



MEDIA RELEASE: For immediate release

4 pm, Thursday, 25 June 2009

Groundswell of support to replace Magill Youth Training Centre

At 10.45 am on Wednesday, 24 June, the Youth Affairs Council of SA (YACSA) distributed an online survey to 238 individual members and contacts. Within only 24 hours, over 80 people had gone online to complete the survey. The result was an overwhelming expression of concern regarding the shocking conditions in which children are being kept within Magill Youth Training Centre.

Survey respondents included a number of workers with direct experience of working in the Magill Youth Training Centre, and the impact of the centre on the rehabilitation of children and young people. Respondents were invited to provide additional comments on Magill, which many did.

Executive Director of YACSA, Ms Jennifer Duncan, said, "The immediacy of responses indicated that there is an extraordinary level of concern amongst those who work with young people, regarding the conditions in Magill. Good services and programs are essential for children and young people who have come into contact with the justice system; however, the even the best programs lose their value when delivered in a sub-standard environment.

"Current conditions within Magill fail to meet a range of international standards for the treatment of children and young people, and particularly the treatment of children who are incarcerated. We implore the state government to listen to the concerns being expressed by those who are most familiar with the environment at Magill, and again prioritise the replacement of Magill as a matter of urgency."

- 91.4% of all survey respondents **AGREED** that the living conditions within the Magill Youth Training Centre are **INAPPROPRIATE** for children as young as 10.
- 95% of all survey respondents **AGREED** that the conditions in Magill **FAIL** to ensure the best opportunity for rehabilitation for the young people detained within the facility.
- 97.5% of all survey respondents **CALLED** for the state government to **RECONSIDER** its position and ensure the replacement of the Magill Youth Training Centre's facilities by 2011.

A complete and unexpurgated version of the responses to YACSA's survey, submitted within the first 24 hours of its distribution, will be available via YACSA's website at www.yacsa.com.au

Actively supporting young South Australians

Available for interview and further information

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