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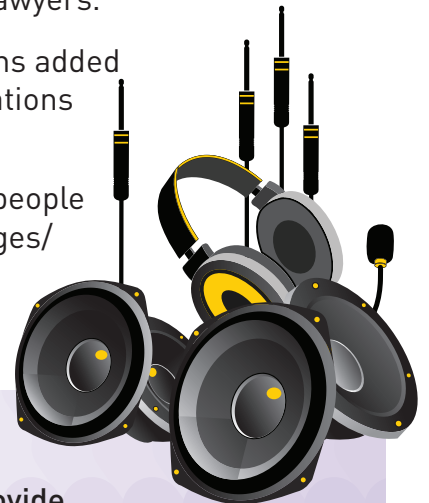
# LISTENING TO YOUTH VOICES

**When you bring together 40+ enthusiastic young people and adults into one place and ask them to share their ideas about how to make life better for youth, it's not surprising that good ideas will emerge.**

Our recent workshop was an opportunity to explore some of the data from our **Youth Voices survey** – experiences and opinions from nearly 150 young people, aged 10-25 years, across 4 states and a diverse range of backgrounds. People were on their feet, talking to each other, pondering the messages in the data plastered on walls around the hall; and then back to the tables to compare thoughts. Everyone had the chance to have a say, and to hear each other – young people, case workers, policy officers, chaplains, researchers, lawyers.

A particular thanks to the young people whose thoughtful contributions added depth and insight to the discussions. For many adults, these conversations were a highlight of the day.

The other highlight was the range of practical ideas that emerged as people explored **the 'what next?' question**: What policies and program changes/additions do we need? What research do we still need to inform those activities? What 'blue sky' ideas could we try right now with low risk?



## Some of the many ideas included:

- establishing youth advisory groups and other platforms to provide meaningful input on service delivery, policy and program development (in community services organisations as well as government)
- exploring the ways online help and support can better meet the needs of rural youth
- developing/distributing targeted education resources and training for parents about emotional health and resilience-building so they can better support their children
  - providing training for young people so they feel equipped to help if a friend is struggling.

The Youth Voices report will be available soon, capturing insights from the survey as well as the workshop outcomes. In the meantime, please contact Leanne at [advocacy@anglicaresq.org.au](mailto:advocacy@anglicaresq.org.au) if you have questions or would like more information.





# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO HAVE A VOICE?

Hear some of our young voices from the workshop at [anglicaresq.org.au/youth-voices](http://anglicaresq.org.au/youth-voices)



## Youth Voices now online

See updates on the Youth Voices web page at [anglicaresq.org.au/youth-voices](http://anglicaresq.org.au/youth-voices)

We're also sharing more of the data on Instagram at [anglicare\\_youthvoices](https://www.instagram.com/anglicare_youthvoices) over the next few months – follow us for more quotes and insights!



Social Responsibilities Committee

#### Ethics

Youth Voices has ethics approval from the Anglicare Southern Qld Human Research Ethics Committee (EC00341) for the participation of young people/children from the age of 10 years+; young people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds; and young people in detention. Participants have given specific permission for the experiences and 'headlines' provided here to be shared.

#### Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the invaluable in-kind contributions to this project of Cognitive Edge, developers of the survey software used for Youth Voices; as well as consultants from Complexability, particularly Viv Read and Sanura Gunatilake.

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