

Brief submission

Penrith Youth Interagency. Issues have been raised relating to wellbeing of young people families communities and youth sector. Early intervention/prevention programs are vital in identifying issues. Working with vulnerable young people to build protective factors/behaviours and helping build resilience in all young people to make better choices in their lives in an early intervention will improve the quality of life for these individuals. These programs are measurable in the short term and have positive long term affects that occur after the young person has left the service. Aims of early intervention is to divert young people from high risk dangerous behaviours that may lead to less reliance on the human services later in life ie acute health intervention, corrective services. Early social inclusion programs such as parents group, youth dropin, harm minimisation programs builds social cohesion/capital, community connections, and identifies assistance needs before a crisis. Community awareness/education strategies are vital, while there are national issues campaigns such as DV, the local notforprofit and local government community services are best placed to connect with the community and provide safe intervention. Services must be implemented by experienced, qualified and professional workers that have quality industrial provisions, job security and satisfactory training. The opportunity for sector development, building of networks/partnerships and local government's coordinating sector growth is vital for delivery of quality service. While discussions about providing choices for disadvantaged people, more service choice does not mean better availability of accessible services, nor that the services are appropriate, affordable or meeting the needs or helping to identify needs of individuals and communities. Consultations need to happen with services and community on how human services need to be delivered to proactively build the wellbeing of our communities.