

The South-East Corridor

YOUTH PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

AIM

The South East Metropolitan Youth Partnership Project (YPP) is a strategic project which aims to develop a better youth intervention framework for the South East Metropolitan region that is effective, aligned, sustainable and scalable.

This project aims to engage State Government agencies and the not-for-profit community sector to work better together to improve outcomes for at-risk young people in the planning and delivery of community services and in doing so provide evidence that contributes to government strategy and policy.

The YPP is not 'another program'. It is systemic change, premised on the belief that if we intervene early, not only are there significant saving in expenditure on tertiary services, but more importantly young people will thrive in their communities

BACKGROUND

The Youth Partnership Project commenced in 2014. The Project was a culmination of over two years of collaborative work between community and government entities in the South East Corridor Region and was established based on consultation with members from the South East Metropolitan Regional Managers Human Services Forum (SEMRMHSF) and has been driven by the South East Metropolitan Youth Working Group, a sub-group of the SEMRMHSF.

The South East Corridor of the metropolitan area of Perth has some of the highest incidents of youth crime, family violence and child neglect. These context-based social problems contribute greatly to the increasing problems of at risk youth throughout the region.

The Youth Partnership Project is funded by the Social Innovations Grant and is supported by key stakeholders, which include central policy agencies, government departments, relevant non-government service providers, as well as the local communities. Save the Children was elected by the SEMRMHSF Youth Working Group to act as the backbone organisation for the project.

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YouthPartnershipProject.org.au



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OBJECTIVES

The Youth Partnership Project focuses its effort and resources towards three strategic objectives:

- **Linking Programs and Services**
By taking a holistic and participant focused approach in working with government and non-government agencies to identify and implement better ways of working together.
- **Linking individual outcomes with societal outcomes**
Using a Collective Impact approach to develop evaluation models to ensure that individual and program outcomes can be measured against improved long term outcomes for individuals and a consequential reduction of pressure on health, welfare and justice systems.
- **Effecting Structural Change**
By working with government and non-government agencies to identify how a more collaborative and holistic approach to youth intervention can be supported into the future.

WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT

Early Intervention

- Investment in early intervention services that prevent the need for tertiary engagement
- Young people who are at-risk but fall outside of the traditional responsibility of any one tertiary service need targeted support by the community services sector.

Collaboration

- We promote collaboration and information sharing at the interface between crises (tertiary) response and community services to enable early and targeted support.
- Collaboration of government and non-government organisations must become an imperative linked directly to the policies, strategies, resource allocation (procurement processes) and culture of organisations working in this space.

Youth Participation

- Young people have a right to be genuinely listened to and participate in decisions that impact on them, including their needs being a primary consideration in government strategy and policy.
- We promote and prioritise young people's participation in program design, implementation and evaluation.

Sustainable and Flexible Funding

- Youth programs and services need access to long term funding contracts of three years or more, in line with the Aboriginal Youth Investment Reform
- Short term finding leads to constant staff turnover, impacting vision and continuity of services, as well as relationships with young people, and also with other services
- Funding needs to be flexible and able to allow services to be responsive to the changing context and needs of the young people they work with; allowing them to better meet the needs of particularly vulnerable young people who might otherwise fall through services gaps