



YOUNG PEOPLE

YFS works hand in hand with some of Queensland's most vulnerable young people, backing them to overcome adversity and thrive.

We use all kinds of activities, from case management and counselling to traineeships and support groups, to support, encourage and motivate.



Our aim is to build people's capacity to live independently and participate in the local community.

For more than 30 years, we have been working with some of Queensland's most vulnerable young people, helping them take control of their futures.

Our history

Young people in Logan

Our services for young people

YFS was established in the mid 1980s to support young Logan people in the face of rising rates of youth unemployment, homelessness and disengagement with schooling.

Since then, we have grown and developed our programs in response to young people's changing needs and the challenges of living in today's society, while broadening our focus beyond young people alone.

These days, we focus as much on violence and parenting as we do on homelessness and education.

Our work

We work with people in the Logan and Redlands areas who are finding life a bit out of control and are hoping to get things back on track.

We support young people who are:

- at risk of dropping out of school
- offending or are at risk of offending
- having issues connecting with family or friends
- homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- struggling with work
- being impacted by mental health
- involved in alcohol or substance use
- struggling with parenting
- experiencing domestic or family violence.

We assist young people to work out what they want and how they want to get it.

We regularly link them with other types of support that might help.

With their permission, we work with other people in their lives, such as family members, friends, schools and government agencies.

A snapshot from the 2016 Census

Logan is a socioeconomically disadvantaged city. Employment in low skilled jobs is greater in Logan, at 65%: higher than the national average (52.36%).



Employment in low skilled jobs



Unemployment rate



Our unemployment rate, at 8.9%, is more than the national rate of 6.9%.

16% Our youth unemployment rate of 16% makes us one of Australia's youth unemployment hotspots.

www.bsl.org.au/media/media-releases/australias-latest-20-youth-unemployment-hotspots-ranked

Our median age is 34 years: four years younger than the Australian average.

111,006 people aged 24 years and less call our city home. This represents 31.5% of the total Logan population. Some parts of Logan experience very significant disadvantage, with suburbs such as Woodridge and Logan Central among Australia's most disadvantaged locations.

There is a greater proportion of TAFE students in Logan (6.4%) than the national average (5.9%). The proportion of university/tertiary students in Logan (9.4%) is significantly less than the national average (16.1%).

- Youth support case management
- Alcohol and other drugs case management, with Mater Health Services
- Housing assistance
- Community Youth Response Outreach, with ATSICHS
- Legal assistance – criminal and civil
- Volunteering opportunities and traineeships with the eco social enterprise, Substation33
- R4Respect youth-led, peer-to-peer respectful relationships education program
- Counselling
- Tailored support for young parents, through our Sure Steps, Thriving Families and Step by Step programs
- LGBTIQAP+ support, with Open Doors

The need

It's tough out there for today's young people.

They live in a world that's becoming more and more challenging, with greater choice creating increasing uncertainty and risk.

Organisations like YFS have an important role in supporting young people who aren't coping.

With our support, young people are building the confidence, skills and resilience they need to lead a great future.



Our impact



Friday and Saturday nights see ATSICHS and YFS workers travelling around Logan in this great little van meeting local young people. It’s part of the Logan Community Youth Response initiative, a partnership with the Department of Youth Justice and Queensland Police to link young people with support and positive activities instead of with the justice system.



Youthlink

Youthlink works with young people aged 8 to 21 years who are finding life a bit out of control.

Purpose

To build young people’s resilience and strengthen their connections with their families, support networks and the community.

Theory of change

Young people are less likely to experience disengagement if they feel valued, are provided with opportunities to participate and have the skills and capacity to participate, and feel connected to family, friends and their community.

Reach

336 people in 2018-19.

Latest outcomes

72% of Youthlink clients experienced improvements in their wellbeing, based on the Youth Wellbeing Common Assessment Tool (CAT). Positive change was recorded in all areas, particularly schooling, work, housing and mental health.



16-year old Jazmeha connected with Youthlink after her mother asked her to leave the family home in Ipswich. “Where I am now is better for my education and health. I feel more confident going to school,” she said.

Shift

Working with the Mater Health Services, Shift provides alcohol and other drugs case management to young people aged 12 to 25 years in Logan and Redlands who are experiencing harmful and problematic substance use.

Purpose

To reduce harm, build resilience and effect changes so that young people can live and succeed independently.

Theory of change

The misuse of alcohol and other drugs exposes individuals, families and communities to health, social and economic harm. These harms can be minimised by encouraging young people to change their behaviour in terms of what, how and when alcohol and other drugs are used (harm reduction), and to reduce or cease the use of alcohol and other drugs through assessment, information and education, brief intervention, and facilitating linkages to detox and treatment services (demand reduction).

Reach

58 people in 2018-19, including 19 people aged less than 18 years.

Latest outcomes

Shift recorded a considerable reduction in substance use among clients, particularly in relation to alcohol and cannabis. The percentage of clients using cannabis most days decreased from 37% to 15%. Clients also reported a substantial decrease in the harm experienced as a result of substance abuse, from an initial rating of 9.1 out of a possible 20 (using the Substance Abuse and Choices Scale) to 4.8 at second review.

Community Youth Response

Through our new partnership with the First Nations community organisation ATSICHS, we provide a culturally appropriate, alternative intervention to police charging and/or remanding young people aged 10 to 15 years who have a high risk of reoffending, with an emphasis on after-hours diversion.

Purpose

To prevent at-risk Logan young people from offending and reoffending.

Latest outcomes

427 engagements with young people since the program’s inception on 1 July 2019.

Housing 1st

Housing 1st supports people who are homeless or about to become homeless to secure somewhere to live and to develop the skills and supports they need to maintain their tenancies.

Purpose

To assist people to access and sustain appropriate housing.

Theory of change

Sustainable housing is best achieved by resourcing people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to access housing that is appropriate to their needs as soon as possible and make social, community and economic connections, thereby reconnecting with society.

Reach

101 young people aged 25 years and under in 2018-19 (47% of our YFS’ housing clients).

Latest outcomes

75% of young people who presented as homeless or at risk of homelessness were supported into stable, affordable and appropriate accommodation.



Young parent support

We deliver tailored support for young parents through our Thriving Families, Step by Step and Sure Steps programs, helping families function better and improving their children's safety and care.

Purpose

To build the capacity of families to stabilise their housing, parent well and nurture, protect and keep their children safe.

Combined reach

36 young parents aged 25 years and under in 2018-19.

(representing 14% of all families who access long-term case management or coaching support at YFS).

The extent family support programs engaged with young parents varied from 7% to 20%. Our work with young parents is set to increase in the coming year, with the launch of our new program Thriving Families. This program specifically targets families with all children less than six years of age. Already, 64% of the initial places in Thriving Families have been taken up by young parents. Also, one of our existing programs is actively transitioned towards a specialised focus on young parents in order to retain an early intervention focus.

Latest outcomes

Improvements in circumstances and progress towards goal achievement were recorded for 71% of young parents in our family support programs, based on the Standard Client Outcomes Measure (SCORE). All were satisfied with the services they received: their average rating of our family support was 4.43 out of 5.

R4Respect

Led by young people, R4Respect is a peer-to-peer education and prevention strategy to prevent anti-social behaviour and violence. Youth Ambassadors promote the values, skills and knowledge needed for respectful relationships.

Purpose

To foster healthier relationships among young people.

Reach

3,300 people through 61 education and community events,

plus **170,000** people through 300 social media posts on Facebook and Twitter in 2018-19.

Latest outcomes

According to research commissioned by the Australian National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS), R4Respect has had a positive impact on young people's understanding of the nature and extent of interpersonal violence. The program showed potential to positively influence young people's behaviour, including how they managed conflict. Young men's attitudes towards gender equality remained difficult to shift.

An evaluation into R4Respect, conducted by Griffith University and funded by ANROWS, shows young people possess a very important power.

The power to lead other young people to change negative attitudes about violence against women. In conjunction with the researchers, the R4Respect team has created a detailed guide that helps other organisations throughout Australia to develop and launch similar youth-led programs.

Family Therapy

We provide young people and their families with access to specialist family counselling.

Reach

42 families including adolescents in 2018-19, representing 74% of families accessing therapy.

Outcomes

Overall, the majority of young people reported that their families got along somewhat or a lot better as a result of counselling. Almost 70% of adolescents improved their mental health based on the Youth Outcomes Questionnaire, a parent-reported measure of treatment progress for children and adolescents. The average initial rating for these clients was 89 (out of a possible 240) compared to 77 on exit. While this represents a substantial positive improvement, many young people still face clinically significant levels of mental health concerns (such as high levels of anxiety depression, stress, and interpersonal and social difficulties).

Domestic and Family Violence support

YFS supports women and children experiencing domestic and family violence to increase victim/survivor safety.

Reach

85 young people in 2018-19 (16% of all clients in this program).

Latest outcomes

79% of young people showed improvements in being safe and/or protected from harm.

Financial Counselling and Capability Support

Our Financial Counselling and Capability Workers assist people who have difficulty paying off regular bills or debts. They also help people avoid getting into a financial mess.

Reach

104 young people in 2018-19 (12% of all clients in this program).

Outcomes

90% of young people who accessed financial counselling services made progress towards achieving their goals in 2018-19.

YFS Legal

YFS Legal is the community legal centre for the Logan community. Our solicitors specialise in providing information, advice and representation for people aged 10 to 25 years who find themselves needing help with criminal law matters.

Reach

367 young people aged 24 years and under, including children, in 2018-19 (this represented 28% of all YFS Legal clients).

LGBTIQAP+ support

Our partnership with Open Doors backs, through counselling and a supportive educational group, young people who identify as LGBTIQAP+ or are questioning their sexual or gender identity.



Substation33

Our Substation33 social enterprise recycles electronic waste and gives volunteering, work experience and traineeship opportunities to people of all ages.

Purpose

To provide training and employment opportunities through the recycling of electronic waste.

Substation33's Rail Trail project was the ticket John, 20, and Dylan, 17, needed to turn their lives around. The trainees upkeep the Bethania to Beaudesert Rail Trail – an old railway spur line that we are upkeeping while experts explore its recreational potential.

Contact us for more information



BUILDING INDEPENDENCE & PARTICIPATION

YFS Phone: 07 3826 1500 | Email: yfs@yfs.org.au
 Fax: 07 3808 9416 | Website: www.yfs.org.au
 376 Kingston Road, Slacks Creek | PO Box 727 Woodridge 4114
 f t yfslogan

YFS respectfully acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Australia's first peoples and the traditional owners/custodians of the land on which we meet and work. We recognise the important role they have within community and country, and we pay our respects to the Elders of this land past and present.

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