

REPORT

Report No. 62/12ccs

**TO: CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE –
16 APRIL 2012**

SUBJECT: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

**AUTHOR: COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER –
LEON TRIPP**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report profiles the activities of the Community Development Unit in regard to youth development strategies and activities. Council commits resources annually to youth projects within the Community and Cultural Development Manager's (CCDM) budget which supports numerous initiatives.

RECOMMENDATION

That it be a recommendation to Council:

That this report be noted.

REPORT

1. DISCUSSION

Following is a summary of youth development strategies and activities either undertaken or assisted by the Community Development Unit (CDU).

Alice Springs Youth Hub

The CDU works collaboratively with the Alice Springs Youth Hub to define a coordinated approach towards youth service delivery and youth activities by:

- Attending Youth Action Group meetings and contribute to the Alice Springs Action Plan.
- Contributing to Youth Services Alice Springs network meetings.
- Contributing resources to Youth Hub activities.

Central Australian Alcohol Public Awareness Campaign

A 2 year program that saw the involvement of young people in the production of HD TV commercials, sound grabs and posters with the anti drinking message 'Tell Em That's Enough'. This was a partnership between Alice Springs Town Council (ASTC), Alcohol and Drug Services of Central Australia, NT Police, Department of Justice, Congress and Bushmob. This program is ongoing.

Desert Knowledge Australia Youth Leadership Program

Provided sponsorship to this program in return for 3 access days for ASTC by the syndicate groups in the program. These days consisted of a tour of Council facilities including the Landfill and Glass Crusher, Traeger Park, Alice Solar City and the Civic Centre; a mini Youth Forum with the Mayor and CEO and a deputation to an

Ordinary Council Meeting to present to Councillors the product of their individual syndicate projects. One of these was the idea of establishing a Youth Council which would be coordinated within ASTC. This initiative is currently being developed (See attachment A).

School Holiday Programs

The CDU contributes to school holidays programs in a variety of ways including:

- Provision of entry tickets into the Ice Skating Rink to disadvantaged youth through the 2010/11 summer holidays.
- Provision of Creative Activities Program through Red Hot Arts Central Australia.
- Dive-in movies and human resource assistance through the 2011/12 summer school holiday program over 6 weeks at the ASALC coordinated by the Alice Springs Youth Hub (See attachment B).

National Youth Week (NYW)

The CDU contributes to the planning and delivery of NYW activities annually. Delivered the screening of the winners in the 'Tell Em That's Enough' HD TV commercial competition in 2011/12. This event included Youth Bands and attracted over 200 young people. This year's event is planned for the Youth Hub on 21st April as the closing event in NYW and will feature 3 local youth bands and an interstate headliner act. The CDU will contribute human resource assistance and the blow up cinema screen.

Deadly Vibe 3 on 3 Basketball and Concert

This was a collaboration between 3 tiers of Government - Federal, State and Local in July 2011. It attracted 600 young people through the day for the 3 on 3 basketball and approximately 300 for the concert at night. It was aimed predominantly at indigenous youth.

Alice Springs Tuition Program

This partnership between ASTC, Centralian Senior College, OLSH and St Philips was established in 2010 to provide advanced extracurricular tuition for students through the mid year school break. These students would otherwise need to travel interstate to access this level of tuition which would normally be financially restrictive. By bringing the tutor to Alice Springs, considerable saving is made and the tutelage becomes accessible to a greater number of students. Over 80 young people have attended over the last 2 years.

Aerosol Art Strategy

This strategy looks at reducing graffiti vandalism through working with young artist engaged through the Youth Hub to develop sanctioned aerosol art sites. Sites already developed include the ASTC Skate Park and walls within the Youth Hub. An application for anti graffiti funding is currently with the Federal Government which if successful would further this strategy over the next 2 years.

Other CDU contributions to Youth Activities

- Sunchase 2011 Solar Challenge
- Midnight Basketball
- Centralian Senior College art exhibition
- Engagement of youth performers in Council run events.

3. POLICY IMPACTS

These Youth Development activities directly relate to the following strategies within Council's Strategic Plan and the CDU's Business Plan:

- Strategy 2.2.1: Provide facilities and support local activity programs for youth
- Strategy 2.2.3: Develop and maintain a Youth Committee to provide advice on the needs of youth in our community.
- Strategy 2.2.5: Support youth programs which assist in youth development and leadership.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

The recurrent Youth Projects budget is \$31,500.

5. **SOCIAL IMPACTS**

These youth development strategies and activities contribute to the reduction in youth anti social behaviour and provide opportunities for young people to engage in a positive way with the community.

6. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

Nil

7. **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Council is seen to being proactively involved in strategies that address multiple youth issues.

8. **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A - Newspaper articles of CDU Activities



Leon Tripp
COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



Craig Catchlove
DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Youth Forum was organised by the Alice Springs Town Council's Community Development Unit

Youth tackle tough issues

Mixed views on curfew

Erin Jones

YOUNG leaders have had their say on issues and challenges facing Alice Springs Central Australian youth, including a proposed curfew.

Students involved with Desert Knowledge Australia's Youth Leadership Program took part in a special forum at which they discussed safety in Alice Springs, how the CBD could be more attractive and what they would do if they were mayor for a day.

With summer just around the corner and school holidays in sight, the first topic was whether young people felt safe in Alice Springs.

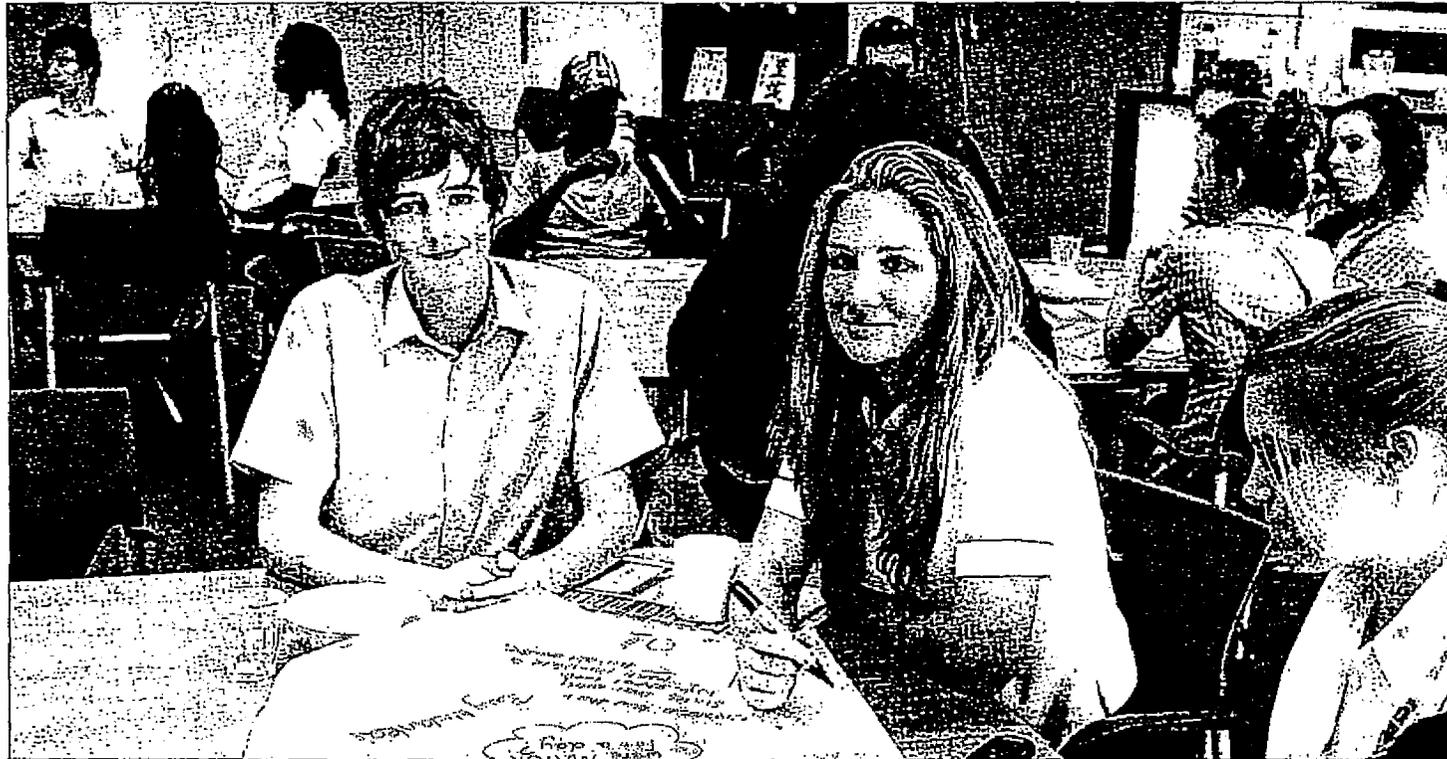
The 15 involved in the forum last Friday highlighted that they felt safe during the day but not at night.

They said Alice Springs was no less safe than other cities, but proposed more police foot patrols and more lighting in the CBD and outer suburbs was needed to improve safety.

OLSH student Anthea Connelly, 15, said: "I feel very safe in Alice Springs, because I don't go out. It depends whether it is during the day or night time as well. You immediately feel unsafe during the night."

OLSH student Jack Aspin, 15, said: "I feel safe in Alice Springs. It's generally a safe town and as safe as any other in the NT at least. It could be improved, but in my current situation I think it's pretty safe."

That led to a discussion about a proposed youth curfew from



Andrew Davis from OLSH College and Bella Pechey and Rona McDonald from St Philip's College discuss issues during the Youth Forum

Picture: JUSTIN BRIERTY

10.30pm until 6am and questions were raised on its purpose and how it would be administered. Apart from Gavin Henderson's petition against the curfew, this was the first time teenagers had had their say.

They felt this issue was the parents' responsibility, a waste of police time and a violation of human rights.

But it was noted that a curfew could look after younger children who shouldn't be on the streets.

OLSH student Andrew Davis, 15, said: "I think it's kind of discriminating and limiting the youth for everything that's happening. I also think it is very restricting on us because those

hours aren't too good.

"I think if this does come into play it will cause more rebellion and police hours will be wasted, but this is a really tough issue."

Jack said: "I'm on the fence about it. In my current situation it doesn't have much of an effect on me."

"It can help us in many ways. I don't think it would be a burden on kids as such, on a few it will, but generally I think it will be OK."

Anthea said: "I'm drawn at the moment because there are a lot of pros and cons - obviously more cons. They could definitely shorten the amount of time the curfew goes for. I would recommend 11pm until 5am."

With the Alice Springs CBD revitalisation not far away, students told how it could be more attractive to youth.

They proposed more public art, better public transport, more entertainment, sporting events and shops.

And if the students were able to don the mayor's robes for a day they would build a recreational lake, clean up the community, make high school students complete a first aid course, buy the Melanka site to create a park, create a youth advisory council and hold a sports carnival for schools and surrounding communities.

Mayor Damien Ryan said the

forum had some interesting suggestions, which he looked forward to discussing further with the students.

He said: "What I got out of it was the real interest of some of those students in high schools wanting to talk with council."

Mr Ryan is meeting again with the students who want to see a youth advisory council established.

He said: "It was the most positive thing to come out of it for me".

Mr Ryan said the Alice Springs Town Council was in no position to buy the Melanka site.

Youth programs keep kids off streets

Sally Brooks

YOUTH programs in Alice Springs are in full swing and attracting large crowds.

About 340 young people were at the Blue Light Splash Disco at the Aquatic Centre last Saturday night and up to 150 people have been attending regular basketball games between police and young people.

John Adams, from the Department of Children and Families, said: "It's made a significant difference in terms of the after hours environment.

"It gives the night patrols a clear run and it has really reduced the number of young people on the streets at night."

The Aquatic Centre and basketball games are funded by the NT Government but making the events happen requires a collaboration between many organisations.

These include the NT Police, the YMCA, Alice Springs Town Council, Tangentyere Council, Central Australia Aboriginal Congress and Stuart Rotary Club.

Mr Adams said: "Young people want activities to do at night... these are free events and they are safe events and I think that's really attractive."

In addition to the government programs, some organisations, such as Tangentyere Council, are running additional youth programs.

Tangentyere Youth Services Coordinator Derryn Knuckey said: "Our new multi-media



Jesse Hockney from Larapinta Valley launches into action as part of the Tangentyere Council's school holiday program

lab has proven popular and now gives young people an opportunity to explore music making, film production, DJing, photography, learning games and the internet, but at the

end of the day learning how to get airborne on a scooter seems to be the most popular choice of how to spend one's time.

"We purchased eight scooters from Mad

Gear Australia specifically for the busy summer period and they were so generous as to provide us with four more scooters at no expense. They've been getting used every-

day."

Next event on the Youth Hub program is a Dive In Movie at the Aquatic Centre tomorrow. Check the YouthHub facebook page for details.

"These are free events and they are safe events"