred to YAMs in regional locations with a known disability, were also identified to be disengaged from supplementary services and supports or have a lack of supports available to them. This was compared to,
 - 43% of all young people referred to YAMs in regional locations,
 - 23% of young people referred to YAMs in metro locations with a known disability, and
 - 25% of all young people referred in metro areas.
- Young people referred to YAMs with a known disability, were more likely than average to also have mental health needs (76% compared to 45% of all referrals) and other challenges related to physical health / illness within the family (27% compared to 16% of all referrals).
- 87% of young people referred to YAMs in regional locations with a known disability, were also identified as displaying aggressive, disruptive or defiant behaviour. This was compared to,
 - 79% of all young people referred from regional locations, and
 - 72% of young people referred from metro locations (both with a disability and all referrals).
- 78% of young people referred to YAMs in regional locations with a known disability, were also identified to have criminal justice system involvement. This was compared to,
 - 64% of all young people referred from regional locations,
 - 56% of young people referred from metro locations (both with a disability and all referrals).
- 51% of young people referred to YAMs with a known disability in regional locations were identified to have a lack of appropriate or adequate family supervision or support. This was compared to,
 - 47% of all referrals in regional locations,
 - 21% of young people with known disabilities in metro locations, and
 - 35% of all referrals in metro locations.
- 38% of young people referred to the YAMs with a known disability were also identified to have material insecurity (food, clothing), poverty / disadvantage / unemployment impacting their family. This was compared to 29% of all referrals.

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- 67% of young people referred to the YAMs with a known disability in regional locations were also identified to be a victim / witness of family and/or domestic violence. This was compared to,
 - 59% of all referrals in regional locations
 - 37% of young people with known disabilities in metro locations, and
 - 46% of all referrals in metro locations.

- 24% of young people referred to YAMs, were also identified as subject of missing persons reports, absconding, or running away. This was increased to 30% and 29% of young people with known disabilities in metro and regional locations respectively.

- 71% of young people referred to YAMs in regional locations with a known disability were also identified to have school, education and training disengagement, absenteeism, poor attendance or truancy. This was compared to,
 - 67% of all referrals in regional locations
 - 68% of referrals for young people with known disabilities in metro location, and
 - 64% of all referrals for young people in metro locations.

- 69% of young people referred to YAMs with known disabilities in regional locations were also identified to have poor education or skills training fit, adjustment, and transition challenges. This was compared to,
 - 46% of all referrals in regional locations,
 - 44% of referrals for young people with known disabilities in metro locations, and
 - 36% of all referrals in metro locations.