



# NEWSLETTER

Issue 8

June 2013

## Jo Peace, Youth Connections Program Manager, PCYC

Firstly I would like to congratulate the Red Cross Youth Connections Team for all the hard work that has been put into the program for 2013. Feedback from the funding body, DEEWR, has been nothing but positive, with evidence of target outcomes being reached and many young people's lives being supported through the program.

IT ALL  
STARTS  
HERE →



Jo Peace

Secondly I would also like to offer my congratulations on the refunding of the Youth Connections QLD11 Program for the Fitzroy Region until December 2014. Not only was QLD11 refunded but also most other service providers for Youth Connections across the state. Well done - we are making a difference in young people's lives and can continue to do so into next year.

Minister for School Education and Youth, Peter Garrett said the Youth Connections program had already helped thousands of young Australians. "These programs make a real difference to young Australians by helping them complete year 12 or an equivalent qualification," Mr. Garrett said. "This funding will give more young Australians a much better chance of successful transition to work or further study or training, helping them to achieve their full potential."

"Since 2009 the participation of 15-19 year olds in full time education or training has increased from 69.5 per cent to 73.4 per cent in 2012. Even more encouraging is that the participation rates of Indigenous 15-19 year olds has increased at twice the rate of the non-Indigenous population. In fact, we are on track to achieve the COAG target to halve the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Year 12 or equivalent attainment." The full report can be found at: [www.investinaustralia.com/news/budget-2013-14-budget-delivers-young-australians](http://www.investinaustralia.com/news/budget-2013-14-budget-delivers-young-australians)

After so much success with the Youth Connections Program it is difficult and with regret that we advise that the PCYC and Red Cross are unable to continue to deliver the Teenage Parenting Program into 2014. However, I would like to thank Deb Warkill for her contribution to the success of this pilot program and continue to support her and the program until the end of 2013. Deb's work and rapport with the young parents from our community is outstanding and should be commended.

Lastly I would like to offer a quick update on Service Type 4 activities across our service region:

**Central Highlands - Go Karting Go Further Activity** will engage three state high schools, Emerald Christian College, Blackwater and Capella State High Schools and six other local service providers who are willing to provide the support and assistance to prevent young people from disengaging from education.

Although Youth Invest and Youth Connections anticipated a start date of June for this activity an unforeseen project funding difficulty has postponed the commencement until later in the year, or early in the new year. We remain positive that this activity will go ahead, being the first of its type in the Central Highlands supporting "at risk" youth.

**Rockhampton - CHAMP Program (Channeling Healthy Aggression Mentoring Program)** CHAMP has commenced this month at the PCYC and will be supported by Youth Invest and Youth Connections. CHAMP is a boxing martial arts based mentoring program for young Indigenous women aged 14 and up who are at risk. It includes active, involved partnerships with local schools, local community agencies and local police officers. CHAMP is based on Richard A Lerner's concepts of positive youth development as conceptualized through five "C's" - Competence, Confidence, Connection, Character and Caring.

The program is run by Kylie O'Donnell and supported by several services including Medicare Local, Family Planning Qld, Dept Youth Justice, Darumbal Youth Services. For more information or if you wish to refer someone into this program, please contact Kylie at the PCYC on 4927 7899.

Youth Connections  
provide young  
people with flexible  
and individual  
assistance to  
improve their  
education,  
life-skills and  
personal  
development



## NEWSLETTER

### Youth Connections Activities - Mark Bunting, Service Coordinator



Mark

How time flies. It is now July and we have already had 6 months of the year. So much has happened in the first part of the year. We have said goodbye to Paul Oram, Casey Conway and we are about to say goodbye to Hayley Gosling from Gladstone. All have either moved away from the area or about to move. We say a big thank you to all three who have contributed so much to the Youth Connections program. In Gladstone at the moment, we have Sarah Devney who is doing her placement for JCU for a couple of months. Sarah has been working closely with Hayley and has been a wonderful addition to the team (even if it is for a short time).

By now you would have been advised that Youth Connections has had a 12 month extension to its funding until December 2014. At this stage the teen parenting program will only be funded till December 2013. We will however be still working with our teen parents this year and next year.



The drop in centre at 71 Denham Street has been a hive of activity lately. Each week the case managers have been working on different programs including BKSB (literacy and numeracy program), Peer Opinions Group, and other group activities. We will continue to offer the weekly programs as well as welcoming people to the centre between 9am and 4pm each weekday.

(left) Coffee making activity at 71 Denham Street

### Rugby League Program

Youth Connections are working with Bidgerdii's Lionel Harbin to provide a Rugby League Skills Program on Monday afternoons for North Rockhampton High students. This program was developed by Lionel to improve attendance at the school after the football season finished. According to Lionel "What we noticed was a large drop in attendance (for male students) when the rugby league season finished." The current arrangement with the school is that the students have to attend school to come to the training. Once they attend several sessions, they receive training gear from sponsor Rockhampton Rustlers.



Students warming up for Rugby League Program

The program has been welcomed by young people with a weekly attendance of 30-60 students. Some of the students hadn't attended school for up to two months before the program was introduced now come everyday. For Youth Connections this ties in well with our case management plan of strength based strategies. The next step is to work with Bidgerdii to introduce such a program in other schools with similar attendance issues.



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*Youth Connections is funded by the Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. Youth Connections aims to provide an improved safety net to young people who have disengaged or are at risk of disengaging from education, offering flexible case managed support and services that acknowledge the role that family and community play in a young person's development and well being. Youth Connections' objective is to support young people to attain Year 12 or equivalent and to help them make a successful transition through education and onto further education, training or work.*