

SETS Community of Practice

Communique: Youth Subgroup Meeting

Videoconference – 9 November 2021

On 9 November, SETSCoP held its first meeting of the new Youth subgroup.

Presentation from Access Community Services

Nicki Stacey, Settlement Services and Youth Services Lead at Access Community Services, presented to subgroup members about the Youth Holiday Program run by Access.

- The 2-day programs are delivered in school holidays and are aimed at 13-17 year olds. They involve games with a focus on key employability skills:
 - Leadership
 - Communications
 - Problem solving
 - Networking / relationship building
- The program commenced with young people getting to know each other and building trust through activities such as building bridges out of straws. Other activities included an escape room and a life-sized Cluedo game.
- A number of challenges were set up inside and outside. Participants were split into small teams with a mix of personalities. The teams worked together to solve clues and complete challenges, using problem solving, communication and interview skills.
- Every team had a case worker in it to break down power imbalances and this also strengthened relationships between the young people and the case workers.
- The program included time for reflection at the end of each day to discuss what employability skills are and discuss what skills the young people have for employment.
- The benefits of this program for youth include:
 - Learning how to define their skills
 - Building confidence to express and share those skills
 - Meeting other young people with the same goals and challenges
 - Meeting other young people outside their usual social circles
- 15-20 youth participated the program. 15 is the ideal number, allowing 3 in each team.
- Participants were referred into the program from case workers who outreach in schools.

See pictures below of the program.

Discussion of other youth activities run by service providers

Attendees shared other example of activities that they run, including:

- Creating a competition for young people to express in writing or drawing about 2020-2021 and how they feel about it

- Establishing a youth advisory committee with 12 young people who organised activities for their community. This committee met with the service provider each month to discuss their ideas
- Supplying art supplies to young people at the same time as the service provided food deliveries
- Holding a Multicultural Youth Summit to speak about topics informed by the youth steering committee. The committee inform the service provider's understanding about the most relevant issues for young people in the community
- MYAN is holding its bi-annual national multicultural youth leadership summit – FUSE – on 4-5 December. This gives opportunities for young people to explore key issues, participate in skills-building workshops and have a conversation with decision makers. More information is available [here](#)

The challenge of facilitating access to internet, particularly for young people at home has been met through:

- Applying for funding for internet for some clients.
- Accessing devices from government departments to provide to clients
- Including “accessibility” in program budgets which may also include payments to young people.

Participants shared tips to engage with young people and maintain their engagement. Suggestions included:

- Interacting on Zoom and social media
- Sports and youth led activities
- Sports taster sessions at lunch in schools, where small games of several sports are set up and facilitated by settlement service staff
- Youth groups – girls group and boys group
- Following up initial fun activities with other activities
- Before starting a young women's group conducted online staff put together parcels with resources and envelopes to only open when the program is on which includes a surprise and some snacks. These were delivered to clients the young women were excited to receive parcels and shared pics of them online
- Delivering sessions in TAFE
- Encouraging people to move, including Zoom walks and meeting at the park
- Partnering with ReLink who deliver stretching exercises at the beginning of Zoom sessions for 5-10 mins in the session to get people moving and energised

It was noted that continual online engagement is difficult, particularly when school and tutoring has also been online. It is hoped that reopening and being able to resume face-to-face meetings will assist with engagement.

