

YACSA consulted with the sector to identify the critical issues of concern that will impact young people and the sector in the lead up to the 2018 State Election. The survey link was distributed to our members via direct email and the Affiliate Networks took part in face to face consultations that were included in the results. Six organisational and individual members completed the survey online and 93 workers were represented in 10 affiliate network consultations (Adelaide Hills Youth Sector Network, Central Workers Youth Action Network, Gawler Youth Workers Network, Playford Youth Network, Port Augusta Youth Focus Group, Youth Barossa, Yorke Peninsula Youth Workers Network and the Western Workers with Youth Network). Respondents reported the following:

## Top 5 critical issues impacting young people:

1

Housing affordability/Homelessness

- house and rental prices out of reach
- social and community housing stocks decreasing.

2

Employment/Unemployment/Under-employment

- the lack of available jobs
- the casualisation of the workforce and job security.

3

Education

- access to affordable education.

4

Mental health

- lack of youth specific mental health services particularly in rural & remote areas.

5

Transport & licencing

- lack of or no public transport in regional and rural areas
- the cost of learning to drive and obtaining a licence.

## Other issues highlighted:

- Alcohol and other drugs
- Domestic/family violence
- Isolation/connection to community
- Negative media portrayal
- NDIS rollout
- Lack of emergency accommodation options
- Disconnection from education and/or employment pathways
- Incarceration rates of Aboriginal young people
- Quality of support and outcomes for children and young people raised in out of home care
- Previous trauma
- Social and emotional wellbeing
- Cost of living
- Lack of role models/mentors
- Violence/bullying
- Sexual health
- Relationship issues
- Feeling understood, having a purpose and somewhere to belong
- A lack of social and recreational activities
- Problem gambling

## Top 5 critical issues impacting the youth sector:

1

### Funding and funding stability

- a decrease in funding and funding that doesn't reflect demand
- funding and service gaps.

2

### Organisations at capacity

- demand for services that outweighs service capacity
- staff stretched across services and regions.

3

### Collaboration amongst non-government organisations

- organisations forced to share resources and look for new opportunities due to funding restrictions
- collaboration in the context of competitive tendering.

4

### Communication and promotion of services to young people

- organisations forced to share resources and look for new opportunities due to funding restrictions.

5

### Lack of prevention and early intervention programs

- a lack of focus and funding in prevention and early intervention programs.

## Other issues highlighted:

- Services availability and loss of services in regional and rural areas
- Accessing services/long waiting lists/eligibility criteria/finding the right fit
- Staff retention & job security
- Regional staffing issues
- Grant funding tied to geographical areas
- Gov services developed without consultation
- Young people not valued in the community
- Perception of regions hiding social issues (such as AOD, mental health, homelessness and disability).
- No social policy representation or framework for young people in government
- Competition & tendering
- No federal representation for young people
- Partnerships with government
- Critical gaps in crisis care mental health services
- Community stereotypes of young people and service providers supporting young people
- Service stigma (e.g. mental health)
- Young people engaged in services
- Transience of young people
- Young people's trust in services
- Org requirements vs needs of young people
- Lack of emergency Housing and Supported Youth Housing
- Lack of affordable technology and access for young people