



Issue No. 3 – October 2017

@anglicare_youthvoices



LISTENING TO YOUTH VOICES

“We can never have enough stories”, wrote author Sally Morgan in her autobiography, *My Place*. “Stories are important to us because they are part of our culture and they are the way we express our life experiences and come to terms with them.”

Nearly 150 young people, aged 10-24 years, from Queensland, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and South Australia have shared their stories in the Youth Voices survey over August and September 2017 – capturing experiences of help and support (or lack of) that are often both poignant and challenging:

“

When my family was broken up and didn't feel like a family anymore.

When mum couldn't afford to pay rent because she had to put food on the table and we almost lost our house.

I used to get bashed by my mum and her partner. I would go to the streets and get into trouble and end up in detention.

One time I was off my head on ice and my mates kept me home and looked after me.

”

We also asked young people to provide a 'headline' or a name for their story, as if it was a newspaper or movie, and this request often added an extra layer of complexity to simple stories. **Can't Keep A Good Man Down - Directors Cut** was the title for a story of being kicked out of home and couch surfing; while a 16 year old girl called her experience **I wasn't good enough but I'm more than good enough now**. And **Best mate's baby saved my life** was the caption for a story about giving up crack because “my god daughter was much more important than a little high”.

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.



Despite the challenges the young people faced, many were sometimes or 'mostly' confident about their future.

Despite numerous diversity [sic] I keep going forward. However sometimes it feels hard.

I'm determined not to turn out like my family... negative

I can't run away from the past but I can definitely improve on myself now and further into the future with motivation by others.



YOUTH VOICES WORKSHOP

DATE TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2017
TIME 10AM-3PM
VENUE HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL
141 BROOKES ST FORTITUDE VALLEY

You're invited!

- * any young people from 10-25 years
- * youth workers, counsellors, teachers, lawyers, police officers – anyone who works with young people
- * people involved in youth policy, programs or service delivery in any government department
- * Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander leaders, Elders or Justice group members
- * people working with youth through community, welfare or faith based organisations
- * academics with interests in youth or youth justice
- * reps from philanthropic trusts or peak bodies, with an interest in innovative youth policy development.

The Youth Voices survey captured young people's experiences of help and support, and aims to provide schools, government and community organisations with young people's views of what would help them to lead flourishing lives.

But the real value of Youth Voices will be when young people and those who work with them actively engage with the narratives shared through the survey — what are the key themes and priority messages that young people want to communicate? What does this mean for us? For our organisations? What happens next?

Join us for a workshop that will be interactive, participative, engaging... and enjoyable!

RSVPs by Wed 18 October and more information: Leanne Wood, Youth Voices Project Manager, at lwood@anglicaresq.org.au



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.

CSC5560/03

