

SETS Community of Practice

Communique: Youth Subgroup Meeting

Videoconference – 30 November 2022

On 30 November, 2022 SETSCoP conducted a Youth subgroup meeting. This group exists to share best practice in supporting young people settling in Australia and discuss and develop resources to support providers in this work. The focus of this meeting was on current key impacts on young people and requests for resource development through SETSCoP in 2023.

Upcoming resources released

SETSCoP has partnered with Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN) to develop an **e-learning on Youth Settlement Support** that will set the scene for organisations to understand and have conversations on why there is a need for a youth focus in settlement and a need for specialised work on that. It also provides an introduction to youth settlement and more information on the National Youth Settlement Framework (NYSF) Training. The course will be live in the next few weeks (see link for all e-learning resources in Shared Resources below). The NYSF is delivered through partners in NSW, Victoria and Queensland and is currently being reviewed to include more practical tips and provides opportunities for conversations on specific experiences and examples of circumstances that occur in practice.

Current key issues faced by young people

Many young people are seeking **support to gain a driving licence**. This is due to neither of their parents having a licence and the requirement to be supervised as a learner by someone who has had their full licence for at least 2 years. Also, the cost of lessons excludes most migrant and refugee young people, with some full course packages costing \$3,000 – 4,000. Many providers seek additional funding to be able to provide driving lessons to their SETS clients, however these existing programs have long wait lists.

Another key issue of concern is **intergenerational conflict** and the challenges that this poses in families. Providers are seeking for further resources on navigating this issue.

Racism is being reported by young people to SETS providers. This is being enacted from both other students and staff in schools, as well as in workplaces, public spaces and institutions. For those experiencing racism in schools this at times leads to exclusion for school. This may be occurring due to the **lack of language support, limited trauma-informed practice** and misunderstanding of students in mainstream schools.

Through school outreach **mental health concerns** have risen and are usually only identified when at a crisis point, due to the long periods of time, particularly in Victoria, where young people have worked remotely through lockdowns and the lack of socialisation is now having visible impacts. Other providers reported that increasing numbers of young people who are not engaged in school have reported a lack

of well-being. Those who do not engage in education or training find it difficult to connect with other young people and more easily are socially isolated.

Access to digital devices also impacts on the experiences of young people. Many young people who have to complete online learning do so using a phone, due to the limited access within a family to computers. When completing online sessions on a phone, as opposed to a computer, this provides different functionality, so the experience and skills of those young people is affected.

Amongst young people **housing** continues to be a concern. This is coming as families are being impacted by the housing crisis, however also individual young people, some who are single parents, and are living in share houses are struggling. The pressures of maintaining an income to help pay rental and living costs also impacts on young people who are studying, as they are unable to complete student practicum placements due to the need to continue working so that bills can be paid. Therefore, progress towards future goals and careers are impacted. Another expectation of young people who live with their family is that they will act as an interpreter with real estate agents and support the navigation of the housing system, including making decisions.

Access to services which are available for mainstream young people is limited, due to the **lack of culturally responsive practice**, especially in regional areas. As an example, Headspace is a service which is not always responsive and also has a wait list, which can discourage young people who have made the decision to seek support for their mental health.

Shared Resources

E-learning resources: <https://www.myauslearning.org.au>

National Workforce Competencies for Settlement Practitioners: <https://setscop.org.au/workforce-competencies/>