



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

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
- self-harming
- concerned about 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 assist.

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

YOUNG PEOPLE IN LOGAN

A snapshot from the 2016 Census

Logan is a socioeconomically disadvantaged city.

Employment in low skilled jobs is higher in Logan, at 65%. The national average is 52.36%.



LOGAN



NATIONAL

Employment in low skilled jobs

65%

52%

Unemployment rate

8.9%

6.9%

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%).

OUR SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- Youth support case management
- Alcohol and other drugs case management, with Mater Health Services
- Housing assistance
- Youth justice support
- 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

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 or don't get the family backing they need.

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



OUR IMPACT



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

225 people in 2020.

Latest outcomes

77% 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, social connections 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

47 young people in 2020.

Latest outcomes

Shift recorded a considerable reduction in substance use among clients, and in the harm experienced as a result of substance abuse, from an initial rating of 12.4 out of a possible 20 (using the Substance Abuse and Choices Scale) to 7.42 at second review.

Youth justice responses

YFS partners with ATSICHS to provide Community Youth Response, a culturally appropriate, alternative intervention to police charging and/or remanding for young people aged 10 to 15 years who have a high risk of reoffending, with an emphasis on after-hours diversion.

YFS also coordinates the SMART panel program, bringing together agencies that work with young offenders to collaborate on responses that reduce young people's likelihood of reoffending.

Purpose

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

Reach

124 young people engaged in 2020.

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

90 young people aged 25 years and under in 2020 (36% of all clients in this program).

Latest outcomes

71% of young people who presented as homeless or at risk of homelessness were supported into stable, affordable and appropriate accommodation.

Thursday 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 Department of Youth Justice and Queensland Police to link young people with support and positive activities instead of with the justice system.





OUR IMPACT

Step by Step proud young families

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.

Our demonstration project, Thriving Families, also works largely with young parents, helping them establish stable housing and pursue life goals.

Purpose

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

Combined reach

55 young parent led families in 2020.

Latest outcomes

86% of Step by Step young families improved their circumstances, based on the Standard Client Outcomes Measure (SCORE). All were satisfied with the services they received: their average rating of our family support was 4.45 out of 5.



Larissa and her two children, aged under eight years, were living on the streets of the Gold Coast when they first made contact with YFS. Our intake and assessment service, YFS Connect, quickly referred her to our Housing 1st team. Straight away, the team found Larissa and her family emergency accommodation. Then our family coaches stepped in. "I used to not have the confidence to stand up to people. Now, I don't take any nonsense. My children's safety is my top priority," she said.

R4Respect and Men4Respect

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. Men4Respect focuses exclusively on young men.

Purpose

To foster healthier relationships among young people.

Reach

2,200 people through 130 education and community events
154,000 people through 430 social media posts on Facebook or Twitter in 2020.

Latest outcomes

Men4Respect was launched in 2020 to enable young men to challenge violence supportive attitudes and actions with other young men and boys and promote positive forms of masculinity. Initial outcomes found the program successfully challenged commonly held myths about gender-based violence, promoted positive attitudinal change and built skills and confidence to challenge disrespectful behaviours.

An evaluation into R4Respect, conducted by Griffith University and funded by the Australian National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (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.

Next Step Plus

Next Step Plus supports young people in out-of-home care to plan for living independent adult lives. The team also assists young people who have left care to overcome issues that arise and get on track to achieve their goals.

The team works with young people to develop their skills, knowledge and connections to live independently and participate in their local community. For example, they can assist them to find a job, access training and join sporting and cultural groups.

YFS provides this service in Logan, Beaudesert and Bayside and partners with Gold Coast Youth Service to support Gold Coast young people.

Reach

289 young people in 2020.

Outcomes

78% of Next Step Plus clients experienced improvements in their wellbeing, based on the Common Assessment Tool. Positive change was recorded in all areas, particularly schooling, work, and housing.

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

339 young people aged 24 years and under, including children, in 2020.

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 are employed by YFS to upkeep the Bethania to Beaudesert Rail Trail – an old railway spur line that we are maintaining while experts explore its recreational potential.




"Knowing I have something to do each day instead of sitting at home and wasting my life is awesome," Dylan said.

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
 [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.

Copyright ©2019 YFS Ltd | ABN 58 239 250 649 | ACN 167 122 527 | AS/NZS ISO 9001

YFS is funded by the Australian Government and the Queensland Government.

PP_YFS Youth Services brochure_v1_0521_102633