
What are the key challenges for young people in our region ?

- Uncertainty of Future: Increased stress and anxiety. Adapting to current challenges * virtual
- Inequity of access to technology and transport.
- Potential to slip through gaps
- Housing (safe, availability, stability)
- Media (negative stereotyping)
- Employment
- Access / navigating / connecting to support
- Gaining knowledge / information “what is available”
- Confusion – limited opportunities to share information about programs etc.
- AOD use
- Inequality & racism
- Fragmented awareness of youth services and opportunity
- How to interpret what they are hearing
- System abuse
- Lack of belief in young people
- Education system – the bar too low – need high expectation
- Responses not driven by youth need
- Not enough youth services / meeting needs of young people.
- Lack of consult – eg driven by perception of Indigenous youth.
- Social justice
- Early intervention and prevention – under 12 and parent
- Violence and cyberbullying
- Coordination and referral networks
- Replication of Service.
- Lack of role model
- Unemployment
- Public transport
- Employer education
- Social housing – 5000 people on waiting list - 1000 youth couch surfing
- Lack of residential placements

Reflection:

- 1) What do young people expect from services?
 - Information and assistance
 - Quick turnaround
 - Solutions
 - Opportunities / events/ cultural (place to connect / learn)
 - Non – judgmental
 - Transport
 - Meeting place for young People.
 - Higher service knowledge and assistance with advocacy
 - Consistency / delivery
 - Unsure of what to expect

- Expect to be respected
- Active listen / seek feedback
- Linking onwards - Accessing services and opportunities available – not knowing
- Self directed-

2) How do you ensure the voice of the young person is heard ?

- Use of social media and radio – cultural
- Meet, engage, build, rapport, trust
- Give it time - ownership
- Welcome complaints/ feedback
- Constant revaluation
- Meaningful and purposeful consultation of young people and families at organisational and leadership level.
- Accessibility - education – hours, access to a vehicle
- Training of peers – ambassadors
- Advocacy - They should be trained – to have a voice
- Importance of creating platforms for youth week
- Relationships, trust and supports are essential
- Education in schools (proactive approach)