

# **YOUTH SERVICES**

## **Primary Target Group of Youth Services**

The primary target group for youth services is at risk young people aged 12 – 18 years however, the City works with all young people up to the age of 25, including those who are not necessarily at risk.

### **What the City does:**

#### **Youth and Public Space**

The Youth and Public Space Program aims to promote non-discriminatory access to public space that is positive and safe for young people and other members of the community. The program can work with young people and the community to address issues relating to the use of public space, such as conflict, boredom from nothing to do, being moved on, and how to improve public spaces for young people.

#### **Youth Outreach Program**

The Youth Outreach Program employs Youth Outreach Workers to work with local young people in spaces that they frequent and are comfortable in. The workers engage with young people in 'youth spaces' to build positive relationships and provide an information, advocacy, support and referral service. Workers are also able to provide mediation between young people and the general community, young people and authorities, and young people themselves. The program also identifies local youth needs for the youth services team to address.

#### **Youth Liaison Program**

The Youth Liaison Program works in partnership with local business' that are experiencing issues and/or concerns with the behaviour of young people who access their shopping centres. The City, through funds supplied by the business, provides services that are specifically designed specifically to address the concerns raised by the business. The program aims to increase young people's acceptance in the community as legitimate users of public space, as well as reduce the levels of anti social behaviour and vandalism engaged in by young people. This program is currently in operation at Lakeside Shopping Centre on Thursday evenings.

#### **Summer Sessions**

The Summer Sessions Program provides young people with leisure and recreational based activities in public space during school holidays. The aim of the program is to engage with those young people who are less likely to attend structured programs during the holiday period.

#### **Drop-in Programs**

In response to the changing needs of young people, drop-in programs previously located at community facilities are now being offered to local high schools. Six schools in the City have taken up the programs, and the City's qualified youth workers provide drop-in programs during breakfast club, lunch breaks or after school hours. All programs take place in the school environment.

Drop-in is a supervised, yet mostly unstructured program for young people and provides a range of leisure/recreational activities. Qualified Youth Workers supervise the drop in and offer young people and their families' information, support, advocacy and referral as required.

## **Mentoring Program**

The Mentoring Program is offered to local high schools, who refer students to the City's Youth Workers for information, support, referral and advocacy services from a positive role model. These students are referred through the School's Psychologist, Chaplain and /or Year Coordinator.

## **School Holiday Program**

Anchors Youth Centre in Heathridge provides a full time (8:30am – 5pm) Integrated School Holiday Program during school holidays for young people experiencing mental health, family breakdown, social and behavioural issues. This program is integrated as it offers places for young people with special needs. Carers are employed to assist the young people with special needs. A variety of centre-based activities and excursions are offered at a subsidised rate.

## **Skilled Based Term Programs**

Skills Based Programs are offered to local young people throughout school terms. The aim of these programs is to provide young people with basic life skills. Additionally it provides young people the ability to explore interests that they may not otherwise be given the opportunity to do so. Skill Based Programs generally run for duration of 6-8 weeks and in partnership with external specialist service providers. Programs have included Engine-Worx and Photography Courses and Rock School 101.

## **Mobile Youth Service (Youth-Mobile)**

The Youth-Mobile is run by qualified Youth Workers in a bus that has been fitted with a kitchen, TV, video games, chairs, music and sports equipment.

The Youth-Mobile visits public space and engages young people in youth friendly activities such as Guitar Hero competitions, mural art workshops and lots more. Youth Workers are also available to provide the young people with information, support and referral services if required.

## **Music Program**

- The City offers Hip Hop music programs once per week. Locations vary in accordance to identified need. This program offers local young people the opportunity to learn hip-hop skills including breakdancing, beatboxing, DJ'ing and MC'ing.
- Battle of the Bands – the City of Joondalup hosts an annual Battle of the Bands competition for developing local bands providing them with an opportunity to play to a live audience. The winning bands are also provided with an opportunity play at the Joondalup Festival.

## **Joondalup Festival**

The Youth Services team contributes funds and time to the youth section of the Joondalup Festival, which includes BMX and skate competitions, a youth music tent and Outbreak (Perth's Premiere Breakdancing Competition).

## **Skate/ BMX/Scooter Competitions**

During the summer months the City runs competitions for young people who skate, BMX and scooter. The competitions are usually held at the City's skate parks in Carine and Kinross.

## **Youth Information**

Flyers, posters and zip cards are produced as required to inform young people and other youth agencies of the services the City offers, as well as promoting other local youth services that are available to young people.

## **Youth Financial Counselling**

The City of Joondalup provides free financial counselling to young residents of the City. The Financial Counsellor assists young people with queries and information relating to the following areas; advocacy; negotiations; debt recovery; bills; budgeting; housing; appeals; bankruptcy; complaints and referral. The youth-specific Financial Counsellor works three days a week.

## **Youth Notebook**

An annual Youth Notebook, which is an informative diary, is produced and provided to local young people. It covers youth financial and lifestyle issues and is aptly named "My Money, My Life".

## **Focussing on the Future Youth Awards**

These awards are to recognise and reward our youth and to encourage them to commit to further studies.

Students in Year 10 can apply for an amount of \$1000, disbursed over two years, to assist them in completing their WACE studies or non WACE/ Alternate Studies.

Second Year students from ECU Joondalup undertaking studies in a faculty relevant to Local Government can apply for an amount of \$5000. The Award can be used for study related expenses including fees, textbooks and transport.

## **Co-ordinated Approaches**

- JAWS – staff attend the JAWS Youth Worker Network (JAWS – Joondalup and Wanneroo Services).
- School Holiday Program – Community Vision work to allow the School Holiday Program to be successfully integrated, Community Vision work alongside City of Joondalup staff to enable appropriate referral and integration of young people with special needs.
- As required, the City works with local shopping centres, providing programs that assist in decreasing youth issues in their centres.
- Police – The City has open communication with Police regarding youth issues and how we are all working on these. Team members meet with Police to discuss community issues bi-monthly.
- Perth Transport Authority and local stakeholders – we are working toward decreasing issues at Joondalup Train Station.
- Path Transit – The City has open communication and strategies together to improve access for young people onto their buses and decrease the incidents of youth issues they have. Youth Outreach Workers are currently working on local buses to assist with youth issues.
- Local High Schools – workshops on a variety of youth related subjects are provided to local high schools at no cost. Common subjects covered include body image, leavers, self-esteem, bullying and self-talk. Agreement with schools for access by Youth Outreach Workers and drop-in programs during school lunch periods.
- Staff work alongside other community members and organisation as required to address youth related issues.
- Juvenile Justice – acting as a mediator representing the City in matters concerning juvenile offenders.

**Other Youth Related Programs:**

**Leisure Centres**

Offer a variety of youth-related activities and programs.

**Libraries**

Offer a variety of youth-related services and programs.