Youth Minister’s Round Table of Young Territorians

Community Based Project

Youth Station:
Investigating the feasibility of establishing a Youth Station in Darwin’s Rural Area

Sephyr Crook and Kelvia-Lee Johnson

Disclaimer: The Youth Minister’s Round Table of Young Territorians is an independent advisory council. The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Office of Youth Affairs or the Northern Territory Government.
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List of Acronyms

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<th>ABBREVIATION</th>
<th>FULL NAME</th>
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<tr>
<td>AYHP</td>
<td>Anglicare Youth Housing Program – Palmerston and Rural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHF</td>
<td>Department of Health and Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCY</td>
<td>Anglicare Health Connections for Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Government Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OYA</td>
<td>Office of Youth Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARYS</td>
<td>Palmerston and Rural Youth Services network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Gathering</td>
<td>The Gathering Incorporation/ Baptist Bush Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YRT</td>
<td>Youth Minister’s Round Table of Young Territorians</td>
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</table>

Important definitions:

**Youth services**: when referring to youth services in this project we include the following in our definition of youth services

1. Support services to improve the health and wellbeing of youth
2. Youth activities including social events; and
3. Purpose built facilities available for use by youth

**Youth**: Persons aged 12-25 years, inclusive.

**Rural area**: When referring to the rural area we wish to include the Litchfield Shire (Please see Map 1).

Figure 1:

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Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the Northern Territory Minister for Young Territorians, The Hon. Rob Knight, MLA and the Office of Youth Affairs for their contribution to this report.

Declaration of Interest

One of the authors of this report, Miss Sephyr Crook, is a current volunteer of The Gathering Incorporation.
Executive Summary

The following report compiled on behalf of the Youth Minister’s Round Table of Young Territorians recommends the establishment of a Youth Station in Darwin’s rural area.

Extensive research is provided giving demographic information on the area including youth population and suicide and domestic violence rates
- There are approximately 7000 youth living in the Litchfield Shire.
- The Northern Territory has the highest rate of suicide per capita in Australia.
- The Litchfield Shire has the second highest rate of suicide per capita in the Northern Territory.
- Overall from 2007 to 2009 there was a 75% increase in the number of domestic violence incidents recorded by police.

The relatively high proportionate youth population, the extremely high rate of suicide within the Litchfield Shire, the correlation between greater rates of suicide and domestic violence with greater remoteness, and many other issues affecting rural youth listed in the report all demonstrate an absolute need for youth services in the rural area.

The current provision of youth services to the rural area leaves many service gaps and an un-unified approach to meeting the health and wellbeing needs of rural youth. The provision of youth services in other areas such as Palmerston and the lack of services in the Litchfield Shire given the demographics of the area may be seen as inequitable.

The recommended Youth Station would provide the following services:
- Access to emergency service
- Food relief
- Crisis accommodation
- Mental health services
- Mentoring programs
- Access to health education information
- Youth drop in centre
- Life be in it style activities and sporting programs e.g. Boxing and skate competitions.
- A venue to host social events such as dance parties

The Station would have a major role in networking existing services providing a ‘one stop-shop’ for youth where they are able to access various services. The Station would be conducive to activities that are already in place by some NGO’s operating in the area. Greater networking between agencies will enable them to assist youth more efficiently, providing a holistic approach to meeting youth’s needs.

The Gathering inc. is a Christian organisation currently operating in the rural area providing emergency relief, youth activities and various other services. Through research this organisation appears to have the strongest community presence. Thus, it is recommended in the report that to achieve the desired outcomes it would be beneficial if the establishment of the Youth Station is done in conjunction with this organisation.
Community support for the initiative has been gauged. 100% of participants surveyed at a focus group confirmed they would support the development of a Youth Station and 500 local residents signed a formal petition in support of a Youth Station. Similar projects have been recommended to government in the past, and since then need of rural youth has grown immensely. It would be acting with absolute necessity to establish the proposed Youth Station in the near future.

**Reasons for Youth Station:**
- Network between agencies
- Provide access to services and emergency relief
- Provide youth a safe place for recreation
- Create an environment that is conducive to the whole family
- Break down cultural and social barriers related to youth accessing community services
- For youth to develop a sense of ownership and community responsibility

**Costing:**
- Award wages for project officer and youth worker/admin.

  **Salary for one full time project officer for networking agencies and organising events**
  Social and Community Services Award
  - Grade 6 40 hours per week $50,918.00

  **Salary for one youth worker for administration and social work with youth and families**
  Social and Community Services Award
  - Grade 2 40 hours per week $36,108.80

**Construction of Facility:**
An approximate costing for the full facility has been priced at $635,000. However this costing is adaptable to funding and other factors. Furthermore, the project may be initiated in two steps.

**Stage 1:** Construction of main facility with office space for various organisations to operate their health and wellbeing service from and a youth recreational space.

**Stage 2:** Establishment of crisis accommodation as part of facility with 24 hour staff/volunteers operating service, to provide holistic approach.
Introduction

Project objective: The following report predominately aims to investigate the feasibility of establishing a Youth Station in the rural area. In doing this, the report also provides an investigation into the adequateness of existing youth services based in the rural area, through exploring both the amount of youth services and the extent to which available services are currently being used by youth. The project was chosen by the Youth Minister’s Round Table as it directly relates to improving the health and wellbeing of young Territorians.

Background:
Before proposing the establishment of a Youth Station in the rural area, much research was conducted to gain greater understanding of the main issues affecting youth in the rural area, facilities already available to youth, and the best means of meeting the identified needs of rural youth and eliminating the youth service gaps.

Consultation: In line with proposing a Youth Station for the rural area over 500 local residents, various non-government organisations (NGOs), youth service providers and other relevant bodies were consulted. Surveys, interviews and focus groups were among the main methods of consultation.

Timeline
In 2004 Emily Macmillan a member of the then Chief Minister’s Round Table of Young Territorians compiled a report on a Youth Support and Recreational Centre in the Darwin Rural Area. Emily Macmillan’s Findings:
“There are currently no permanent facilities in the rural Area for youth to go use as a Recreational and Support Centre” (E Macmillan 04).

Within the months that Miss MacMillan conducted research the Humpty Doo skate park was constructed. Macmillan noted in her findings the skate park ‘lifted community spirit’ and ‘96% of youth surveyed agreed that it has increased youth participation in the Rural Area’ and ‘this is a reflection of young people’s enthusiasm for new youth facilities in the rural area.’

Emily surveyed 278 people.
When participants were asked what a youth centre needs the following responses were given:
-Potential to house homeless youth (only in times of Emergency)
-Recreational activities
-Medical Practitioners (someone similar to a school nurse)
-Police Constables, Counsellors, Youth Workers

The recommendation made in Emily’s report of a youth health and wellbeing facility in the rural area was not taken on board by government. Since, 2004 need for youth support services and such a facility has dramatically increased and action must now be taken to ensure the health of rural youth.

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2 Chief Minister’s Round Table of Young Territorians Community Based Project Report, E Macmillan, 2004
Major Findings

Existing services for youth living in the rural area:

Below is a list of youth services available in the rural area. The following list has been compiled based on extensive research with relevant government departments, non-government organisations, Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA’s) and young people in the rural area.

Mental Health Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YOUTH SERVICE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Headspace Top End</strong></td>
<td>Primarily provides early intervention mental health. Through headspace young people can receive help for a range of issues including mental health, education, work and drug and alcohol related problems. <em>Headspace</em> Top End is based in Palmerston and specifically targets 14–25 year olds. <em>Headspace</em> does not have a base in the rural area; however depending on the situation Headspace may operate an outreach service for identified rural youth.</td>
<td>Palmerston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Top End Mental Health</strong></td>
<td>Provides specialist mental health services. The Child and Adolescent team provide some services to the rural area from the Community Care Centre in Palmerston. The Adult community team provide services from a base in the Oasis Shopping Centre in Palmerston. <em>Top End Mental Health</em> does not have a base in the rural area.</td>
<td>Palmerston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Top End Association for Mental Health Inc/TEAM health</strong></td>
<td>Provide a Recovery Assistance Program on an outreach basis. <em>TEAM health</em> does not have a base in the rural area.</td>
<td>Palmerston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Top End Mental Health Consumer Organisation</strong></td>
<td>Provides consumer support services from offices in Palmerston and Humpty Doo.</td>
<td>Palmerston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other mental health teams</strong></td>
<td>Provide services from Royal Darwin Hospital or Tamarind Centre to persons from the rural area.</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Through the research conducted it can be seen that there are some mental health services available for rural youth to access. However, there is minimal guaranteed outreach service to the rural area and there is no youth-focused mental health service based in the rural area.

Accommodation Services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YOUTH SERVICE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anglicare Youth Housing Program – Palmerston and Rural (AYHP)</strong></td>
<td>Provides proactive casework (outreach support), inter-agency case management and establishment of small scale accommodation initiatives such as lead tenant crisis/transitional accommodation houses for homeless young people or those at risk of homelessness (15-19 years of age) in the Palmerston region, including Palmerston rural areas. <em>AYHP</em> includes services for singles, couples and young families. <em>AYHP</em> does not have a base in the rural area.</td>
<td>Palmerston</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although AYHP provides housing and accommodation options for Palmerston and Rural youth, there is an extensive waiting list for this service. Also rural youth are required to travel to Palmerston to initially access the services.
**General Health and Wellbeing Services:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YOUTH SERVICE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anglicare Health Connections for Youth (HCY)</td>
<td>Assists young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and have health issues. HCY provides information referral, advocacy, and support to young people accessing health services. The service is targeted at youth in Palmerston and Rural area including singles, couples and young families. HCY does not have a base in the rural area.</td>
<td>Palmerston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Northern Territory Police Youth Diversion Scheme</td>
<td>Provides a range of interventions to young people aged 10 to 18 years. Interventions may include but not be limited to education, sport, recreation, job training, life skills, counselling, mentoring, education and support on the effects of substance abuse, adventure, employment and community service activities that are flexible, challenging and adaptable to suit both individual and community needs. The main aims of the program are to: 1. Divert young people from the formal justice system and engage them into a restorative justice program; and 2. Provide mentoring, activities and skills to support young people to develop a sense of community engagement and purpose. The program operates in the Darwin region, including Cox Peninsula. Access to this service is restricted to young people referred via the court or other formal mechanisms. Provided on an individually person centred planning basis.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balunu Youth Camp Program</td>
<td>Provides a therapeutic camp program for young people who are demonstrating anti-social behaviour, including offending behaviour. The target age group is 14-17 year olds, with consideration given to 11-13 year olds in exceptional circumstances. Referrals for young people to attend youth camps are made to both Balunu Foundation and the Youth Camps Coordinator. A referral selection meeting is held prior to each camp to assess the eligibility and suitability of referrals. In addition to assessing an individual young person’s eligibility, factors such as client mix and compatibility are also be considered. The Balunu Camp program does not have a base in the rural area.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brahminy Program</td>
<td>Provides a residential care youth rehabilitation program to young people aged 11 to 17 years who are demonstrating serious anti-social behaviour including offending behaviour and failing to engage with compulsory education requirements. The Brahminy program does not have a base in the rural area.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taminmin College</td>
<td>The School Health Service has a full time Health Promoting School Nurse and is also equipped with two counsellors.</td>
<td>Taminmin College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Humpty Doo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Whilst the NT Police Youth Diversion, Balunu and Brahminy services fit within the researched demographic, there is very restricted access for rural youth to these services.

HCY is another service identified for use by rural youth, but rural youth are required to travel to Palmerston to access the services.

Taminmin College has been identified to have a health promotions nurse and counsellor providing an essential service to those who are in the education system and able to access the service from the school. However, services provided at the school are only provided to current students.
Disability Services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YOUTH SERVICE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NT Families and Children – Department of Health and Families</td>
<td>Disability services are provided on an individually person centred planning basis. Therefore, Disability Services do not have funded projects/programs specifically targeting youth. The exception to this is school therapy services which specifically target those in school with a disability, and post school options, which is a sub-set of day programs specifically targeting school leavers.</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Emergency Relief Services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YOUTH SERVICE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Gathering Incorporation/ Baptist Bush Church</td>
<td>Provide an emergency relief service for youth including; food relief, counselling and referrals and a personalised mentoring program. The Gathering Inc. is based in Humpty Doo and is focused on servicing rural youth.</td>
<td>Humpty Doo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Gathering Inc. is identified here as being one of the only youth-focused service with a base in the rural area from which to provide services.

Through the above research it may be seen there are no drop in services available to youth in the rural area. All of the current services require a referral and are targeted at specific groups, rather than open to all youth. For example, for youth to access Top End Mental Health or the NT Police Youth Diversion Program they must meet selection criteria and have a direct referral. The current provision of youth services in the rural area is not supplying the optimal level of assistance to youth in need. The various formalities and procedures for youth to access current services make it difficult for youth to identify where they can go for help. This is confirmed in the survey findings provided on page 12 of the report.
Youth Consultation:

A focus group was held in line with research of youth services and the establishment of a Youth Station. The focus group was held at the Humpty Doo Skate Park in an attempt to canvas different youth perspectives.

Aside from discussion at the focus group participants also completed a written survey.

Ten local youth participated in the focus group, representing an age group from 12-19 years, and an area from Darwin River to Bees Creek.

Summary of results:

The following was listed by youth involved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support Services (to improve health and wellbeing) that are available to youth in the rural area.</th>
<th>Number of youth at focus group who identified this service:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Gathering Inc. Baptist Bush Church (Monday night food program)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taminmin School Heath Team /School counsellors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor’s Clinic (Arafura)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychologist (based in Coolalinga)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headspace</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YMCA</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth activities and social events available to youth in the rural area.</th>
<th>Number of youth at focus group who identified this activity/ event:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Litchfield Sports</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptist Bush Church Social events (Community Christmas party, Easter events and youth events with local bands)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taminmin College Music Events</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carols by Candlelight</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pottery Club</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical purpose built youth facilities in the rural area.</th>
<th>Number of youth at focus group who identified this facility:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Village Green (Playground)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skate park</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scouts Hall</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Gathering Inc./Baptist Bush Church premises</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

100 % of youth participating in the focus group said they do not feel there are enough youth services available in the rural area. When asked what they believe should be available for youth in the rural area: the majority of people said they think more youth health services and free events should be made available, particularly music concerts.
The following were identified by those participating in the focus group as the main issues they believe are currently facing youth in the rural area. The issues are listed starting with the most reoccurring issues among those participating:
- Substance Abuse (Marijuana)
- Alcohol
- Not enough emotional support
- Boredom
- Underage Sex
- Vandalism
- Lack of education
- Fighting (Physical violence)

It may be seen that of those participating in the focus group minimal knowledge was apparent of youth services available. Thus, overall research suggests that not only are more youth services required but existing services may need to raise further awareness of services available.

The organisation that participating youth seemed most familiarised with was The Gathering inc. /Baptist Bush Church. Due to the strong community prevalence The Gathering Inc. appears to have within the rural community further research was conducted into the organisation.

**The Gathering Inc./Baptist Bush Church**
The Gathering Inc is a not for profit Christian organisation. They have been operational for ten years in the rural area. Staff are mainly volunteers. The main service is handing out food to those in need; however the organisation also conducts counselling, mediation, a variety of social work, network relevant organisations and hand out clothes and furniture where possible.

The Gathering operates a boxing club, craft group and youth drop in centre. They have a holistic approach to meeting the clientele’s needs. In the 2008/2009 financial year they serviced 1112 clients, this financial year they have serviced 3818 clients. On an average a client is equivalent to a family of two adults and two children. They also operate large youth focused social event, such as dance parties, live gigs and pool competitions.
The Gathering Inc. has recorded a steady increase in clientele accessing services, particularly over the last year. Currently, the organisation services on average 100 families per week. The Gathering has identified the following reasons for an increase in clientele:

- **Expansion of the service area:**
The organisation is now servicing a larger area; Humpty Doo, Berry Springs, Corroboree and supporting a long grass delivery food service. The Corroboree emergency relief service has been operational 8 months and currently has 20 families per week. The reason they commenced operating in Corroboree was because there are no social services there and very high levels of domestic violence. (Apart from emergency services and food relief in Corroboree, the Gathering also offers social activities for youth to build up relationships enabling them to give the youth some contact with other social youth services that they can at least phone.)

- **Reduction in client wages**
Client’s working hours have been cut from full time to part time and they are unable to meet their budget needs. Also, people in the rural area rely on seasonal (mango) work; which has dramatically decreased.

- **An influx of people in the rural area.**
There are many transient people coming up from other states and finding they must live in makeshift accommodation in people’s blocks in the Humpty Doo area and particularly in the bush in Berry Springs in substandard, harsh conditions.

- **Growing lack of affordable accommodation.**
There has been a growing lack of affordable accommodation resulting in youth, single men and domestic violence victims sleeping on The Gathering’s open patio area, using the shower and toilet. This has not been advertised at all, there are simply many people who are desperate for immediate temporary accommodation. The Gathering feels the main need is for youth accommodation, even though youth are often more reluctant to ask for help as many have a fear of authorities.

- **Increase in referrals from agencies in Palmerston.**

- **Influx of amphetamines in the rural area.**

Note: The Berry Springs emergency relief service has approximately 20 families coming for food each week. Being more isolated their counselling and social welfare needs are much higher than the Humpty Doo area, per client. Please note, the Berry Springs service is not advertised and yet the demand is still increasing rapidly.

Please see Appendix Item 3 for further details.
Population:
According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 18,810 people were residing in the Litchfield Shire in 2008. Of this total 35.8% of people were recorded less than 25 years of age. This equates to 6,734 young people living in the Litchfield Shire.

“Litchfield Shire is also projected to experience strong growth during the projection period, increasing from 15,400 in 1999 to between 29,400 and 59,500 in 2021. Growth in the later years of the projection period reflects the emergence of the new township of Weddell.”\(^3\) (ABS, 2008)

In 2008, 28,030 people were recorded as living in Palmerston of which 42.7% are under 25 years of age. This equates to 11,969 young people living in Palmerston.

In comparison to the rural area, Palmerston has far more extensive provision of youth services, (please see appendix 1 of list of youth services available in Palmerston). Given the large youth population of the rural area it is not equitable that the rural area does not have the same level of service. Youth facilities such as the YMCA Youth Drop in Centre in Palmerston are currently well used, given the proven success of facilities in Palmerston it may be surmised that such a facility in the rural area would also be successful. Other considerations must also be made in regard to the demographic of the rural area, in terms of relative remoteness of some persons living in the rural area and trends in the rate of suicide, domestic violence and other related issues. The following demonstrates that the need for youth services in the rural area in terms of greater suicide rate and greater rate of domestic violence

**Suicide Rate in Northern Territory:**

**Figure 2:**

![Suicide death rate 15-24yr total for the period 2002-2006 (per 100,000)](Image)

Data Source: ABS Death Registration Data

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\(^3\) Australian Bureau of Statistics, [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au), Date accessed October 2010
**Figure 3: Suicide rate in Litchfield Shire**
Comparing deaths by suicide or self-inflicted injuries (numbers and rates) across Australian statistical divisions (2001-2004)

Additionally, caution should be exercised when reporting and interpreting suicide information. The reliability of suicide statistics are affected by a number of factors including under-reporting due to the nature of the act, differences in reporting methods across states and territories, and the length of time it takes for Coroners to process deaths that are reported as potential suicides. Due to these factors it may be suggested that levels of suicide are in fact much higher than recorded numbers.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics released figures in 2010 showing the Territory had by far the highest per capita overall suicide rate between 2004 and 2008. In the NT the annual number of deaths from suicide has increased substantially since the mid 1990s and reached a peak in 2002. This increase has gone against national trends. As may be seen by Figure 2 youth suicide is higher in the Northern Territory than any other state or territory. Figure 3: Shows more specifically that it is not simply the Northern Territory that experiences high rates of suicide but the **Litchfield Shire**.

The Australian Government has conducted research which suggests that suicide deaths comprise a much higher proportion of total deaths in younger age groups compared with older age groups, and suicide rates are significantly higher in rural areas. (Please see appendix item 5: Graph of increased suicide rate against remoteness classification and suicide rate against age).
**Domestic Violence:**
In the Northern Territory there was a 23% rise in domestic violence incidents recorded by police from 2007 to 2008 and a 42% rise between 2008 and 2009.\(^4\) Overall from 2007 to 2009 there was a 75% increase in the number of domestic violence incidents recorded by police. (Please See Appendix item 6: Number of NT Domestic Violence Incidents)

Similar to rates of suicide, there has been research conducted to suggest with greater remoteness increased domestic violence rates occur.

A Personal Safety Survey conducted by the Australian government in 2005 found that of the people who had experienced violence from a partner, 61 per cent reported that they had children in their care at some time during the relationship and 36 per cent said that these children had witnessed violence.

The notion that violence is of rising concern to rural youth was confirmed in a focus group held with youth in Humpty Doo. When participants were asked “what is the main issue rural youth are facing “, violence was a reoccuring response.

**Summary:**
Given the research conducted into existing youth services, there are some apparent service gaps. Furthermore, given the relatively high rates of suicide in the Litchfield Shire, the tendency for suicide and domestic violence to be more rampant in rural areas and the prevalence of other youth related issues identified including unemployment, lack of affordable accommodation and substance abuse it is absolutely essential that these service gaps are filled to ensure the health and wellbeing of the 7000 youth living in the area.

---

YOUTH STATION –

Concept of Youth Station and how it would fulfil the needs:
Ideally, to make current youth services more user-friendly they need to network together from a central location. The Youth Station will be a precinct for young people and families to access various health and wellbeing services, receive emergency relief and attend social events.

Taken from The Australian Government National Suicide Research document LIFE, a Youth Station would provide this coordinated immediate response.

“The key social support systems that assist in building individual resilience and capacity to respond positively to adverse life events are:

- support of family and friends;
- positive and supportive relationships;
- social connectedness (neighbourhood, local community, peer groups);
- community understanding and support during times of adversity;
- safe and secure support environments (non-threatening, empathetic);
- sensitive professional carers, general practitioners, mental health workers, hospital emergency service personnel;
- a quick response capability within the community in times of adversity; and
- coordinated and integrated service delivery and support from local service providers.”

The overarching aim of the Youth Station is to network youth services, so that rural youth can identify a place in their area where they are able to go and receive support for various issues. A central location and greater networking will also assist dramatically in making client referrals between relevant organisations. The report explores the feasibility of establishing a Youth Station within the scope of Darwin’s rural area. However, the proposed Youth Station model can also be replicated for other areas.

When consulting various organisations youth accommodation has been of paramount concern, as listed earlier in the report the only existing service AYHP has a lengthy waiting list. To directly meet this need the Youth Station would offer additional emergency accommodation facilities, fulfilling service gaps that currently exist in the rural area.

The Youth Station may include dormitories to accommodate young people temporarily who cannot live at home; and also a separate room for overnight accommodation for various emergency service clients.

Youth Station Services:
The following would be included in the Youth Station:

- Access to emergency service
- Food relief
- Crisis accommodation
- Mental health services, incorporating counselling and referrals between relevant agencies.
- Mentoring programs
- Access to health education information
- Youth drop in centre
- Venue to host social events such as dance parties

---

A Youth Station would be conducive to the activities that are already in place by some NGO's operating in the area:

E.g. The Gathering Inc.

Tuesday and Thursday afternoon: Youth drop in centre
Wednesday and Thursday: Boxing Club
Monday night: Humpty Doo Emergency Service ‘Doing It Hard’ kids program
Taminmin College and the Police, Blue Light Discos
Other family, social and annual events

These activities would increase with the opening of the Youth Station.

Reasons for Youth Station:

- Provide access to emergency services
- Provide temporary crisis accommodation
- Provide access to health and wellbeing services
- Create an environment that is conducive to the whole family
- Provide mentoring programs, access to health and education information
- Youth to have a safe place for recreation
- For youth to develop a sense of ownership and community responsibility
- Break down cultural and social barriers related to accessing community services

Many organisations have said there is a social barrier, particularly with youth around accessing social services. Youth are concerned of the perception others in the community may have in seeing them access services. Through hosting social events at the Station whilst also offering health services this would change the perception of the Station and eliminate these barriers

- Introduce Life be in it style activities and sporting programs
  E.g. Boxing, skate competitions, volleyball, mini golf, music, moral principles (I.e. to look after equipment and not to steal)
- Network between agencies

The Gathering Inc has reported “most of our clients represent a family group. By having a Youth Station it will enable us to network with whole family groups. Offering services not just to our clients but to the community so that the Station is a community centre and enables the socially disadvantaged to integrate, developing a sense of community.”

When exploring the feasibility of constructing a Youth Station a number of locations were identified. Researched revealed that the best option was on The Gathering premises in Challoner Circuit. Other locations explored included Fred’s Pass Reserve. A formal petition to gauge community support for the Youth Station was carried out in 2010. An overwhelming response was received with 500 people supporting the concept and a preference towards the Station being constructed on the Gathering Inc. premises which is near the local high school, Taminmin College, in Challoner Circuit.

As land has been identified on the current Gathering Inc. premises and community awareness of the organisation is very high as shown through the focus group it may be concluded that the most feasible approach to establishing a Youth Station is to work directly with The Gathering organisation in initiating the project.

---

6 The Gathering Inc, Interview 20 October, 2010
The Gathering Inc. has strong networks with many other relevant service providers.

The Gathering Inc. currently networks with:
- Baptist Union of the Northern Territory
- Salvation Army – sunrise centre
- Ruby Gaea
- Headspace, Top end
- NT Mental Health Carers
- Top End Mental Services
- CAAPS
- Youth for Christ

Majority of counselling and welfare agencies throughout the NT The Gathering Inc. networks with.

The Gathering Inc. supplies food to:
- Rural Old Timers
- Salvation Army, Palmerston
- Howard Springs School, Breakfast program
- Liberty Church Itinerant program
- Australian Society for Indigenous Languages Program
- Howard Springs Indigenous Village
- Special events for Scouts, Youth For Christ, Youth With a Mission, Seniors week, Stolen Generation events etc.

Support
The following letters of support show some of the agencies that are willing to use the Station as a networking base. The Gathering Inc. has established a strong network with these agencies over a long time frame and it is through this established trust and connection that the following organisations are willing to support the concept of a Youth Station and provide their service from this base.

Letters of Support for the Youth Station have been received from:
Headspace, Top End
The Salvation Army
Top End Mental Health Services (DHF)
Mental Health Carers
The Gathering Inc.

Given time and more specific direction additional organisations would provide formalised support to provide services from a Youth Station in the rural area. Additionally, community support has shown to be very high and there is a vast number of volunteers who would also give time to the project.
24/06/10

To Whom It May Concern:

Headspace Top End is a program of Anglicare NT that has been providing mental health early intervention support for young people aged 12-25 in Palmerston since June 2008.

Headspace Top End would like to provide this letter in support of the establishment of a ‘youth hub’ in Humpty Doo. This concept has been developed by young people for young people through the Youth Round Table Project.

Headspace Top End has worked with the Baptist Church in partnership to deliver youth activities as part of an Office Of Youth Affairs Grant. These activities explored ways of engaging young people in the area, and provided resources to assist in the establishment of a Boxing Club in the local area.

There are limited ‘youth focused’ spaces in the Humpty Doo area, and the establishment of a facility that could be utilised by young people to access services and/or activities would be a valuable resource for the community.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Welt
Manager
Headspace Top End

headspace is funded by the Australian Government under the Promoting Better Mental Health – Youth Mental Health Initiative.
To whom it may concern

The Baptist Bush church and the Community Support Service of the Salvation Army have worked together for many years to help people in all areas of their struggle to live within their means.

We fully support the youth program that is being run and supported by the Bush Church in Humpty doo.

It would be great if appropriate facilities were made available for the work they have envisioned for the youth, and the programs to help with empowering the youth to better their abilities to change their lives, this concept will be a great asset for this rural area.

We will continue to network with the Bush Church and the workers who give their time and energies to reach out to people in need.

Your assistance to help with finance for a place in the rural area, managed by these volunteers would be appreciated.

Bronwyn Johnson
The Salvation Army, Regional Director Family Tracing Service
P.O., Box 40491 Casuarina, Northern Territory, 0811
Phone (08) 8927 6499  Fax (08) 8927 6875
Email: bronwyn.johnson@aus.salvationarmy.org

Top End Mental Services
Tamarind Centre

To whom it may Concern,

My name is Richard Garling I’ve been networking and supported to feed the many of Homeless people in the Darwin and Palmerston area by the Gathering INC./ Baptist Bush Church. My self who Support the Gathering INC/ Baptist Bush Church Boxing Club and know that there are many Homeless Youth that attend the club and for many this is a place to meet other Youth. I Richard Garling fully support the Gathering INC / Baptist Bush Church and a Youth Hub and a Youth Worker. This initiative is very important for the Community of Humpty Doo and for the youth who live in the area .I wish the Youth Minister's Round Table and Gathering INC / Baptist Bush Church high level of success in getting this program up and going real fast.

Richard Garling
Top End Mental Services
Tamarind Centre
89994988
0401116006
The Honorable Robert Knight
Parliament House
Darwin NT

Dear Minister Knight:

I am writing this letter to support The Gathering/Baptist Bush Church in their application for an extension to their building and an admin/youth worker.

The Gathering/Baptist Bush Church provides much needed services in the rural area including emergency and youth support. The Gathering also liaises with other agencies including Mental Health Carers NT to provide specialised types of support to its clients, such as information about mental illness, caring for someone with a mental illness and respite.

It is understood that the clients utilising the services of The Gathering/Baptist Bush Church would benefit enormously if they were successful in their application to fund the extensions and provide an admin/youth worker as there are very few services operating in the rural area. Mental Health Carers NT would also benefit by having a more appropriate venue to deliver our specialised services and supports to the clients of The Gathering/Baptist Bush Church.

If you require any further information please contact me on the above numbers.

Regards

Lorraine Davies
Manager
23-11-10

To whom it may concern,

The Gathering Inc. executive committee fully endorses the concept of a Youth Station. A facility of this kind would greatly enhance the youth work that The Gathering Inc. is currently doing in the rural area. Statistics blatantly show that the rural area is lacking in youth services. We believe that a Youth Station is vital for the mental and physical wellbeing of the youth in the rural area.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Crook
Pastor, the Baptist Bush Church
Chairperson, The Gathering Inc.
Costing

Quote for construction of Youth Station supplied by JandR Building, Maintenance and Repairs

Facility includes:

- Office space for organisations to operate their service from.
- Male and female dormitories with bathrooms to be used for crisis accommodation.
- Large undercover central area for social activity and recreational events.

Quote provided: $635,000

Please Note: Costs are completely adaptable and can be reduced according to funding. For example the office space could be reduced and incorporated into the recreation area.

Full Plans are available on request.

Figure 4: Floor Plan 1
**Note:** It is possible to establish the Youth Station as a two stage project.

**Stage 1:** Construction of main facility with office space for various organisations to operate their health and wellbeing service from and a youth recreational space.

**Stage 2:** Establishment of crisis accommodation as part of facility with 24 hour staff/volunteers operating service, to provide holistic approach.

**Award wages for project officer and youth worker/ admin assistant:**

**Day Time Service**

*Project Officer*

One full-time project officer to network with youth service providers and co-ordinate social events for the youth of the rural Darwin area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social and Community Services Award</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Services grade 6</td>
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</table>

*Youth Worker*

One youth worker for administration and social work with youth and families.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social and Community Services Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2 Pay point 1</td>
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</table>

**Day Time Service and Crisis Accommodation (24 hour service)**

*Project Officer*

One full-time project officer to network with youth service providers and co-ordinate social events for the youth of the rural Darwin area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social and Community Services Award</th>
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<tr>
<td>Community Services grade 6</td>
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</table>

**24 Hour Staff (House Parent or Social Worker)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social and Community Services Award</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2 Pay point 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ongoing operational Costs:**

Major foreseeable operational costs would include wages, provision of power and water and facility maintenance.
**Funding:**
There are organisations that are currently funded to service the rural area, however are attempting to create greater opportunity to access the rural youth clientele. As they do not have a base in the rural area or are not operating through the local schools, the main means of meeting youth and providing their service is through referrals. Funding opportunities may arise in leasing office space to organisations who wish to provide their service from the Station as it will provide an immediate contact point with rural youth. Additionally, there may be a possibility of seeking funding from various areas, such as housing, youth affairs, and mental health, right across the board.

**Litchfield Activity Hub**
On the 28th of October 2010 a media release was made confirming the construction of a Litchfield Activity Hub at either two locations, being Challoner Circuit or Fred’s Pass Reserve. Whilst the activity Hub will also be a central point for youth to congregate it is very different to the proposed Rural Youth Station.

The activity Hub will include “a 25 metre swimming pool, wading pool, gymnasium, health club and café area suited to year-round use.” The Hub will meet the recreational needs of the rural community providing a safe place to swim and relax. The Youth Station however will meet the mental health and wellbeing needs of local youth providing greater access to various youth services and emergency relief. (See Appendix Item 8: Media release)

The two facilities will complement each other. The Youth Station will function as a stepping stone, especially for high risk youth to become healthy and confident so that they may then become active members of the community and participate at facilities like the Litchfield Activity Hub.
Recommendation:
The final recommendation of this report is that a Youth Station be established on The Gathering Inc. premises (61 Challoner Circuit, Humpty Doo) in Darwin’s rural area. The recommended timeframe is as soon as possible, with definite action in 2011.

Conclusion:
In the long run we hope the recommendations made in the project will not only assist youth in the rural Darwin area, but have a positive impact on all the community and the families of youth affected. We also hope to see an improvement in many related issues identified in the YRT survey findings (see appendix item 4) such as violence and youth concern around health and wellbeing and safe and secure communities. We hope to address many varied yet increasingly prevalent youth issues through improving services.
Relevant Government Strategic Planning Documents:
The following is provided to demonstrate how the Youth Station would link directly with meeting aims of the Northern Territory’s various strategic plans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERRITORY 2030 PLAN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic Plan Target:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Target:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Action:</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERRITORY 2030 PLAN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Action:** | • Government capital works programs include community facilities that enhance the territory lifestyle.  
• Increase number of facilities and activities provided in regional and remote areas. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NT SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTION PLAN NT 2009-2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Responsibility:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Target:** | • Will continue their frontline training initiative to work with communities across the NT to develop strategies around the intersection of alcohol and other drug and mental health issues.  
• Will continue to fund a wide variety of services for individuals who are homeless or otherwise ‘at risk’. These will range from crisis and transitional accommodation, outreach services, drop-in services, activity sessions and support, and case management.  
• Will continue to fund a variety of family focused support programs to assist families in crisis and those in need of more intensive support. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR YOUNG TERRITORIANS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Responsibility:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Key Priority:** | • Improving young people’s health and wellbeing.  
• Reducing mental health problems and disorders among young people: Continue to support services and community networks which help prevent and reduce suicide, such as the Life Promotion Program. |

---

9 Northern Territory Government, Office of Youth Affairs, Department of the Chief Minister *Building a Better Future for Young Territorians*, 2003.
### 2003 PALMERSTON AND RURAL YOUTH SERVICE (PARYS) NETWORK ACTION PLAN

The following key initiatives were identified by the PARYS network in 2003.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INITIATIVE</th>
<th>PRIORITY</th>
<th>TIMEFRAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The establishment of a centrally located crisis accommodation/ detox service for intoxicated young people with strong linkages with related rehabilitation/ counselling services.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Med- Long With yr 1 action by the June 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The establishment of an after-school youth recreation program in the City of Palmerston and Rural Area.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Short-Med Action by May 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of a range of accessible affordable youth-friendly modes of health service delivery – particularly in the areas of general health, mental health and emotional wellbeing, sexual health, drug-related intervention and education service and nutrition. The range of services should include a 24-hour accessible youth-specific mental health service including improved crisis intervention.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ongoing Action by July 2004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Bibliography:

- Chief Minister’s Round Table of Young Territorians Community Based Projects, Youth Support and Recreational Centre in the Darwin Rural Area, E. Macmillan, 2004.
- Northern Territory Government, Territory 2030 Strategic Plan, Department of The Chief Minister, 2003.
- Northern Territory Government, Department of Health and Families, Northern Territory Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2009-2011

Websites:

- Litchfield Shire Council. www.litchfield.nt.gov
Appendix

Item 1: Services registered with Palmerston and Rural Youth Services Network.
The following List was provided by the Youth Coordinator at Palmerston City Council on behalf of The Palmerston and Rural Youth Services network, 2010:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Services</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>AMITY</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Anglicare</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Australian Apprenticeships NT</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Centrelink</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Charles Darwin University</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Conservation Volunteers Australia</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Corrugated Iron Youth Arts</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>CREATE Foundation</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>CRS Australia</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Danila Dilba Health Service</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Darwin Community Arts</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Darwin Community Legal Service</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Darwin Regional Indigenous Employment Service</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Department of Education and Training</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Department of Health and Families</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Department of Immigration and Citizenship</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Family and Children’s Services Palmerston</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Family Planning Welfare NT</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Good Beginnings</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Gray Primary School</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Headspace</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Ironbark Employment</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Mental Health Carers NT</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Mission Australia</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Multicultural Youth NT</td>
<td>53</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>NAAJA</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>NAPCAN NT</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Northern Land Council</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Item 2: *Focus Group Survey*, Youth Minister’s Round Table of Young Territorians, 2010.

This Survey is for the purpose of a focus group to be held at Humpty Doo Village Green Wednesday 15th September 3:30pm as part of a Community Based Project being undertaken by Sephyr Crook and Kelvia Johnson who are members of the 2010 Youth Minister’s Round Table of Young Territorians.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age:</th>
<th>Gender:</th>
<th>Suburb/Community/Town:</th>
<th>Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main language spoken at home?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **What Support service (to improve health and wellbeing) do you know of that are available to youth in the rural area, from outside of Palmerston city to corroboree? (Please list)**
   -
   -
   -
   -

2. **What Youth activities including social events do you know of that are available to youth in the rural area, from outside Palmerston city to corroboree? (Please list)**
   -
   -
   -
   -

3. **What Physical youth facilities, buildings available for use by youth (including crisis care/accommodation, drop in centres) do you know of that are available to youth in the rural area, from outside Palmerston city to corroboree? (Please list)**
   -
   -
   -
   -

Do you feel there are enough youth services (including wellbeing services, youth focused events and social outlets and physical youth facilities) available in the greater Darwin area? (Please Circle)

Yes / No

What do you think should be available for youth in the greater Darwin area? (Please List)

---

Youth Minister’s Round Table of Young Territorian’s Community Based Project
What do you feel is the biggest issue facing youth in Darwin’s rural area?

______________________________________________________________________________________

Would you support the development of a Youth Station?

What is a Youth station?
It is a facility that may supply leisure activities like music and sporting activities for youth and families and is a general place for youth to congregate.
It may also supply Emergency accommodation, and access to emergency services and youth social services such as counselling and welfare work.
The advantage of a Youth Station is in its ability to network all existing youth services providing easier access for youth in premises that they are comfortable with. A Youth Station would also assist in building individual and community relations.

(Please circle)
Yes / No

What would a Youth Station need? (Including support services and physical resources?) (Please List)
________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

Please list some leisure activities of interest to you:
Eg. Music, dance and drama, skating, IT etc.
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

What activities would you like to see operating out of this Station? (Please List)
______________________________________________________________________________________

COMMENTS:
(Please feel free to add any further comments – ideas regarding youth in the rural area, personal experiences or general comments about the issue are welcomed).
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

Thank you for completing the survey.

Please complete contact form below if you would like to be kept informed of this community based project and specific findings from the focus group.

Name: _________________________________________________________________________________

Email Address: ________________________________________________________________________

Youth Minister’s Round Table of Young Territorian’s Community Based Project
Page 34 of 43

The Gathering Inc/ Baptist Bush Church

Number of clients serviced this year, **3818**
(On an average a family is equivalent to 2 adults and 2 children, average number of people who have received food 15 272)

Area serviced: Three main outlets
Humpty Doo outlet- also servicing Howard Springs and parts of Palmerston
Berry Springs outlet- also servicing South Port and Dundee
Corroboree outlet- also servicing Middle point, remote areas towards Jabiru

Other services The Gathering incorporation offers:
- counselling
- counselling referrals
- budgeting
- clothes and furniture
- mediation
- trades and mentoring programs
- youth services

External activities: Boxing Club, Kids Club, Family focused social events, Church services.
Introduction
Each year the Youth Minister’s Round Table of Young Territorians (Round Table) are directed to survey 10 young people within their community to find out what issues affect them before the next Round Table meeting. These findings are discussed at the next Round Table meeting and reported to the Office of Youth Affairs and the Minister for Young Territorians who ensure that the relevant government departments are providing with this data.

Background
The 2010 Youth Minister’s Round Table of Young Territorians (Round Table) was announced in mid-February 2010 and the 1st Round Table meeting was held on the weekend of 27-28 February 2010. Each Round Table member was directed to survey 10 young people in their community and provide these responses to the Office of Youth Affairs for collation.

An overwhelming number of surveys were completed being 492 in total. The majority of these surveys were completed by young people in Alice Springs. These survey results were used to provide input into a number of discussions including the National Inquiry into the Impact of Violence on Young Australians.
Survey Results
Having Fun and Developing Skills
Total number of respondents = 84

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<td>Participants</td>
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<td>64</td>
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Issues and solutions:
- Upgrade the skate park or create a better one.
- Organise more free youth activities, e.g. water sports, concerts, outdoor cinema screenings, discos, rave parties, ice skating, water polo, theme park, lazer tag centre, arcades, a tagging wall, roller blading rink, waterpark, motorbike track, drive-in, paintball, go karts, a beach or permanent lake.
- Provide more opportunities for young people to invest in property in the NT and provide more recreational activities.
- Punish bullies.
- Put a youth curfew in place to battle crime and alcohol abuse.
- Extend the opening hours of the gap youth centre and Alice Springs youth centre and have weekend camps where kids can learn things like horse riding.
- Create more shops or a larger shopping complex with Big W and create more youth employment opportunities.
- Take away native title.
- Make stuff cheaper, reduce the cost of local opportunities, or give parents more money.
- Parents should control their kids more to stop them smoking, and taking drugs.
- Have separate bus routes for general public and school students youth place.
- Get more after school activities.
- Advertise youth events.
- More security patrolling the community the stop gangs and people drinking on the streets.
- Raise awareness about scholarships that are available and broaden scope so there is not only a focus on academic achievement.
- Provide more things for bush people – places to go things to do.
- Provide more activities and community functions throughout the whole year.

Safe and Secure Communities
Total number of respondents = 104

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<tr>
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<th>Male: 43</th>
<th>Female: 60</th>
<th>Indigenous: 24</th>
<th>Non-Indigenous: 78</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participants</td>
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Issues and solutions:
- Stop bullying and violence by providing more activities for young people
- Increase the legal drinking age to 21 years
- Encourage young people to talk to someone about their problems
- Make sure that all young people under 16 years are at a safe place after dark
- Encourage society to stop influencing violence
- Stop racism by encouraging people to share their culture
- Have stricter consequences for those who commit crimes
- Have a limit on ages in public/private areas. E.g. students not allowed into shops during school hours
- Increase mentoring and self esteem-building programs for young people

HEALTH AND WELLBEING
Total number of respondents = 249

|----------|-------------|----------------|--------------------|

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Issues and solutions:
- Parental supervision needs to be stricter
- Parents shouldn’t encourage their children to drink or smoke
- Harsher punishment for drug sellers
- Increase police presence
- Only sell alcohol at certain times. E.g. 3pm – 9pm every day
- Install more surveillance cameras in town
- Teachers should supervise school students to make sure no-one smokes on school grounds
- Stop people from being able to buy grog from supermarkets if they don’t buy over $50 on food depending on the amount they buy
- Have more effective ways to prevent STD’s
- Provide more counselling opportunities for people with depression
- Hold information nights about drugs and Alcohol for parents and children
- Reduce public drunkenness by putting all welfare money into the basics card so they can only buy things they need

Conclusion
Young Territorians have listed their main concerns as being alcohol and other drug use, and violence in their community. These issues are included in the ‘Safe and Secure Communities’ (and ‘Health and Wellbeing’ headings of this report.
Item 5:

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Release of Findings: Causes of Death
Suicide Rate expressed as proportion of total causes of death for various age groups


**FIGURE 15:** Suicide rates for different regions based on remoteness 1997–2001

The above tables suggest that rural youth are most at risk of suicidal behaviour.
Domestic Violence Related incidents
There was a 23% rise in domestic violence incidents recorded by police from 2007 to 2008 and a 42% rise between 2008 and 2009. From 2007 to 2009 there was a 75% increase in the number of domestic violence incidents recorded by police in the NTER communities. Incidents in THEMIS communities accounted for 27% of the increase from 2007 to 2009.

Table 6:2: Confirmed Domestic Violence Related Incidents

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<td>Alcohol related</td>
<td>666</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>1076</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>1,596</td>
<td>1,964</td>
<td>2,787</td>
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Source: Northern Territory Government.
Note: Data have been revised since the previous Monitoring Report due to improved reporting systems.
PROPOSAL FOR A YOUTH STATION FOR THE RURAL AREA

What is a Youth Station?
It is a facility that supplies: leisure activities like music and sporting activities for youth and families, Emergency accommodation, and access to emergency services and youth social services. The advantage of a Youth Station is in its ability to network all existing youth services providing easier access for youth in premises that they are comfortable with. A Youth Station would also assist in building individual and community relations.

Concept for Youth Station for the rural area:
Large shed that may be equipped with things such as gym equipment or other indoor sporting equipment, drum kit and other musical instruments, DJ equipment, computers and electrical facilities. Outdoor facilities may include volleyball, netball or mini golf courses. The shed would have a section that would be divided into dormitory style accommodation; Also as part of the facility there may be a room for counselling and welfare work.

Suggested locations for Youth Station:
- Challoner Circuit, The Gathering Inc. Baptist Bush Church premises which already operates emergency relief and youth facilities and is in close proximity to the local high school.
- In Fred’s Pass Reserve vicinity, which is in close proximity to other already existing sporting activities?
- Other suggestions of locations would also be appreciated.
I agree with the proposal of a Youth Station and staff for the rural area.

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<td>The Gathering Inc/ Baptist Bush Church in close proximity to the local high school.</td>
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All data contained within this petition will be used as part of the research into a Community Based Project being undertaken by Sephy Crook and Kelvia Johnson who are members of the 2010 Youth Minister’s Round Table of Young Territorians. Participants who provide e-mail addresses will be provided with the final Community Based Project report. CONTACT: Sephy Crook or Kelvia Johnson Email:sephyr-@hotmail.com
Item 8: Media Release: Litchfield Activity Hub, 2010
Northern Territory Government Media Release

**Malarndirri McCarthy**
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
28 October 2010

**Have your say on the future of the Litchfield Activity Hub**

Litchfield residents in the Darwin rural area are invited to have their say on the two potential locations for the proposed Litchfield Activity Hub. The Territory Government has funded the YMCA to undertake initial scoping studies for a recreation hub at two proposed sites – Taminmin College at Humpty Doo and Freds Pass Reserve.

Local Government Minister, Malarndirri McCarthy today said that the YMCA’s assessments were based on a 25 metre swimming pool, wading pool, gymnasium, health club and café area suited to year-round use.

“The Government is committed to building a facility in the Litchfield area where local residents - adults, children and family groups - can access a variety of recreational opportunities,” said Ms McCarthy.

“This first stage of community feedback is an important step towards providing this facility.

“The initial scoping studies indicate that the Freds Pass Reserve site offers more community benefit (is the preferred option) – now we would like to hear what the community has to say,” said Ms McCarthy.

“Once community feedback has been received, a detailed business case could proceed including consideration of land tenure arrangements, location and dimensions, construction, fit-out, overall operating mechanisms, and indicative costs.”

Local residents and interested organisations are encouraged to view the scoping studies and provide comment by Friday 12 November 2010.

**Copies of the studies can also be downloaded from the YMCA’s website:** [http://topend.ymca.org.au/pub/Pages/default.aspx](http://topend.ymca.org.au/pub/Pages/default.aspx)

**Copies are also available at:**
- Litchfield Council;
- Taminmin College public library;
- Fred’s Pass Reserve office;
- Coolalinga Shopping Centre; and
- Humpty Doo Shopping Centre.

**Media Contact:** Ursula Raymond 0457 825 507