



IMPACT REPORT 2022-23

TRIUMPH OVER TRAUMA

Thank you for making these groups happen - Jazzy

Thanks for being there - Jamaica

Thank you for making these amazing groups happen
Coco

thank you all so much for everything - sam

thank you for everything
Macklan

thank you for everything you've done for me I really appreciate these camps.

i love my new family - cadi

Thank you, I'm ~~definitely~~ totally coming back next time - Squishy.

Thanks for being the place young people can be themselves.
Donna.

Thank you
Aisling

Thank you all for an amazing workshop - J.P.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart - Heidi

So good to be on another program. The great job from all the team. It is a privilege to be part of the team. Shantal is the

There is no time where I'm happier and more comfortable than when I'm at camp

Jayle

thank you for your program & help
Macklan

Great program to help young people grow - Narelle

Thanks for the amazing support and Leadership opportunities



Youth Insearch acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's First People and Traditional Custodians. We value their cultures, identities and continuing connection to country, waters, kin and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Youth Insearch is committed to making a positive contribution to the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, by providing services that are welcoming, safe, culturally appropriate and inclusive.



Youth Insearch is committed to embracing diversity and eliminating all forms of discrimination in the provision of its services. Youth Insearch welcomes all people irrespective of ethnicity, faith, sexual orientation and gender identity.

A group of people, including a woman with long blonde hair and another with braids, are shown in profile, appearing to be in a meeting or discussion. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter.

CONTENTS



2022-23 Highlights 6

Message from CEO 10

Message from the Chair of the Board 11

Message from NPC Chair 12

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN 15

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOUNG PEOPLE 16

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM 18

WHERE WE WORK 22

OUR VOLUNTEERS 24

YOUR IMPACT 26

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 30

THANK YOU 32

2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

631 YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED

320 YOUNG PEOPLE REFERRED

95 VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED

40 STAFF EMPLOYED FTE

ACROSS **3** STATES WITH
28 PLACE-BASED MODELS,
REACHING **46** LGAS.

WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

20 COMPLETED

07 WEEKEND WORKSHOPS NSW

08 WEEKEND WORKSHOPS QLD

05 WEEKEND WORKSHOPS VIC

839 ATTENDANCES

VOLUNTEER

345 ATTENDANCES AT WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

810 VOLUNTEER ATTENDANCES AT SUPPORT GROUPS

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

7,959 INSTANCES OF SUPPORT

4,542 SUPPORT HOURS

REFERRERS

159 REFEREES WHO REFERRED YOUTH

59 NSW

70 QLD

36 VIC



SUPPORT GROUPS

28 SUPPORT GROUP LOCATIONS
IN QLD, NSW, VIC & NATIONAL

24 SUPPORT LOCATIONS IN
PERSON

4 SUPPORT GROUP LOCATIONS
ONLINE

410 TOTAL SUPPORT GROUP
SESSIONS

19 SUPPORT ADULTS AT
SUPPORT GROUPS

140 SUPPORT ADULT
ATTENDANCES RECORDED

1,604 SUPPORT GROUPS ATTENDED
BY YOUNG PEOPLE

REGIONS

5 REGIONAL MANAGERS COORDINATING
SERVICE DELIVERY AND PARTNERSHIPS
ACROSS QLD, NSW AND VIC, **28** STAFF
DELIVERED PLACE-BASED MODELS
ACROSS **46** LGAS.

21 NO. OF CASE WORKERS
(SOCIAL WORKERS &
YOUTH WORKERS)

7 NO OF PEER WORKER
TRAINEES EMPLOYED

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

17 NEW LEADERS STARTED THEIR
TRAINING IN 2022-23

LEADERS TRAINED

12 YOUTH COMMENCED TRAINING

10 TOTAL NUMBER OF YOUTH
LEADER GRADUATES IN THE
LAST FINANCIAL YEAR

5 VIC

3 QLD

2 NSW

24 TOTAL NO OF ONLINE
HOURS TRAINED

80 TOTAL NO OF IN PERSON
HOURS TRAINED



SCHOOLS

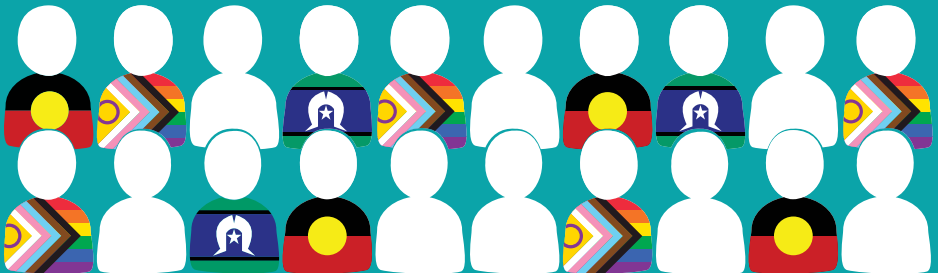
- 30** EDUCATIONAL SECTOR FACILITIES WITH REFERRED YOUTH
- 303** YOUTH REFERRED FROM EDUCATIONAL SECTOR FACILITIES
- 18** NO PLACE BASED WITHIN SCHOOLS
- 159** REFERRERS FROM THE EDUCATIONAL SECTOR

DIVERSITY - YOUNG PEOPLE

- 34%** IDENTIFY AS ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
- 57%** IDENTIFY AS FEMALE
- 34%** IDENTIFY AS MALE
- 24%** IDENTIFY AS LGBTQIA+
- 16** AVERAGE AGE OF YOUTH
- 17%** WITH A DISABILITY OR IMPAIRMENT

DIVERSITY - VOLUNTEERS

- 15%** IDENTIFY AS ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
- 57%** IDENTIFY AS FEMALE
- 29%** IDENTIFY AS MALE
- 14%** IDENTIFY AS NON-BINARY/OTHER
- 40%** CAME THROUGH THE YOUTH INSEARCH PROGRAM
- 36%** ARE YOUTH VOLUNTEERS
- 55%** ARE ADULTS VOLUNTEERS
- 10%** SENIOR VOLUNTEERS
- 5%** WITH A DISABILITY OR IMPAIRMENT



DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

FACEBOOK

25,195 REACH

13,123 FOLLOWERS



INSTAGRAM

8,540 REACH

2,811 FOLLOWERS



LINKEDIN

1,570 PAGE VIEWS

827 FOLLOWERS



YOUTUBE

2,200 VIEWS



OUTCOME DATA

INTAKE SURVEYS FIND THAT:

88% STATED THEY HAD EXPERIENCED SOME FORM OF ABUSE AS A CHILD

35% HAD TRUANTED AT LEAST ONE WEEK IN THE PRECEDING MONTH

58% WERE UNEMPLOYED OR NOT GOING TO SCHOOL

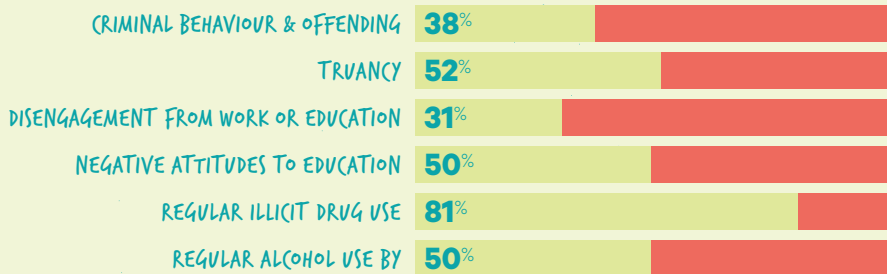
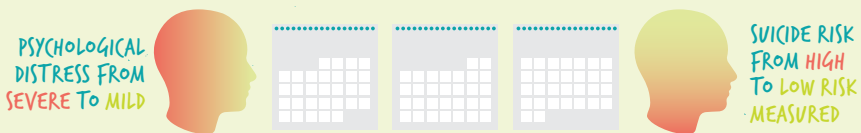
32% HAD MADE A SUICIDE ATTEMPT

46% STATED THEY HAD ENGAGED IN SELF-HARM IN THE PRECEDING 12 MONTHS

29% STATED THAT THEY USE ILLICIT DRUGS OTHER THAN ALCOHOL

22% STATED THAT THEY DRINK ALCOHOL REGULARLY

THE YOUTH INSEARCH PROGRAM ACHIEVES RESULTS IN THESE DOMAINS -
on average over their first 90 days participants reduce their:



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



This year, Youth Insearch has experienced significant evolution, marked by several pivotal developments: significant growth of our organisation and workforce; the implementation of our new youth lived experience peer workforce; and investment in capability and capacity building of our organisation, to support this new workforce and to be ready to expand our peer-workforce across the country.

The last six months of 2022 saw our organisation grow from 21 to 44 staff; this was an exciting expansion, fuelled by adoptions of our Place-based Model in new communities; the implementation of our peer workforce; and support from philanthropy to add positions that support capacity building of our people and organisation. Finding the right people for our organisation was a tough ask, particularly in the current skills crisis, however our team endured, and we have an amazing team of highly skilled, diverse people spread across New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria.

The first six months of 2023 was focussed on implementation. Implementing and embedding the new positions across the organisation; onboarding, training, and embedding our trainee peer workers; commencing the Participatory Action Research project with the University of Sydney, and the Avoided Cost Study with Latitude Network; completing phase one of our Leadership Training review and redesign; and embedding Open Dialogue practice across our program staff and volunteer facilitators.

The most exciting development has been observing the impact that our trainee peer workers have in their communities. Young people with lived experience of trauma and life challenges, engaging with their peers rapidly, building a community of peer support. Supported by our local Social Workers, they support the young people to navigate their immediate life challenges while supporting them over time to address the trauma that is having a continual impact on their well-being and life experience.

Our commitment to the Place-based Model approach has continued to be a cornerstone of our work. We continue to engage with communities to identify the unique needs of young people in local areas. Through this approach, we've been able to develop tailored interventions that leverage the power of peer-to-peer support to aid young people in their healing journey.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all our dedicated supporters and volunteers. Your unwavering support is the lifeblood of our organisation, and without it, we could not achieve the remarkable impact that we do. Whether you are a philanthropic funder, an individual providing pro bono expertise, a local support adult aiding young people, or a Leader delivering our program, your commitment is deeply appreciated.

I also want to express my sincere gratitude to our incredible and devoted staff members. To our new staff members, welcome to our ever-expanding family. As we grow, we are fuelled by the knowledge that our unique approach delivers life-changing results for young people who have often been let down by society. Together, we have the potential to make a significant impact and save countless young lives in the process.

Thank you for your unwavering support and belief in the mission of Youth Insearch.

Stephen Lewin
Chief Executive Officer

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Over the past seven months as the Board Chair of Youth Insearch, I've had the privilege of witnessing the incredible skills and impact that this organisation has on the lives of young people, their families and communities across Australia. Youth Insearch possesses a unique and powerful set of capabilities, and I'm excited to bring my own experience to further enhance these qualities.

My sincere appreciation to the long serving Chair, Garry Rothwell, and Board colleague Bob Smith, for the extraordinary dedication and commitment over their ten-year tenure. I'm truly grateful for the foundations they have laid and am so pleased to have them continuing with Youth Insearch as ambassadors.

One of the standout strengths of Youth Insearch is our peer-to-peer support model. We are the national leader in this field, and this approach empowers young people to connect, learn, and support each other through challenging life circumstances. The ability to build trust and provide a safe space for young individuals to share their experiences is a remarkable skill that we excel in. This is a cornerstone of our success, and it's a quality that I greatly admire.

Additionally, Youth Insearch has demonstrated its dedication to evidence-based programs. The data and statistics speak volumes about the positive impact we have on reducing risky behaviours, improving mental health, and enabling young people to reintegrate into education and the workforce. This focus on data-driven success is a skill set that sets us apart, and it's a testament to our commitment to making a real difference in the lives of young people across the nation.

My role as Board Chair allows me, and all our Board Directors, to contribute our own skills and expertise to the organisation. I come from a background of volunteer-based and community organisations, which has instilled in me a deep appreciation for peer support networks and their importance. I understand the value of connecting with those who have shared



experiences, and I'm committed to ensuring that Youth Insearch continues to excel in providing this crucial support.

I also bring my experience in governance and leadership, along with working with governments and communities to the Youth Insearch organisation. We are dedicated to good governance and transparency, and my role is to ensure that we continue to operate at the highest standards in performance and program delivery.

In summary, Youth Insearch has a remarkable skill set in delivering peer-to-peer support and evidence-based programs. As Board Chair, I bring my own skills in leadership, governance, and a passion for empowering and supporting young people. I would like to thank and commend our board, CEO, and executive, and of course, our amazing staff and volunteers for a most warm welcome and experience to date.

Finally, I commend all those young people that have grown, developed, and succeeded as a result of their time with Youth Insearch. It is you, the young people in need, that ensures Youth Insearch continues to attract critical philanthropy and generous donors, along with Government grants and programs, to support others in need. Together, we will continue to make a positive impact in the lives of young individuals across our great nation, as we embark on a continued journey of growth and positive change.

Shane Fitzsimmons
Chair of Board

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PROGRAM COUNCIL CHAIR

OUR NATIONAL PROGRAM COUNCIL

The National Program Council (NPC) is the youth voice that leads youth-related decisions at Youth Insearch. It is a council of peer-elected representatives from every region we operate in. They provide advice and direction direct to our staff and CEO. The NPC is core to our commitment to be resolutely youth-led.

The NPC is made up of representatives from each State Program Council and works closely with each State Program Council to help improve and maintain the high standard of the programs that Youth Insearch delivers – from a peer led perspective.

Each State Council is made up of 15 Youth Leaders, 6 adult Leaders and program staff who attend and assist with the logistics of the meetings. All youth on a Council have voting rights and all adults have an advisory role.

The NPC is comprised of two youth and one adult representative from each State Program Council. For this reporting year, we had 9 members on the NPC.

In addition, Stephen Lewin, CEO and Sharon Schofield, Program Quality and Partnerships Manager provide governance over meetings and provide advice if requested, however, they do not have voting rights.

Serving as the Chairperson of the National Program Council (NPC) has been an exceptional privilege and honour. It has provided me with the unique opportunity to collaborate closely with my fellow Leaders in making crucial decisions on a wide array of matters brought before the Council. Over my term I have not only fulfilled my responsibilities but also developed several valuable skills. These have proven invaluable in both my professional and personal life, extending beyond the boundaries of the NPC to various other councils and committees that I have had the privilege to join.

Among the skills I have honed and refined during my term, perhaps the most significant are conducting efficient and productive meetings and the ability to make well-informed decisions. These skills have become an integral part of my toolkit, serving me well not only within the NPC but also in various other spheres of my life.

During my term as Chairperson, the NPC undertook a series of important initiatives, each geared towards enhancing our programs and services. These changes included the revision of our Weekend Workshop guidelines to incorporate a more trauma-informed approach, an important step in ensuring that we provide the best possible support and care to our participants. We made critical behavioural decisions concerning both our leaders and participants, a duty we approached with the utmost care and responsibility. Furthermore, we reviewed Leaders' applications and approved accreditation for our Leaders.

I have been privileged to partake in numerous extraordinary opportunities during my term as Chair. These experiences have included attendance at various fundraising events and conferences, where I have engaged with diverse



stakeholders and shared the impact of Youth Insearch on my journey. I have had the distinct honour of participating in meetings with esteemed parliament members, emphasizing the importance of our work in the broader community. Additionally, our End Youth Suicide Week events have provided a platform for me to share my personal story and underscore the transformative impact of Youth Insearch in my life. Moreover, I have had the unique privilege of amplifying our mission and impact through various media outlets, including radio appearances, podcast interviews, and newspaper articles.

Among the many memorable moments of my term, one stands out as a highlight: my involvement in the Leaders' Training program of 2022. Watching our emerging leaders grow and develop throughout their training was an incredibly special and empowering experience. The pinnacle of this journey was announcing

their accreditation at Admiralty House, in the presence of the Governor General. The pride I felt in being a part of an organisation dedicated to ensuring that every youth voice is not only heard but also nurtured and empowered is indescribable.

In closing, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the dedicated leaders who have supported our programs and advocated for the critical work we do at Youth Insearch. Your unwavering commitment and hard work have been a big part of our success, and I am deeply thankful for your contributions. As I step aside from my role, I extend my best wishes to the incoming Chairperson of the NPC for the year ahead. May you find your term as rewarding and transformative as I have.

Nelani Botha

National Program Council, Chairperson
April 2022 – April 2023



OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

OUR VISION

All young people have a safe space to heal and thrive.

WE BELIEVE

Young people with lived experience are best placed to support other young people experiencing mental health and life challenges.

OUR MISSION

We create safe spaces, where young people with lived experience support each other to heal from trauma, improve mental health, overcome life challenges and live a fulfilling life.

In doing this we break negative cycles, develop young leaders and create lasting change in communities.

OUR VALUES

LIVED EXPERIENCE

We acknowledge and value lived experience of all our participants, volunteers and staff.

OPEN, RAW AND REAL

We value the power of vulnerability and encourage and accept open feedback.

VALUING PEOPLE AND CONNECTION

We respect and look for the best in everyone we interact with. We seek to build connections between people.

EMPOWERING PEOPLE

Nothing about me, without me. We continually seek to give people agency to make their own decision and the autonomy to be the stewards of their own work and life

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2023-2026

Youth lived experience peer work is at the centre of all we do:

1. IMPLEMENT AND DELIVER LIVED EXPERIENCE PEER WORK

By 2026 we will have delivered an industry defining peer workforce pilot, that will create a platform to expand our youth lived experience peer workforce nationally.

2. BUILD CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY OUR LIVED EXPERIENCE PEER WORK

By 2026 we will have built capacity in our organisation to expand our peer workforce nationally and have the capacity to support other organisations to build their own workforce using our approach.

3. PARTNER WITH GOVERNMENT, ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITIES TO EXPAND LIVED EXPERIENCE PEER WORK

By 2026 we will have momentum to achieve exponential growth of our lived experience peer workforce to over half local government areas by 2028.

4. CONTRIBUTE TO EVIDENCE BASE OF EFFECTIVENESS OF LIVED EXPERIENCE PEER WORK

By 2026 we will have delivered a participatory action research study, four published peer reviewed articles and an avoided cost study on the Youth Insearch lived experience peer work model.

5. ADVOCATE AND PROMOTE FOR A LIVED EXPERIENCE PEER WORK

By 2026 we will be the leading voice in the youth lived experience peer work approach to supporting young people with mental health and life challenges.

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOUNG PEOPLE

IMPLEMENTATION OF A LIVED EXPERIENCE PEER WORKFORCE

Youth Insearch has launched our Peer Workforce nationally with the support of the Commonwealth Government. Thanks to our successful funding application to the National Suicide Prevention Leadership and Support Plan, six Peer Worker Trainees were recruited in December 2022 to work across six locations across Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. One advantage of our Peer Workforce is that each Peer Worker Trainee is also an accredited or trainee Youth Insearch Leader which means they already have needed skills and familiarity with the Youth Insearch program. Having said that, transitioning from a volunteer leader to paid staff member comes with several new learnings. This process was supported by the addition of Chantelle Fogg as our Peer Practice Lead. With nearly ten years of experience as a Youth Insearch Leader and mentor, in addition to years of industry experience in management, she was perfectly placed to hit the ground running in providing support and training to our trainee peer workers.

So far, our Peer Worker Trainees have commenced a Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work and completed further training in Ethical Storytelling and Open Dialogue. The next year will see them further develop their skills and engage in further training to equip them with the confidence to support more young people through a trauma informed approach utilising principles of Dialogical Practice.

The relative success of this pilot has enabled us to apply for further funding to expand the program, embedding Lived Experience Peer Work in additional locations throughout QLD, NSW and VIC.

STRENGTHENING LEADERS TRAINING

Funding from the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation this year saw us begin the process of developing and strengthening our Leadership Training. The recruitment of Lisa Bowers, Training Design Specialist, added the critical skills and expertise needed to spearhead this three-year project. This year, Lisa has worked closely with Sharon Schofield in preparing and delivering Leaders Training to the 2023 cohort. This group of 17 Trainee Leaders completed Stage 1 of training in May 2023.

Year 2 will see the finalisation of a capability framework developed through extensive consultation with current Leaders as well as alumni. A working group will then be assembled to begin the process of building on what is already an incredible Leadership training journey for our young people. This new model of training will provide our Leaders with additional opportunities for professional mentoring, as well as other career development opportunities, and access to funded training in specific areas.

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

Our partnership with Latitude Network has continued this year with it resulting in the development of an improved Outcomes Framework. This new framework builds on the qualitative research evaluation conducted by Dr Moensted from Sydney University in 2021. The new framework includes development of three new surveys capturing additional information about connection, competence, capabilities, agency, and identity as well as drug and alcohol use, housing, employment, and education. The new surveys combine these key drivers of change with mental health and justice outcomes to provide critical information about the efficacy of our programs.

Not only is this information important for our funders, but it will help us in our own internal continuous improvement.

In addition to the Outcomes Framework, our Lived Experience Peer Workforce pilot includes a participatory action project, aimed at understanding the experiences of our Peer Worker Trainees and the young people they work with. This project is led by University of Sydney and University of Technology Sydney. It utilises innovative research co-production

practices by training young people with lived experience to assist and inform all elements of research design, implementation, and dissemination. So far, a scoping review has been completed and an ethics application is currently underway. It is anticipated that research interviews will commence later in 2023 and early results will be available at the beginning of 2024.

Leanne Hall
Clinical Governance & Performance

OUR PROGRAM APPROACH IS WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT

Each young person is supported by a local Social Worker or Peer Work Trainee and a network of peers (young people and trained youth leaders) and has access to local support services, workshops, and leadership training opportunities.



LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Youth Insearch Leadership program is designed to support young people to develop their leadership skills while extending their self-awareness and personal skills. The 12-month commitment consists of three training intensives – one three-day virtual and two residential workshops – alongside an ongoing practical training and assessment program.

Applicants are program alumni that have made significant progress unpacking their trauma, improving their mental well-being, and in other life-changing areas. Application includes self-nomination, endorsement from program teams, and a final assessment from the both the State and National Program Councils.

Professional community leaders and mentors share strategies for resilience and managing triggers. They also build skills including communication, problem-solving, public speaking and presentation, conflict resolution, and breaking negative habits. While practising skills in their local program, young people are guided by accredited young Leaders and staff to ensure they provide safe and effective peer support to new participants. Our training team provides ongoing support and Leaders come together to ensure everyone has the best chance to thrive through this learning program.

On average our Leaders continue for an average of seven years. Many become staff like our current CEO and Peer Worker Trainees. Every participant makes life-long impactful learning and connections and embarks on a successful journey delivering Youth Insearch Weekend Workshops, supported by expert adults.

GRADUATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS

Every year we look forward to a few special days. Everyone at Youth Insearch – staff, volunteers, and Leaders – plus our supporters all get very excited for Celebration Dinner and Graduation Ceremony.

Our Leaders Training program is a yearlong schedule with the final stage involving Team Dynasty coming together to host their Celebration Dinner in December 2022. This Celebration Dinner is a joyful recognition of their hard work over the last 12 months and a celebration of all they have learnt.

Thank you to our training partners for your continued commitment to our program and our young people. Special mention to Alan Kuczynski, Kathy Morrison, Greg and Vera Meyer, Tactician, and Talent International for imparting your knowledge in communication, handling difficult situations, understanding mental health, public speaking, personal presentation skills, and so much more.

Graduation is the pinnacle of Leaders Training, signifying they have completed their training and been accepted by their peers through both the State and National Program Councils, as Accredited Leaders. This was hosted by our patron, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) at Admiralty House in June 2023.





LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



Before Youth Insearch found me, I was angry, confused, and sad. I had so many emotions and I didn't know how to handle them. If I wasn't on drugs, I was thinking about how to get them. I was in a situation that resulted in me being restrained and sexually assaulted I thought I was going to die. I was scared and thought I was never going to see my family again. I thought it was my fault because I skipped school that day to see my new 'friends' who knowingly left me in this situation.

After that day, suicidal ideation and drug use was my normal life. I was hurting, tearing away from family and became the most frequent visitor to the police station. I knew I needed to change but I didn't know how. I couldn't see a way out and thought I deserved to be where I was.

Youth Insearch showed me that there is a way out and that I am worthy of good things. I learnt how to love, set goals, change my mindset and so many other amazing things.

Being a Leader has given me so many different

opportunities, has taught me so many different things, and has allowed me to grow as a person. The biggest opportunity that I will treasure forever that my leadership journey has given me, was being able to stand up in front of parliament and share my story and run a breakfast briefing with my mum standing beside me.

The leadership journey that Youth Insearch provides is magical and is such a privilege for anybody to be able to go through. Leadership allowed me to give back to the program; to help guide young people to make better choices and to turn their trauma to triumph. I will hold onto and take pride in my leadership with Youth Insearch forever.

Today, I am a Youth Insearch Peer Worker Trainee. I graduated year 12 and I have a beautiful relationship with my family.

I can't wait to help change a young person's life just like someone changed mine.

If it wasn't for Youth Insearch I know I would not be here today.

Kate Hornick, Queensland



YOUNG PROGRAM PARTICIPANT STORY



I would have to describe my life before Youth Insearch as an unsafe environment and to dive in just a little deeper, I was getting myself caught up with the wrong sort of people. I would only hang around older kids who were either in circles of drugs or had criminal records who would constantly be reoffending.

At the time I thought I was cool, I knew what I was doing was wrong, but I couldn't see how doing the right thing was at all a way to live and to have fun at the same time, I guess this mindset was built off not being able to sit 70 minutes in a class five times a day and I would be yelled at or shamed by the teachers. So, I started wagging and skipping classes at first it was a few here and there but it soon became I would be dropped off at the front gate and walk straight out the back gate to go meet up with my mates at the local skate park.

I very quickly lost the ability of being able to focus in a classroom environment which meant any time I was in a class I would misbehave, talk

back and argue with any teacher that told me I was 'not being a good student'.

After moving from three different high schools, I was reported to child safety due to my father being an abusive and aggressive man. My father was terminally ill so although how he was parenting was not right, I would always say to myself it's just that he's in pain.

Child Safety then referred me to Youth Insearch. My first program I didn't really take notice of what's going on, I was having a good time and feeling a connection with everyone but didn't understand how it was going to 'fix' me.

After my first program I had told people I was not going back. But after reading my affirmation card a few weeks post camp it was so powerful that I decided, let's go back and try it again. That decision changed my life forever, while I was listening and learning I found that it was truly a place that I wanted to try and sort my life out. Of course, it didn't come as quick as 24 hours but after making connections and skills to deal and overcome underlying challenges my behaviour started to change. With support groups on a Monday, it kept me in check of my goals and week.

I am about to graduate year 12 and have a future and a plan to succeed in life. Youth Insearch has not only made an impact on just me but an impact for the future as I want to give back to Youth Insearch as long as possible to see other young people turn their life around.

Young program participant, Bree

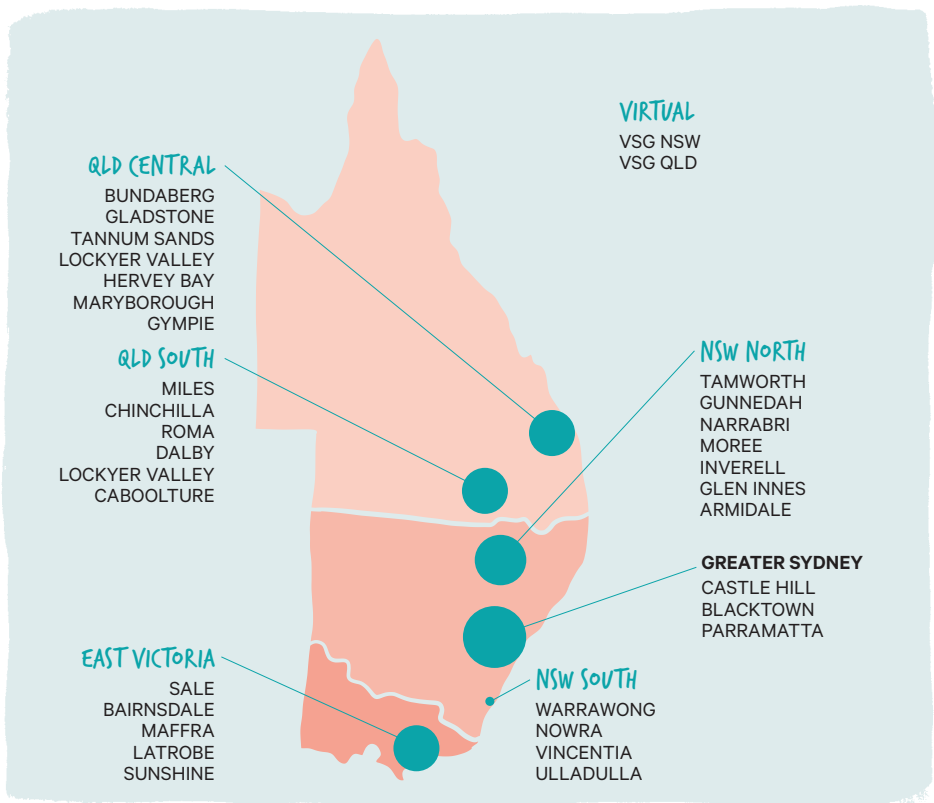
WHERE WE WORK

OUR COMMUNITIES

We currently have 4 Regional Managers operating across Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria who manage partnerships, program activities and Social Workers within their region.

We have 28 staff on the ground delivering

the Place-based Model within these regions. Our teams are wholeheartedly devoted to connecting with and assisting a wide range of young individuals within their local community. Our goal is to construct a supportive network that improves the accessibility of necessary support for young people.



Youth Insearch has forged strong partnerships with schools and service providers nationwide, all united by our shared goal of expanding the Place-based Model to more Australian communities.

Our approach involves Social Workers, Youth

Workers and Peer Worker Trainees delivering individualised support to young people within diverse and flexible community settings. This ensures unique partnerships, consistent services, and direct connections to both the Youth Insearch program and other available services.



OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers have consistently formed the core of our efforts at Youth Insearch. Our volunteers play an indispensable and crucial role within our organisation. We hold profound appreciation for their contributions. Our engagement with volunteers spans a wide spectrum, encompassing youth and adult leaders, supportive individuals from the community, as well as pro bono support and expertise generously provided by corporate partners and individuals.

Volunteers offer their support in a multitude of ways. Our trained adult and youth Leaders facilitate program sessions, while support adults from the communities serve as a

positive role model and local advocates for our participants. Additionally, we receive material support from both corporate entities and individuals, aiding us in reaching youth more effectively. The range of support is truly diverse, spanning from mentoring and contributions to our Clinical Advisory Committee to crafting love wraps and far more than words can express.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our esteemed volunteers. Without your dedication, our mission would be unattainable, and we recognise that together, we are disseminating hope, one blue heart at a time.

Volunteer story

GREG CUMBERLAND, **Volunteer Support Adult**

My journey with Youth Insearch began in an unexpected way, thanks to my involvement with Rotary. It all kicked off when the district governor for District 9660 introduced what they called a partner's project for the 2022-2023 year, focusing on Youth Insearch. Heather and David Mayne, the passionate champions of this cause, were determined to share Youth Insearch's mission far and wide. Their commitment was inspiring.

I had contemplated getting involved with Youth Insearch for some time, but I remained uncertain about whether I was the right fit. However, that doubt began to fade at the Port Macquarie Rotary Conference in March 2022 when I heard a young woman speak about her transformative Youth Insearch experience. Her heartfelt account of the impact Youth Insearch had

in her life and her unwavering dedication to the organisation convinced me that I should take the plunge and see how I could contribute to the betterment of young people in my community.

My initiation into the world of Youth Insearch came in June 2022, at the picturesque Lake Keepit. It was my very first camp, and I embarked on this adventure with a mix of excitement and apprehension. Little did I know then how profoundly this experience would touch not only the lives of the young participants but also my own.

One of the most striking aspects of Youth Insearch is the incredible transformation that unfolds in the young people who attend these camps. Simple acts of kindness, like offering a heartfelt hug, take on a profound significance because many of these young souls may not have experienced such warmth and affirmation before. Witnessing the radiant smiles and the sparkle in their eyes when they are told that someone is



genuinely proud of their efforts is nothing short of amazing and deeply emotional.

Perhaps the most remarkable change I have had the privilege to observe is the journey these young individuals undertake from the first afternoon to the final day of camp. Initially, many are unsure, reserved, and may even be eager to return to their regular lives. However, by the end of the camp, they are reluctant to leave the newfound sense of belonging, support, and understanding that they've discovered. It is truly an honour to be a part of this transformation.

As a parent, I can't help but wish I had discovered Youth Insearch sooner, especially after my own son joined one of

the camps and experienced its tremendous benefits. Seeing him grow through the program was heart-warming and reinforced my belief in the incredible work being done.

Everyone involved with Youth Insearch, be it the dedicated organisers, volunteers, or the young participants themselves, brings only the best intentions to the table. I can't speak highly enough of this organisation, and I wholeheartedly recommend that anyone looking to make a positive impact on young lives get involved. As for me, I consider myself extremely fortunate to have become part of the Youth Insearch family, having met some remarkable individuals, and I'm committed to staying involved for as long as I can.

YOUR IMPACT

Thank You

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have stood beside us and joined us on our mission to rebuild the lives of young Australians. Your unwavering support is the cornerstone of our work, and we couldn't accomplish our mission without you.

The generosity of our supporters plays a pivotal role in the growth of our foundation, allowing us to reach more young people and spread hope. Our Philanthropy program forms the backbone of our day-to-day operations, and

contributing to it is one of the most significant ways you can actively participate in shaping the future of our critical work.

We've had the privilege of sharing countless meaningful moments with the generous members of our community. Their support, whether through increased in-kind contributions, successful grant applications, or gifts from benevolent individuals, has reinforced and energised us. We remain resolutely committed to our mission, with a steadfast focus on continued and sustainable growth, ensuring that we can reach and assist more young Australians in the years to come.



PATRON

We express our deep gratitude to our esteemed Patron, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), who serves as the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia. Your unwavering

support plays a vital role in raising awareness and garnering assistance for our mission of empowering young individuals and fortifying families and communities. Your commitment is instrumental in our efforts to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. Thank you for your invaluable support.



FUNDER STORY

YOUTH INSEARCH PARTNER: VINCENT FAIRFAX FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation (VFFF) is a thriving family foundation, with family members spanning three generations active in its current work. Founded in 1962, the Foundation has distributed more than \$220 million to Australian communities. VFFF currently funds organisations and individuals that back young people with innovative opportunities that advance their independence, social purpose and future security.

In September 2022, VFFF approved \$682,000 over three years to strengthen and scale Youth Insearch's Young Leaders Model. The Young Leaders Program supports former Youth Insearch participants to deliver Weekend Workshops and weekly Peer Support Groups to current participants. A 2021 evaluation by the University of Sydney found that these "youth-

led components underpin Youth Insearch's success." Specifically, the evaluation found that "as youth leaders shared their stories, they showed that change was achievable even for people who confront significant adversity." This focus on building the capacity of program graduates to lead the next generation of participants is well-aligned with VFFF's Contributing to Society focus area.

Over the past year, VFFF has enjoyed working closely with the Youth Insearch team and attending events that demonstrate the impact of their work. A particular highlight was the 2023 Young Leaders Graduation Ceremony hosted at Admiralty House, where speakers emphasised the important role Young Leaders play in setting a positive example for other young people in their community.



#ENDYOUTHSUICIDE



END YOUTH SUICIDE WEEK, 13-17 FEBRUARY 2023

A big congratulations and thank you to everyone involved in this years End Youth Suicide Week Campaign in February.

The Youth Insearch team had a packed week of travelling between Sydney CBD, the Northern Beaches and Canberra all in the space of a few days.

The week kicked off in Manly with an early morning vigil to raise awareness of mental health and suicide.

The event was attended by Northern Beaches, Mayor, Michael Regan and Member for Manly; James Griffin. He listened to stories of our Peer Worker Trainees and Leaders.

We held a breakfast briefing, and panel discussion in Parliament House the next morning which was a great success, leading to our continued work lobbying government.

Throughout the week we had social media influences posting about End Youth Suicide Week and finished with a major donor dinner with Tim Fairfax AC joining us for the first time.

Thank you to everyone who shared our social media posts during the week your continued support of our End Youth Suicide Week Campaign.



CAMPAIGN DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT:

FACEBOOK 10,985 REACH

INSTAGRAM 5636 REACH

YOUTH INSEARCH AMBASSADORS

Bob Smith and Garry Rothwell, our Youth Insearch Ambassadors, embody the spirit of unwavering dedication and inspiration. Not only have they committed their financial resources to our program, but their emotional investment is equally profound.

Their presence as Ambassadors reinforces our mission and inspires both participants and supporters alike to believe in the potential for positive change. We are incredibly fortunate to have Bob and Garry as ambassadors, driving our cause forward with their remarkable passion and commitment.



OUR FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

\$5,198,819

REVENUE

\$5,360,426

EXPENSES

-\$161,607

DEFICIT

\$2,285,539

Net ASSETS

Youth Insearch experienced a substantial financial boost during FY2023, thanks to the successful lobbying to both Federal and State Governments throughout FY2022.

The Foundation's revenue has increased by 75% and demonstrates the organisations effectiveness in securing vital financial resources which paves the way for expanded programs, initiatives and outreach efforts \$4.6 million over a three-year period was secured through the National Suicide Prevention Leadership Support program which has enabled us to employ six Peer Workers across New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria. \$1.5 million was secured through the Safer Communities initiative to place four Social Workers across communities in the NSW New England area.

In line with the increase in revenue, operating expenses have increased by 73% due to the increase in head count from 23 employees to 44 employees at the end of June 2023.

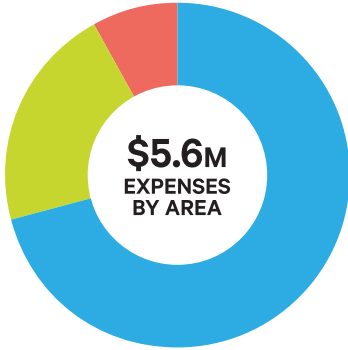
Youth Insearch continues to maintain a healthy balance sheet with a net assets of \$2.3 million.

A copy of the audited statutory financial report is available on our website and has been lodged with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC).

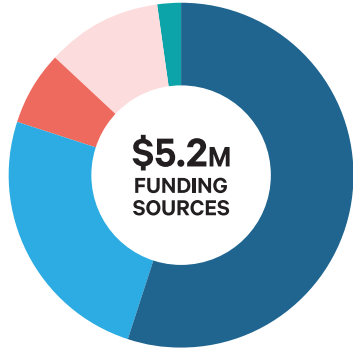
EMPLOYEES

Youth Insearch is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer and has a unique mix of people working and volunteering with our organisation, with the shared purpose to support the young people we serve.

As at 30 June 2023, we had 44 permanent employees, of which 35 were full-time, seven were part-time and two were casual.



- PROGRAM 71%
- ADMIN 21%
- FUNDRAISING 8%



- GOVERNMENT 55%
- PHILANTHROPIC 25%
- FUNDRAISING 7%
- CORPORATE GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS 11%
- OTHER, INCL GOV SUBSIDIES 2%
- SERVICE FEES 0%





GOVERNMENT – FEDERAL

Department of Health and Aged Care
Department of Industry, Science, Energy
and Resources

GOVERNMENT – STATE

NSW Department of Health
VIC Department of Families,
Fairness and Housing
Office of Responsible Gambling

PRIMARY HEALTH NETWORKS

PHN Hunter New England and Central Coast
PHN Darling Downs and West Moreton

ORGANISATIONS IN-KIND

Bundaberg Neighbourhood Centre
Chinchilla Community Centre
BCR Communities
Firefly Bay and Basin
Gladstone Mindcare
Glendye Carinty Education

Glen Innes and Severn Council
Gympie Youth Hub
Headspace Bundaberg
Headspace Sale and Bairnsdale
Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre
Joblink Plus
Latrobe Youth Space Inc
Lighthouse Foundation
Lions Clubs District Q3/Q4
Maadcotta
Miles Community Centre
Mission Australia
Moree Anglicare
Murilla Community Centre
Myall Youth Community Centre
Nowra Youth Centre
Shoalhaven Suicide Prevention Awareness
Network (SSPAN)
Stride Mental Health

TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS

Band Family Foundation
Danks Trust
Eureka Benevolent Foundation
Flora and Frank Leith Charitable Trust
Grant Family Charitable Trust
Hand Heart Pocket The Charity of Freemasons Queensland
Heritage Bank Foundation
Impact 100 Sydney North
Lansdowne Foundation
Matana Foundation For Young People
Milton Corporation Foundation
Perpetual Philanthropic Services
Payce Foundation
Smith Charitable Trust
Tenix Foundation
The Dunnet Foundation
The Howarth Foundation
The Lionel & Yvonne Spencer Trust
The Rodney & Judith O'Neil Foundation
The Shirley Ward Foundation
Thyne Reid Foundation
Tim Fairfax Family Foundation
Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation

COMMUNITY CLUBS

Blacktown Workers Club
Castle Hill RSL Club
Parramatta ClubGrants Local Committee
Rotary Club of Castle Hill
Inner Wheel Australia Club of Tamworth
Lions Culb of Bundaberg Hinkler
Lions Club of Caloundra
Rotary Australia District 9660
Rotary Club of Gunnedah
Rotary Club of Moonah
Tamworth Town and Country Club
Zonta Club Bundaberg

SCHOOLS

Barwon Learning Centre Moree
Bundaberg North State High School
Bundaberg State High School
Chinchilla High School
Dalby State High School
Gladstone State High School
Gunnedah High School
Inverell High School
Laidley High School
Lockyer Valley High School
Maffra Secondary College
Maryborough State High School
Miles High School
Moree High School
Narrabri High School
Roma State College
Sale Secondary College
Tannum Sands State High School
Vincentia High School





THANK YOU, ALL

We express our deepest gratitude not only to our staff but to the Leaders, trainee Leaders, support adults, Program Councils, presenters, and guests for your unwavering support and commitment to our organisation.

Your dedication has been truly remarkable, and we could not have achieved our goals without each and every one of you. Your selfless contributions have made a profound impact, and we are incredibly thankful for your continued support.

Together, you have created a strong and vibrant community, and we look forward to many more successful endeavours in the future. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

To our Individual and Corporate donors your generosity has played a pivotal role in our

ability to make a meaningful impact on the lives of the young people we serve. Through your contributions, we have been able to achieve remarkable milestones and bring about positive change in our communities.

This report is a testament to the incredible achievements we have accomplished together. It reflects the countless lives touched, dreams fulfilled, and opportunities created, all made possible by your commitment to our cause.

Your belief in our mission has not only transformed the lives of young individuals but has also strengthened the foundation of our organisation, ensuring that we can continue to make a lasting impact in the years to come.

Thank you for your generosity, dedication, and belief in our vision. We are deeply appreciative of your partnership, and we look forward to continuing this incredible journey together.





We will remember Bob

For those who did not know Bob, he was 89 years young, and he said that the young people of Youth Insearch kept him feeling that way. He loved attending the Weekend Workshops in Victoria, which was over a 500km trip for him, on a bus, and a train to Melbourne, then another train to Warragul where we would pick him up. Bob's last program was November 2022 at age 88.

One thing you could always rely on was an email from Bob after the program giving you his run down on the situation and always asking after the wellbeing of the young people, passing on his chats he'd had with them over a cup of tea.

Bob loved supporting Youth Insearch in any way that he could. Bob said he was always blown away at how accepting the young people were of an old bloke like him.

A lot of our older generation that attend can get the nickname of Pop or Nan but not our Bob. Bob was Bob to everyone because it was his name and title, and his alone.

Bob first became involved with Youth Insearch in 1998, when he heard about us on ABC Radio, and he attended his first program in 2002. Bob has attended over 30 Weekend Workshops and even during COVID he made it a goal to buy a webcam to join virtually. After a few lessons over the phone with him and much elation when we got it to work, he attended 25 of the Virtual Support Groups.

Bob thought that the program was so needed in Victoria that he personally put up around \$70,000 each year for three years to support the efforts of building up Youth Insearch in Victoria and the crucial employment of Sharon Schofield. So many lives have been turned around by Bob's generosity, and the

opportunities young people have today to attend in Victoria is because Bob kept it going.

Bob was always the one to go and sit with the quieter ones, listen to them intently and offer that Bob advice or care. He would have a good chat over a cup of tea, and he always knew who he was having lunch with because he'd ask if they minded if he ate his meal with them.

There are so many Bob stories – from his interpretive dance to his old-fashioned music during the entertainment session that you would think get him booted of a stage, however the stage was full of the young ones getting up and joining in to dance with Bob.

Bob will always hold a special place in the hearts of so many that met him, and Youth Insearch would not have been the same without him.

Each time we saw off Bob at the train station or at camp those hugs got a little bit tighter not knowing if we would see each other again.

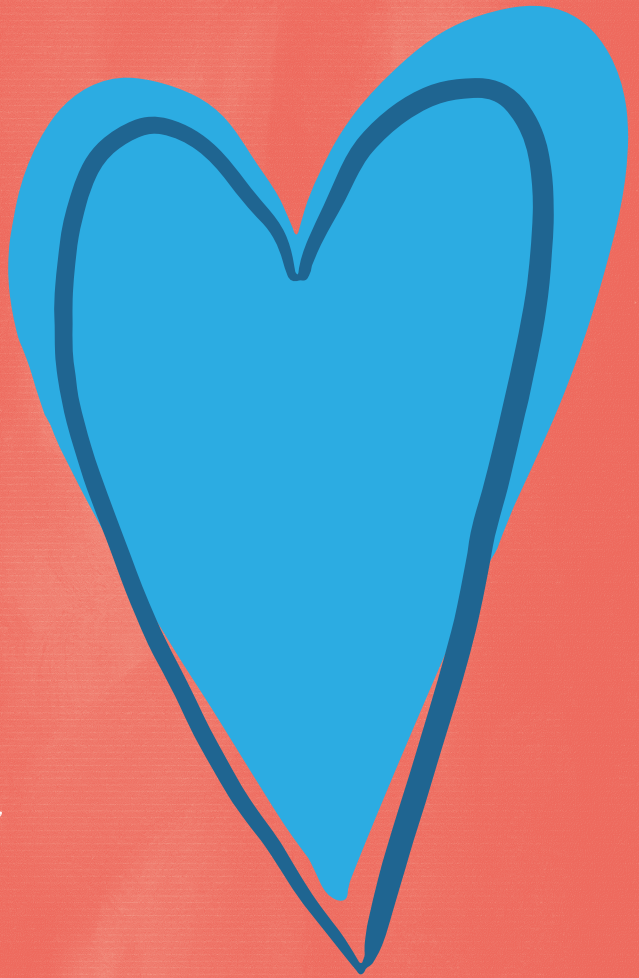
One of his last trips back to Melbourne on the train was with leader Kate Hornick who sent us a photo of her and Bob enjoying some Hungry Jack's in Melbourne before going their separate ways. Kate said to Bob "make sure you email me Bob when you're home safe", which of course he did.

Words alone cannot do justice the difference that Bob made to so many lives – not just the young people, but the workers on the ground too. Bob is often asked after and will be remembered as someone who genuinely cared for others just as we cared about him.

Thank you, Bob, rest easy with your beloved Morna together forever, in your eternal paradise that you always spoke about.



YOUTH INSEARCH



Thanks to our generous supporters, 91% of Youth Insearch participants no longer felt suicidal after attending our programs.

89% had not reattempted suicide after participating in the program.

Sadly, young people still need more support from Youth Insearch.

Suicide is the biggest killer of Australians aged 15-24. Among the triggers are family conflict, domestic violence, alcohol and substance abuse, self-harm, and homelessness.

Please donate what you can so more young Australians can receive this life changing support and help us create a brighter future for Australia.

DONATE NOW

DIRECT DEPOSIT

Youth Insearch Foundation
Account #: 126 318
BSB #: 032 388

Please include your name as reference and email accounts@youthinsearch.org.au once deposited.

CHEQUE to

Youth Insearch Foundation
PO Box 422
Blacktown NSW 2148

ONLINE

youthinsearch.org.au/support-us/donate-now

QR CODE



The Youth Insearch Foundation is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient on the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission. It is covered by Item 1 of the table in section 30-15 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Amazing family - ♥ Eve

It an Amazing family and I never
feel alone. Rose. B

best
family
Toby

Please continue
you philanthropy
from
Leader
Lulze

youth in search
has given many
teens an amazing
chance to heal
and grow,
thank you! ♥
- Nick

Best Chosen family
Jami D.

Love you guys
So much can't
wait for to keep
growing with you
all ccc

I appreciate being
able to go on another
camp, you guys are
amazing and love all
the support.

I had a lot of
fun and glad
I got to meet
some really cool
kiddies - mays

BEST CAMPING PROGRAM
EVER!

I feel that I am making a positive
difference in young people's
lives because of you.
Thank You! mark

Thank you so much
for provide this amazing
lifestyle. It is not a job
of this role aligns
my lives purpose ♥
Neomit

Thank you so much for everything you do for
the young people - these camps are amazing - Mero.

thank you for all the amazing support
-Kelby

STAY IN TOUCH

admin@youthinsearch.org.au



CONNECT WITH US

youthinsearch.org.au

YOUTH INSEARCH FOUNDATION [AUST] INC

PO Box 422, Blacktown NSW 2148

ABN 31 886 363 881

1800 805 635 | admin@youthinsearch.org.au | youthinsearch.org.au

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