

SETSCoP Meeting Summary Communique

Youth Subgroup – 21 November 2024

co-facilitated between The Social Policy Group (SPG) & Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Australia (MYAN)

1. Youth Subgroup:

The SETSCoP Youth Subgroup is a longstanding subgroup that provides a forum for Youth and Settlement Practitioners to connect, share good practices, discuss issues and challenges and co-design resources that support the sector working with Youth in Settlement.

2. MYAN's FUSE Leadership 2025 Program:

MYAN's national youth leadership summit for young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds. Successful applicants will be invited to Parliament House in Canberra (6-7 August 2025) and present ideas directly to MPs and Senators. Previous participants provided positive feedback on the FUSE program, emphasising its role in empowering youth through structured engagement.

- > For young people 18 to 25 years old from refugee and migrant background
- > Submissions can be written, video or other innovative methods are also welcomed.
- > MYAN provides training and support to develop skills in advocacy, speaking and leadership
- > Participants will gain valuable feedback and insights from policymakers
- > Opportunity for youth to build networks with influential leaders and peers and receive recognition and support for innovative ideas.
- > Cost of travel is covered
- > More information and apply at: <https://myan.org.au/our-work/youth-leadership/fuse2/>

3. Issues Seen Youth Settlement:

Transport and Driving Programs:

- **Barriers:** Limited access to transport and driving lessons restricts youth independence and workforce participation.
- **Solutions:** Brokerage programs, tailored driving lessons (considering language and cultural needs), and expanded L2P Programs are critical. Current waitlists (e.g., 18 months in some areas) highlight the urgency for increased funding and capacity.

Mental Health and Wellbeing:

- Post-COVID disengagement among youth is increasing, with mental health concerns exacerbated by cultural identity struggles and intergenerational conflicts.
- Definitions of mental health vary across cultures, complicating access to appropriate services.

Education and Engagement:

- **Language Barriers:** Many youth face challenges accessing English support and navigating education systems, particularly after transitioning from in-language schools.
- **Disengagement:** Schools struggle to meet the diverse needs of migrant and refugee youth, with many teenagers becoming disengaged after COVID.
- **Family Expectations:** Pressure from families to pursue specific career paths (e.g., doctor, engineer) can lead to stress and educational disengagement.

Employment and Financial Stability:

- Youth face **significant barriers to workforce entry**, including limited digital literacy, lack of part-time work opportunities, and transport challenges.
- **Social enterprises** play a vital role in addressing employment gaps but are not widespread enough.

Intergenerational and Cultural Conflicts:

- Youth often **navigate dual identities** (e.g., Afghan culture at home, Australian culture at school), leading to identity loss and mental health challenges.
- Youth acting as **interpreters for their families** disrupts their education and places undue responsibility on them.

Access to Services:

- Youth **struggle to access essential services** like medical care and Centrelink due to language barriers and lack of cultural sensitivity.
- Programs and services are often centralised, creating **access issues** for youth in regional areas like Cairns.

Funding and Program Sustainability:

- Short funding cycles disrupt rapport-building and service delivery, **forcing youth to repeatedly transition between programs**.
- **Schools hold significant influence in engagement** but require more streamlined connections with service providers and departments of education.

Housing and Community Challenges:

- **Housing** issues affect migrant and refugee youth disproportionately, compounded by societal-wide housing shortages.
- Referrals to other organisations often fail due to **limited cultural awareness or accessibility of services**.

Outcomes

1. **Expand on the [Mobility and Transport for Young Refugees and Migrants in Australia Policy and Practice Resource](#)**: Previous subgroup outcome. Opportunities included:
 - a) The government can invest in transport and specific programs
 - b) Research into changing spatial settlement patterns
 - c) Building trusted relationships and then using different approaches (providing transport, organising group travel, online chat spaces)
 - d) Getting creative with services (partnerships, outreach, after-hours)
 - e) Continued advocacy
2. **National Webinar**: Collaborative forum to discuss issues and solutions for Youth in settlement across the settlement ecosystem, including youth, stakeholders, decision-makers and the broader service sector.
3. **Leverage Case Studies**: Collect and present anecdotal evidence to policymakers, highlighting systemic barriers and the importance of culturally aware solutions.
4. **Enhance Collaboration**: Strengthen partnerships between schools, government, and community organisations to create a unified approach to youth settlement challenges.

5. **Collaborate across SETSCoP other thematic subgroups:** explore crossovers with other SETSCoP Thematic Subgroups (i.e., Employment, DFV/Gender, Housing) for opportunities for larger scope outcome.
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Attendees (49):

Nick Ross (SPG – SETSCoP Secretariat)
Chai Oonnankat (SPG – SETSCoP Secretariat)
Shannon White (MYAN)
Ahmed (SydWest)
Ali (Intereach)
Amadu (ADSI)
Angela (MYAN NSW)
Aqila (Vinnies)
Ashlea (CMY)
Ayah (MWA)
Byanka (Arabic Welfare)
Sandra (Chaldean League)
Deborah (MFWA)
Deborah (Centacare)
Diana (MRC Tas)
Elle (MCCGC)
Erdem (MARSS)
Farima (AMWCHR)
Gabi (CMY)
Grace (Communicare)
Gula (AWOV)
Hannah (Follow-up)
Jacques (AWECC)
Javier (Centacare)
Jen (ERCS)

Karla (MRC Tas)
Khadija (MWASA)
Kim (JSS)
Ku Htee (Youth Futures)
Leila (MRC Tas)
Madan (Mosaic)
Mae Sie (Wyndham CEC)
Meredith (QPASTT)
Mina (MIC East)
Nasima (AWOV)
Nathan (Edmund Rice)
Nino (Intereach)
Rahul (STREAT)
Sumaya (STREAT)
Rain (Sydney MCS)
Renata (Multicultural Families)
Richard (AlburyWodonga ECC)
Rohan (MIC)
Sarah (Arabic Welfare)
Soheil (Follow-up)
Sumina (ADSI)
Tariro (MRC Tas)
Yalda (Wyndham ECC)