

## What are the objectives of the YEP?

Objectives of the YEP are to:

1. ensure young people, living within the Murray River Council (**MRC**) area, feel that they are supported and valued members of OUR community, particularly young people who may have felt on the fringes of society, or struggling in some aspect of their lives, through circumstance or lack of means.
2. support and provide opportunities to young people to pursue their individual social, emotional, cultural and life aspirations.
3. ensure young people are connected with the services and support they need (e.g. they are referred to higher level specialist services for more intensive and specialist intervention, as required, and they are supported to access these services).
4. deliver early intervention services to young people aged 12 to 17 through participation in activities or individual support provided within the YEP (within the scope of the *Targeted Early Intervention* program within the NSW Family and Community Services *Child Youth Family Services* program).
5. facilitate increased communication and collaboration amongst all youth service providers and stakeholders within the region, to see better outcomes for young people.

## How will we do this?

Following consultation with youth stakeholders in the region, our aim is to offer services and support to meet the above objectives as follows:

The MRC - YEP will:

1. seek referrals for individual young people (particularly those experiencing a life situation that is affecting their healthy personal development) from families, young people, service providers, local organisations etc.

Once referred to YEP we can provide young people with support, either *individually* or in a *small group setting* and within MRC's service capacity and skillset, as follows:

2. a. Offer individual assessment and support, to consider higher level referrals of benefit  
b. Support to connect individuals to social options through the existing local community network  
c. An individual Life Plan session to recognise personal life goals, needs and aspirations
3. facilitate monthly small group workshops at a community-based centre, (in Barham and Moama under the current funding capacity) with the purpose to engage small groups of (up to 6) young people, to offer:
  - a. alternative social activities to increase confidence and personal well-being, social interactions and community inclusiveness
  - b. leadership development opportunities (e.g. plan a community event for the annual National Youth Week).
4. facilitate four service provider network forums per year (two in Moama and two in Barham), to encourage information sharing and collaboration, and participate in other relevant network meetings within the region.

## What resources will we use to do this?

The current budget allows for quality, rather than quantity activities at this stage.

The small group workshops will generally be resourced with one adult staff member (with a fully inducted Youth Engagement volunteer, when available).

### **Volunteers**

MRC's Community Services department have existing volunteers now being considered for various opportunities within the YEP. Examples of ways in which volunteers could potentially become involved include:

- retired school teachers who could support a homework group,
- volunteers with computer skills supporting projects and activities,
- volunteers with art/music skills helping support individuals and groups with related projects,
- people interested in sport/other recreation, gardening, cooking, to help run various activities.

All volunteers will be supervised by a Youth Engagement Officer and will be required to have the following:

- a genuine aspiration to support young people and a demonstrated rapport with young people
- hold a current NSW Working With Children Check
- have been fully inducted into the Community Services programs
- be fully committed to adhering to MRC's policies and procedures
- have signed a consent to maintain privacy and confidentiality

## MRC YEP – making a difference!

The establishment and design of this program has taken significant thought. MRC YEP will be a flexible program that can respond to demand and the changing needs within our community. We have confidence that through a community-based approach, we can support young people to pursue their individual social, emotional, cultural and life aspirations.

Supporting young people and ensuring their inclusion in the community helps young people grow into the kind, compassionate citizens, parents and members of the community that we all hope they will become. Positive youth development and collaboration are vital to the sustainability and prosperity of the Murray River Council communities.

We will appreciate if you give our program your consideration, and we welcome the community's interest and enquiries.

### For more information please contact:

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