



Issue No. 1 - August 2017

LISTENING TO YOUTH VOICES

From now until the end of September 2017, hundreds of young people aged from 10-25 years across Queensland, ACT, NSW and South Australia will share their experiences of when they've needed help or support, and what those experiences meant to them, through the Youth Voices survey.

HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER SURVEYS?

This is a truly collaborative journey — young people have actively shaped the survey questions; are helping to collect the responses; and they'll be at the very core of project workshops later in the year that will bring together young people, teachers, youth workers, government policy officers and others to explore the data and how it might inform practical initiatives and outcomes for young people.

WHO IS BEHIND YOUTH VOICES?

Youth Voices is a project of Anglicare SQ, the Anglican Church SQ (Social Responsibilities Committee) and Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT. They are supported in the project by a range of other organisations that are interested in what's good for young people and how they can support them, including Anglicare South Australia, Kairos Community College, PCYC Beenleigh, the Youth Advocacy Centre, the School of Justice at QUT and others.

WHY YOUTH VOICES?

Youth Voices is a way for young people to influence youth policy, program development and service delivery in government, schools and community organisations — to communicate what they see as a flourishing life, and the supports they need to achieve that.

WHO ARE THE YOUNG PEOPLE CONTRIBUTING TO YOUTH VOICES?

Young people who:

- ◆ are at risk of homelessness
- ◆ are at school or university
- ◆ are currently disengaged from education
- ◆ have caring responsibilities
- ◆ are in or on the edges of the youth justice system
- ◆ are in the workforce

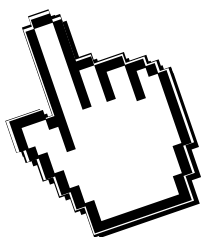
HOW ARE YOUNG PEOPLE MAKING THEIR VOICES HEARD?

There's a range of ways young people are contributing to Youth Voices. Young people aged 10-14 years are doing the survey as part of a face to face workshop with the researchers. Most young people (over 15 years old) are undertaking the survey online, with the support of staff in their organisation. And in some places, a small number of young 'citizen journalists' are collecting stories from their peers.



INTERESTED IN YOUR YOUNG PEOPLE TAKING PART?

It's not too late! The survey period will be open until the end of September. Please contact Leanne Wood at lwood@anglicaresq.org.au or 07 3838 7553 if you'd like more information.



We'll be sharing some of the project insights through this e-newsletter as young people contribute to the survey over the next 8 weeks, including experiences like these:

GIVING UP

A young girl had felt it was all getting too much and felt as if she could not follow through and continue on the path she was heading in. She had many ups and downs going on in her life and giving up just felt like an easier choice. I had advised her to truly think about the decision she was about to make before she made it, she [was] just needing a bit of a helping hand and someone who understood her worries.

ENCOURAGING THE NEXT GENERATION TO SUCCEED IN THEIR DREAMS

I have been working ... since I was 15 years old so I was really young. I am now 18 still young and have had many times when I needed help and support. A majority of the time I was given great help and support ... But lot of the time I felt like I was looked down on because I was not as experienced in the field as others ... They would say a lot of the time - you should know that or something along those lines.



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.

