

2006 Regional Youth Forum Report



national
youthweek
1- 9 April 2006

THE YOUTHIE

2006 Regional Youth Forum Report

Introduction

Noun

- **S:** (n) **forum** (a public meeting or assembly for open discussion)
- **S:** (n) **forum**, [assembly](#), [meeting place](#) (a public facility to meet for open discussion)

With this definition in mind, the aim of this youth forum was to bring together a diverse group of young people, people in the industry, and other stakeholders, and to provide an opportunity for open discussion of a variety of issues and topics. Approximately 50 people were in attendance, a large circle was formed and open discussion was engaged by the facilitator Marc Sutherland.

Prior to the forum a survey was developed and distributed to over 500 young people. The survey aimed to determine if key issues identified at previous forums were still relevant, and also to identify any other key issues. The results of the survey dictated the agenda for discussion. Information relating to the survey and the agenda for the day can be found in the chapters below.

The forum discussion was recorded in audio and then typed as presented in this report.

This report has been compiled by:

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Youth Forum Survey

185 surveys were conducted in preparation for the Tamworth Regional Youth Forum 2006.

The surveys were distributed at high schools and through the Tamworth Youth Interagency.

The survey was developed with reference to the 2004 and 2005 forums.

The Survey

Tamworth Regional Council Youth Forum Survey 2006

Your response below is a valuable way for the Tamworth Regional Council and the Community to discover what is important NOW for young people in the region.

Include your name below for the chance to win a \$100 gift voucher at Sanity to be drawn at the Youthie at 4pm Wednesday 22nd March. All survey results will be reported anonymously protecting privacy.

Name (optional): _____

School: _____

Age: _____

Part A – Identified Issues - Tick the appropriate box.

Question	Yes	Don't Know	No
1. Do you experience racism, prejudice and discrimination?			
2. Do you think your community is safe?			
3. Are there enough activities for you to do in the community?			
4. Are there enough employment opportunities for you in the area?			
5. Are there enough training and further education opportunities for you in the area?			
6. Are Drugs and Alcohol a problem for you or someone you know?			
7. Are there enough health services available for you?			

Part B – Your Issue

What is the biggest issue/complaint/concern for you? _____

Why? _____

Part C – Your Response

If you had the power to change the issue identified in Part B above, how would you make a difference?

Other Comments _____

Survey Results

Key Highlights from the Survey.

1. 58.9% of participants believe there are not enough activities available for young people.
2. 41.1% feel there is not enough employment opportunities in the region.
3. 29.7% believe drugs and alcohol are a problem for them or someone they know.
4. 28.1% believe there are not enough further education/training opportunities
5. 20% believe there are not enough health services available for young people.
6. 17.3% feel the community is unsafe
7. 15.7% experience racism, prejudice and discrimination

When asked to prioritise the single biggest complaint the most common response was boredom/lack of activities/not enough to do.

The survey results provided the foundation for the agenda and the topics to be discussed at the forum.

Tamworth Regional Youth Forum 2006 Survey




Survey conducted in preparation for the Tamworth Regional Youth Forum 2006.

185 surveys processed.




1. Do you experience racism, prejudice and discrimination?

Yes		15.7%	(29)
Don't Know		8.6%	(16)
No		75.7%	(140)




2. Do you think your community is safe?

Yes		58.9%	(109)
Don't Know		24.3%	(45)
No		17.3%	(32)




3. Are there enough activities for you to do in the community?

Yes		35.1%	(65)
Don't Know		5.9%	(11)
No		58.9%	(109)




4. Are there enough employment opportunities for you in the area?

Yes		29.7%	(55)
Don't Know		29.2%	(54)
No		41.1%	(76)




5. Are there enough training and further education opportunities for you in the area?

Yes		48.1%	(89)
Don't Know		23.8%	(44)
No		28.1%	(52)

6. Are drugs and alcohol a problem for you or someone you know?

Yes		29.7%	(55)
Don't Know		15.1%	(28)
No		55.1%	(102)

7. Are there enough health services available for you?

Yes		54.1%	(100)
Don't Know		25.9%	(48)
No		20.0%	(37)

8. What is the biggest problem/complaint/concern for you?

#	Response
1	activities
1	activities for out of towners
2	alcohol
1	Areas dental health
2	Basketball stadium
45	boredom
1	boredom
1	boredom for teens
1	Bullies
3	Bullying
1	Bullying
3	Bullying in schools
1	bus services
2	car
4	Drugs
1	Drugs.
1	Employment
1	Entertainment
2	friendship
1	friendships
1	Friendships and puberty.
1	gangs
1	Health
1	Health & activities for young people
1	Job opportunities
1	Job services
2	Jobs
1	Kids these days
1	lack of activities
1	lack of community input
1	Laziness
1	manilla is a hole
1	Manilla shops
1	Medical appointments
1	medical resources
2	more shops
1	More youth resources
1	My brother
1	My parents
1	no fast food or activities

- 1 No Jobs
- 1 No skate park
- 1 No university
- 1 Not being able to tell people stuff
- 1 not enough doctors
- 1 nothing
- 1 Peace
- 2 racism
- 1 Responsibilities and work
- 1 Rural sporting teams
- 1 school
- 1 school concerts
- 1 smoking
- 1 Soccer fields
- 1 Sport
- 1 Sports
- 1 Swimming Pool
- 1 Teen drinking
- 1 The Communities Safety
- 1 the convoluted bureaucracy
- 1 There are not enough facilities
- 1 Too many bad people in Tamworth
- 2 Une
- 1 Unsafe areas
- 1 Vandalism
- 1 Wagging

8. What is the biggest problem/ complaint/ concern for you?	9. Why?	10. If you had the power to change the issue identified above, how would you make a difference?	11. Other Comments
Sport	Not enough sporting opportunities - the chance to be recognised.	I would have all sports	
Entertainment	Not enough entertainment in the town	Have a fundraiser to make and build and "Intencity"	
Sports	More sports in school so you can get out of class	I would get everyone involved more	
Vandalism	There are a lot of drugs and alcohol which causes a lot of these problems.	I would set my area in order and ban alcohol in certain areas if it's required.	I live in Oxley Vale.
Jobs	Highly trained people are needed for most jobs in this area.	I would try to keep applicants dreams alive and I would make the legal age for getting a job 13 years old.	
Swimming Pool	The town needs another swimming pool to cool off.	Raise money and make a pool	School is cool
Health	That if you make a doctor or dentist appointment you have to wait at least 6 weeks to go and see them.	You should be able to see the doctor at least in a week or 2.	

Bullying in schools	It affects people in many ways. As I am a current school student I see a lot of this at school.	Start an anti-bullying program in all schools.	
racism	Because I just hate racist people because of the bullying.	Longer time in jail.	
		We can always complain about Tamworth but in comparison to other cities we have it very good - We love tam vegas...	
The Communities Safety	Because the streets, parks or public places are no longer safe to walk at night or sometimes at day it becomes a problem because if you want to have a good time without parents it becomes impossible without being harassed.	I'm well aware of the fact that not all areas can be patrolled or protected at all times but I believe there needs to be a heavier Police presence (not just when something bad happens) and well lit areas.	
Health & activities for young people	When you go to the hospital sometimes you have to wait for hours until you are served. There also needs to be more things for teenagers to do.	I would employ more nurses in the hospital or another hospital where everyone gets served straight away. Organize and build more fun things for teenagers to do.	Tamworth is a pretty good place, but it needs more things for teenagers to do, and I wish we had a beach.
alcohol	Alcohol is mostly all about peer pressure. And not drinking can make you feel like an out-crazed.	be more strict on the laws on under age drinking	
gangs	Because I feel they vandalize steal from shops, just no respect for other people, the right to hurt people, to steal to scream and shout down town, to swear at people. It makes me nervous and scared to walk past gangs.	I think police should talk to the gangs. Charge them for there behavior, give them warnings for more police to be in town or at certain community activities for police to supervise the gangs who come. I just don't want people to feel scared to go somewhere or walk past them.	
boredom	There isn't really anything for people to do so were kind of' bored.		
not enough doctors	making an appointment takes ages and going to the hospital is too slow		
medical resources	Because once you want to see the doctor you must wait about a month to actually make an appointment	Get more doctors from the big cities and other large towns to work here.	
smoking	Because I cant stop and I am a very sporty person. And I would like to stop but I cant	I would make there would be no smoking at all and they would not make smokes and I would make more things open to smokers too.	
Areas dental health	Because you have to wait at least a week or two before you get in then when you do get in you have to wait an hour or half before your teeth even get looked at.	I would make that dentist bigger and employ more staff	
boredom	Because when you are over 18 there is plenty to do but for the under 18 we basically only have movies, pool, skate park, shopping. Which is really isn't much. Some kids get bored and do things wrong just to amuse themselves.	I would add more things to the community like game arcades, mini golf, a better wildlife park, a little family park (for example - something like green valley farm) etc.	
bullying in schools	it hurts people	Start a strict anti bullying program.	
Too many bad people in Tamworth	Because they don't treat you with respect and always try to fight you.	To stop the people from being bad and not trying to fight you all the time and taking your money.	
Teen drinking	Because so many kids at school are underage and getting drunk on weekends.	I have no idea how it could be changed because there are already laws but people still get away with it.	

		They should just have common sense.	
Bullying	Because there are so many people out there getting bullied and scared to go to school because of them.	I would probably crack down on all the bullying and support the victims.	
Bullying	there are so many people being bullied and scared into not going to school	There should be more anti bullying programs cracking down on the bullies and supporting the victims.	
Bullying in schools	Because it is a growing problem inside the schools.	Start an anti bullying campaign.	
		Tamworth is a good place but it also can be bad e.g. being robbed in the street.	
		I think we live in a great society and I am very happy with its services.	
activities	Because there is not enough activities. E.g. dancing (ballroom), poetry, and sewing classes so many people are just sitting watching to because there are not shown enough activities with social groups.	By telling people what I think. And hoping they will listen, and getting people together and hoping that you will see this and do something about it.	
Laziness	Because there isn't enough activities and shows. We need more places to go like game centers and kid's lands.	By fundraising.	
bus services	Because it doesn't come very regularly.	By having buses to go to more places often.	
Boredom	Because in certain areas people do not have the same access to facilities e.g. pools, skate parks. The whole community should be benefited not certain areas.	By conducting a survey to provide the results to help in ideas to make a more adolescent community.	
Peace	Why can't we all work together as one? Why can't we all unite?	Everyone thinks about these two words... "I am"	I am the solution to peace. I am the solution to discrimination. I am the solution to no racism. I am the solution to no drugs. I am the solution to make this community a better place. I am the solution to make poverty history. "I am, We are, We can"
activities for out of towners	I live in Moore creek and feel as if more activities should be held out here because it makes you feel isolated. There is not enough to do.	Try to get some activities for children held out there e.g. A sport day in Moore creek hall or something that gives us something to do.	
Basketball stadium	There is no air conditioning in the basketball stadium so that it is more comfortable for everyone.	I would make sure that an air conditioning system would be installed.	
Boredom	Lots of kids sit at home on weekends and do not have anything to do.	Build a drive in cinema. Have a circus or quiz quest for children aged 8 - 14.	
Boredom	There should be more activities for people out of town because it can get very boring out at Loomberah.	There should be more sporting things to do for country kids.	
Medical appointments	It has been numerous times for me and my family members booking a medical appointment that had resulted in a wait for about 2 months. For me that seems like a long time. This includes the seeing of a normal	I would increase the employment of doctors and specialists wanting to own private institutes so that the wait for these appointments would be decreased.	

	GP and specialists.		
Racism	A lot of people say white people are racist to black people but if you were younger you would know that black people are more racist than white people and at the Youthie people are smoking and they don't care.	An elected child to give an update per say of what is going in places in the Youthie and other places.	
Responsibilities and work	Because I am given about 200 things to do at once or am forced into something I consider boring or embarrassing.	Try and split everything up so they have more time or have a video games centre for recreation or to calm down or try and forget bad things that have happened.	
Boredom	In Tamworth there aren't enough activities for young adults to do.	Game arcades, ice skating rink another cinema.	
More youth resources	Because there is no under age social activities.	I would make inter school socials, more youth activities.	improve Peel St.
Basketball Stadium	There should be air conditioning in the basketball stadium so people don't get dehydrated and it will be more comfortable for people to play.	I would raise money to do so.	
Soccer fields	The grounds are really low quality e.g. little grass, bad drainage ec. And syringes have been found on the fields.	I would have the grass re-laid and there isn't much I can do about the syringes except a large fence around the field although that would constrict training times and vandals would just wire.	
My parents	They are separated and dad lives in Narrabri. Money is becoming an issue	I would make mum financially secure and get a full time job.	
Not being able to tell people stuff	I want to tell someone stuff I don't want to tell my parents.	Make therapy available.	
	Even though this is nothing to do with the Youthie you are still a part of the Tamworth Regional council, I would like to see if you can do anything about Barraba pipeline from split rock to town. If Tamworth can afford to have a gas line just to make sure you run out anytime, why don't you save some lives and pit in a water pipeline? Thank you.		
Unsafe areas	That some people live in unsafe areas. Because it's not fair for people to feel unsafe in their home or to walk down the street late at night.		
Boredom	We want more children disco's because there is no where to go after school if you wanted to have some fun.		
Drugs	Cause too much people spend too much money on drugs.	Put the prices down.	I think the Youthie should be open on Mondays.
		Set up workshops and posters.	
boredom	There are not enough carnivals.	Spend money on the youth centre.	
Alcohol	Because it is bad for my health.	Set up workshops, TV ads, radio and talk about it in school.	
Bullies	Because it's not very positive.	Worse penalties for bullies	
Drugs	too many	Kill everyone who takes illegal drugs except weed.	
Drugs	because people get mental illness	posters, radio, school	
Kids these days	The amount of underage kids wasting their lives doing drugs and hanging on the streets instead of going to school.	I would offer them money to give up.	
My brother	Because he is so mean and annoying to me and others.	Move away from him and others.	
Job services	There is not a lot of work going around Tamworth so most of the young kids are leaving looking for work.	I would use the money I give to the council to fix Tamworth up.	
Wagging	Too many people skip school for	I would put more activities in the	

	reasons such as fighting and boringness.	school and also a councilor who helps students with any issue.	
boredom	More things to do in this town. Such as more jobs.	More shops of girls as there are not a lot of them around, and I give it? People need it more than me.	More things to do at the PCYC and fun things with people that are my age.
Jobs	There are not many job opportunities for young people.	Extend shopping world.	
No university	People leave town.	Opening a university would keep young people in the area and attract more young people to Tamworth.	
boredom	There seems to be not enough for young people to do.	Probably talk to the youth and ask them what activities they would like.	
Boredom	Need more activities for the community.		
Rural sporting teams	1st grade football, rugby teams are losing players throughout the central north and reducing competition.	Attract more people in rural areas.	
Drugs	People who have drugs are more likely to be abusive and do harm to their body People who don't slip, slop, slap	I would make sure everyone who are 16 and over get there blood tested I would advertise.	
more shops	So we don't have to go to Tamworth all the time.	I would put in big shops and a place to hang out.	
more shops	Because every week you have to go to Tamworth for shopping, skate park, movies, kfc, subway.	I would get more things for kids to do like skate park, bike track and more shops because it's very boring in manilla.	
boredom	Because this town is boring and kids are getting over weight in manilla.	A skate park and a bmx circuit.	
boredom		Build a skate park in manilla.	
boredom	There is nothing to do in manilla.	A skate park and bike track.	
Boredom	There are no recreational activities.	Add more recreational activities.	
boredom	There is nothing to do in manilla.	I would like a bmx track.	
boredom	There is nothing to do in manilla and it would be a great place for people to be.	Build a skate park.	
boredom		To keep us occupied and give us something to do cause it's boring.	
lack of activities	Because it is due to we are a small town, combined with a large council, and they forget about us here in manilla.	By organization and with bringing people together.	Thanks.
boredom	not enough things to do	More shops, more sporting activities, cafe where you can eat outside.	
boredom	Not enough activities.		
boredom	Not enough things to do.		
boredom	Nothing to do in manilla.	id bring things in like a skate park, good shops, diving board and slide at pool, basketball court etc.	
no fast food or activities	Because manilla doesn't provide enough activities for our teens.	Yes I would.	Need a skate park and bike track?
lack of community input	Need bigger community input? The youth especially.	Need a skate park.	
manilla is a hole	because there is nothing here and people just get dragged in.	Change the community.	
boredom	We would like a skate park because we all have an interest in doing stuff like that.		
boredom for teens	There is nothing to do if we had a skate park etc. it would keep kids off	I would build a skate park.	We need a skate park.

	the streets. It would provide fun and give us interest.		
the convoluted beauracracy	If Tamworth Regional Council pulled there act together, the shire would be run in a more efficient manner, the focus should be on the community not the personal benefits of the important ones on the shire board.		
boredom	in manilla we are looking at after school activities	Open a youth center.	
car	No money.	No license.	
Friendships and puberty.	Growing up into an adult.	Because the biggest issue is growing up into a girl.	
car	I don't know	I would make it so you don't have to get a license.	
nothing	Life is easy.		
friendship	Different moods with growing up into an adult.	Well you really can't but understand the issues.	
friendship	Because of the fluctuations in peoples moods.	Give everyone a mood ring.	Hi!
friendships	Because of the fluctuations in peoples moods.	Give everyone a mood ring and if it turns into an angry color don't go hear them or talk to them.	Everyone should be friends.
school concerts	Because all my older friends go there and other friends.	I would help others, will help needy kids and disabled children	
school	Because all my friends days and it is not good for you.	I would be donating for sick kids and help them have a home.	
bullying	Drugs because it is unsafe.	There will be none above if there is consequences.	
UNE	There is no UNE in Tamworth and when I am old enough I don't want to move away.	Get a UNE or make one accessible and accommodation cheaper.	
UNE	There is no UNE in Tamworth.	buy a UNE	
boredom	Because shop owners and other people charge too much.	Drop the price on entertainment.	
boredom	Because it is a small community and there is nothing to do in manilla.	Make more things to do.	
Manilla shops	Because there is nothing to do and if we had stuff like clothes, DVD shops and food shops we would have something to do instead of mucking up.	I would pit a fund raiser on like a carwash etc...	
Employment	Because there are so many people that have no jobs and would appreciate having something to do.	I would try to get more jobs to help them out.	Manilla needs fast food places and if we get that there will be good places to generate work.
Boredom		We need a skate park and other stuff like that so we have something to do.	
Drugs.	Too many people are smoking and doing drugs.		
Boredom	Because we are important and we need things like... the movies, a skate park and more community things which manilla doesn't have.		
Boredom	Because there isn't anything enjoyable to do and to eat...	I would make a big difference by actually promising to do these things and do them.	
Boredom	Because manilla is a small town with nothing more than a public pool. Manilla is one of the most boring towns.		
No skate park	I like to skate nearly everyday on my skateboard and have to around the streets which cause a nuisance to drivers.	Make a skate park, It would keep us off the streets of manila and give us a place to hang out and exercise.	
Boredom			

Boredom	Because there is no fast food or skate park.	I would improve the police force and make manilla safer.	
Boredom	Manilla is a small town and we need some more things to do. We only have a small pool. We need a movie theater.		
Boredom	Because for some people who have a big passion for skating we need a skate park because there is practically nothing to do in manilla to skate.		
Boredom	I want a skate park because manilla is boring and we have no activities which refer the teenage youth to drugs and alcohol.	Have a fundraiser at every shop so we could buy cement to build a skate park. And we need fast food because everyone is skinny	I appreciate if you could do that for manilla because this town is getting disgraceful yours sincerely Kane Morris.
Boredom	No skate park. No where to hang out.	Make more facilities for people to use and don't charge a fortune to use them i.e. pool	Make a skate park, bike track.
Boredom	Because there are no facilities for teenagers to do in manilla.	Build available faculties.	Fix the roads.
No Jobs		We need more groups to run things on the weekends.	
Boredom	Because we need more things to keep us entertained.	Just ask teens what they want to do in manilla and organize it.	
There are not enough facilities	there are not enough facilities for young people to get together and hang out	Get the council to build a games room or a hall or something like that.	
Boredom	We need more things to do on weekends.	Create more activities for young people to attend and public places that are safe to hang.	
Boredom	It's hard to get a job in manilla, and we don't have many youth activities to do on weekends. More people to run things so we have something to do. The variety bash last year was awesome; we should have things like that which bring the community together.	We need more things that bring us together such as discos, fairs, festivals, parties. And more things to do e.g. places to go and see.	
Boredom	Because manilla is such a small town we often have to travel to Tamworth or further for entertainment. I love out of manilla so it makes it even further and the cost of fuel is huge.	I would open more sporting opportunities for the youth of manilla and try to get bands and other entertainment into our town.	
Job opportunities	The town is small so there aren't many places that young people can work.	Hold more social events like disco or just fun activities that will give us a chance to meet new people and get out more.	
Boredom	The reason there are not enough activities is probably because it is a small community. Although it is annoying because every time we want to do something we have to go into Tamworth.	I would make more things to do and places to go.	We live in a safe community.
Bullying	Because my cousin who is in kindergarten was bullied and picked on by a gang of boys who were in year five and the boys did not get in trouble because the teachers did not see it.		
Boredom	I want a skate park because there is not much to do in manilla.		
Boredom	Because we live in a small community and there is a very small amount of public equipment e.g. parks BUT for teenage youth.	Give Manilla a skate park, Huge slide at the pool, lots of shops, expand the town and include an arcade and things like that.	Manilla youth get very bored which means some turn to drugs and alcohol giving them things to

			do may change this.
Boredom	Because the pools boring and there should be a PCYC centre out here or a bus that goes their.	I would build a PCYC out here, or have a bus running in and out of town to take kids to the PCYC.	
Boredom	Because we live in a small town and there are not enough public place's for youth to go and hang out which pushes some youth to drugs and alcohol.	I would do a survey to find out what the kids want and than make or buy it.	

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Invitation to participate in the survey

The Principal/Stakeholder,

I am writing to request the involvement of a number of your students in a survey to be conducted as part of Tamworth Regional Council's 2006 Youthweek activities. Each year during Youthweek a Regional Forum is conducted to gain a "snapshot" of issues affecting young people, as perceived by young people. A report is generated based on the forum and this report is distributed within Tamworth Regional Council and to relevant stakeholders (including schools). This year the forum will feed directly into the updating of Tamworth Regional Council's Community Plan, and in particular, Council's Youth Strategy.

The attached survey has been developed based on the 2004 and 2005 Forum reports and is intended to provide a wider consultation with young people than is possible with a forum only. The results from the survey will feed directly into the planned 2006 Regional Youth Forum and dictate the agenda for discussion on the day.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could organize the following class groups be surveyed and return the completed survey forms in the supplied stamped envelopes.

- 1 Year 7 class group (30 survey's included)
- 1 Year 9 class group (30 survey's included)
- 1 Year 11 class group (30 survey's included)

Young people have the chance to win a \$100 gift voucher for completing the survey by including a name (optional) on the completed survey.

All survey results will be reported anonymously and surveys will be destroyed upon completion of the report, thereby protecting privacy.

The Regional Forum will be conducted on Friday 7th April 2006.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Stephen Blanch
 Youth Services Coordinator
 Tamworth Regional Council

Invitation to attend

2006 Tamworth Regional Youth Forum

Dear Young person/Principal/Stakeholder/worker,

You are invited to attend the 2006 Tamworth Regional Youth Forum that is taking place as part Youthweek. The forum is intended to be an avenue of communication particularly focused at providing young people with the opportunity to generate discussion and communicate the issues and concerns experienced in the community, and to then investigate possible solutions and courses of action to address these issues. The forum will be facilitated by Tamworth's Young Citizen of the Year for 2006, Marc Sutherland.

Format: Arrive 9.30 am for morning tea & introduction

10.00 - 12.00 pm - Focus: The issues

12.00 - 1.00 pm lunch provided

1.00 - 2.00 pm - Focus: The solutions

Location: The Youthie, Tamworth Youth Centre

Date: Friday 7th April 2006

Time: 9.30 am – 2.00 pm

If you are unable to both sessions it would be great to have you here for one!

Stephen Blanch
Youth Services Coordinator
Tamworth Regional Council

R.S.V.P.: 24th March 2006 on 6766 4645

Forum Program

Tamworth Regional Council Youth Forum (Youthweek 2006)

Location: The Youthie, Tamworth Youth Centre

Date: Friday 7th April 2006

Time: 9.30 am - 2.00 pm

The forum is intended to be an avenue of communication focused at providing young people and other stakeholders/interested persons with the opportunity to generate discussion and communicate the issues and concerns experienced by young people in the community, and to then investigate possible solutions, recommendations and courses of action to address these issues. The forum will be facilitated by Tamworth's Young Citizen of the Year for 2006, Marc Sutherland.

Format:

Arrive 9.30 am for morning tea & introduction

10.00 am Welcome to Country - Brad Flanders

10.05 am Introduction - Marc Sutherland and Stephen Blanch

10.10 - 11.50 pm - Focus: The issues

Ice Breaker

Forum Survey Results

Open Forum - The Issues

1. Not enough activities to do in the community/boredom
2. Not enough employment opportunities in the area
3. Drugs and alcohol
4. Training and further education opportunities in the area
5. Health services
6. Community safety
7. Racism, prejudice and discrimination
8. Bullying
9. Welfare
10. Others

11.50 pm Short film screening - The worst in me. This short film was produced by a number of local young people as an entry in this years "Play Now Act Now" competition and received an award.

12.00 - 1.00 pm lunch provided

1.00 - 1.50 pm - Focus: The solutions

Focus Groups - Please sign up for a focus group

1.50 - 2.00 pm wrap up

A copy of the survey results can be downloaded from www.theyouthie.org. A forum report will be available at www.theyouthie.org when completed. Please be aware that the open forum discussion will be recorded (audio only) to be used in the generation of the report - no individual will be identified.

Lack of activities – leading to boredom

- Generating juvenile activities e.g anti social behavior, littering, scratching cars, walking around the streets....
- What type of activities are not available? Sporting facilities, events, hairdressing competitions, dance fest? Any ideas?
- Not that there is a lack of activities, but the increasing cost (insurance) – excludes people.
- Events at the Youthie – not enough advertising/promotion. Effective advertising? Mentioned a lot at school notices and announcements.
- Big issues with a lack of understanding of what other services/activities are taking place in the community. The internet is an option for centralized communication of community activities. Access to the internet widely available
- Programs and promotional material are being sent to schools. Budget restrictions are a major factor for advertising.
- SRC's can put announcements in and promote activities – be involved in promotion.
- Sporting events.
- Art and craft workshops once a week?
- Miniature golf – put put golf.
- Peel river small business venture – pedal boats up and down the river.
- What are the interests – touch football, art,
- All school discos – fund raisers. Opportunity to socialize and meet new people.
- Art exhibition with local students – promoting what Tamworth has and what we can do..
- Drama production once a year.
- Pool competitions and basketball competitions currently taking place at the Youthie – lack of attendance. Why don't people access the activities that are put on?
- Most effective way through a school is the SRC – direct association with students.
- Encouragement to attend activities, as people may not know anyone there.
- SRC member from each school associated with the Youthie and reporting back to the schools.
- Youth advisory committee – each school having input.
- District SRC involvement.
- Is the Youth centre seen as having a negative “image”? Stereotype image is uninformed. Easier to stereotype than actually go down to the Youthie. “More of a drop-in centre for rejects”.
- People who attend the Youthie have high views of the centre, could talk to schools about what it provides.
- Majority of young people have not ever been to the Youthie.
- The facility is well resourced, perhaps the best in Australia. The resource is here, it is now a matter of engaging as many young people in using the facility to its potential.
- Proposal to do ongoing tours of the centre as part of high school initiation activities.
- Bands and other events have a positive impact on young people “off the streets”.
- Why do people attend the Youthie? Boredom and lack of other activities to do in the community. The Youthie is a place to hang if you are waiting for a lift, play some instruments or a game of pool, the big screen for the football.
- How is the stereotype formed? Will promotion and tours breakdown these views?
- What do parents think of the Youthie? Don't know a great deal about the Youthie. Didn't realize the facilities are as good as they are. Maybe a large scale newspaper advertising campaign through the newspaper to spread information about what's here, what's available, opening hours, regular and special activities/programs. Most parents have never been to the Youthie. Parents would be more comfortable attending the Youthie than hanging on the streets. To increase awareness, do a fundraiser and use money to run an advertising campaign.

- Advertising – walk around handing out flyers on Saturday mornings spreading the word about the Youthie, put posters in the windows at shops. ABC radio program on Saturday mornings – offer of stories.
- Meetings several times a year and discuss agendas, return to schools for further discussion.
- Tony Windsor newsletter – design a page to be included in the newsletter.

Employment for young people

- Lack of jobs? No. More a lack of knowledge of what jobs are available, whether its suited to you.
- It's a matter of getting out there and handing out your resume. Out of your comfort zone and showing that you want the job more than anyone else.
- Casual work expo – for getting children at school into the workforce – what you need where the jobs are and what you need to put on your resume.
- Things are happening in the community – need to know about them.
- Lots of people are not looking hard enough and aren't looking in the right places.
- Many managers are lenient with the age.
- If you want a job, hand in your resume.
- Hard to attend events; attend school and work – hard to juggle.
- School based traineeships lots of opportunities - ideal for people looking for employment. This can lead to permanent employment.
- Oxley 2nd period announcements including casual part time announcements go through schools to promote to young people.
- People are lazy – parents giving kids money.
- Work place reforms?
- Newsletter for Youthie to include a checklist for jobs?
- Need to encourage businesses to advertise through schools.
- Is there a shortage of skills for certain jobs? Young people can learn anything from school. Anything can be done if you try - there is not enough initiative. Jobs sometimes are never advertised but rely on own initiatives.
- Some people who don't try out lack confidence. Those with jobs can boost the confidence of others – maybe though the SRC. Give it a go! More likely to go for a job when your friends are - connected through friends.
- Lack of motivation and confidence to seek jobs.
- Jobs through schools – a representative from each employment agency putting together a list of positions vacant can be put on a notice board. Efforts to support and build up self esteem. Difficult to maintain and keep a job – requires commitment. To increase access for young people.
- Sacrifice other things to have a job.
- A large proportion of young people in attendance indicated they would be leaving Tamworth for further education/employment.
- VET programs. Career transitions/paths is setting yourself up to follow desired job path. VET programs include compulsory job placements. Encouraging school to start VET courses in year 10 and work experience. Greater emphasis in getting students out into work places and businesses into school to increase awareness of expectations and what is required. A number of workplaces in Tamworth are finding it difficult to get enough employees. Businesses are very keen to get young people into positions to gauge suitability for ongoing employment. Lack of understanding of what is involved in many jobs. Cargill has a lot of positions (part time) work available during holiday periods. There are about 1000 employed in the abattoir industry in Tamworth. Utilise careers advisors in schools to participate in jobs you are interested in.
- Don't be too hard on yourselves in finding jobs. Mock interviews will help to develop self esteem. Jobs in and around the house (e.g. babysitting) is valuable for character references and other skills learnt at home as these skills are valuable work skills.

- Relationship with parents is important when looking for a job. Many young people are struggling against parental involvement in the process of looking for a job.
- What is most important is what the young person wants – motivating factor is independence, self sufficiency and money.
- Guest speakers at schools would be valuable.
- Careers periods – mock interviews are valuable, improve confidence.

Drugs and Alcohol

- Is drinking an issue? Alcohol is affecting some young people (under 18) social life in a negative way.
- Powerhouse Park – every Friday and Saturday night young people are drinking and partying. Think it is cool to go out and get drunk. Not always at parties.
- Nothing better to do.
- Need to address supply of alcohol and drugs to young people. Who is supplying and buying? More about where they are getting it. How can we stop the supply.
- Seen as “cool” – peer pressure.
- People forget basic things like going to the toilet when they are drunk.
- Alcohol is available at under age parties.
- Drugs are having a noticeable effect on some young people. Dropping out of school, losing touch with the community.
- Marijuana is regarded as a problem.
- Young people are making choices.
- Access is so easy.
- Kids do drink, they do experiment. Why? Often when young people are drunk they often try other drugs. Some people do it for a release if they are struggling – a way to get away from everything. Media portrays it as “so cool”. Need to change attitudes. Need to be more education. It is seen as “normal”.
- Lots of information is available, but it doesn’t really make a difference.
- A lot of people do it out of rebellion – for the experience.
- It is going to take place regardless – one measure is to educate young people about moderation and safe risk taking. Harm minimization.
- Media – smoking has been reduced in recent times.
- Young people are taking more responsibility for own health. Education is the key – increasing awareness of own health.
- Alcohol is a socially acceptable drug for so long - parents have a lot to do with this.
- Rights (as a person) Respect (for yourself) and Responsibility. The 3 R’s. We are all human beings. People need to start thinking alternative is cool – choosing not to do it.
- Some groups do not drink – not all teenagers drink. This is mainly due to previous experiences. Doing alternative “strange” and funny things to take away some of the pressure to drink. Make the choice, young people choose not to drink – own judgment, believe in what they should do.
- Advertising not seen as most effective. Many young people learn through experience.
- Many problems are related to alcohol and drugs, the morning after. Can lead to depression and other problems.
- Lots of people visit schools providing information regarding alcohol and other drugs – many young people don’t listen and still do it anyway. Questioning whether education helps at all.
- Peer pressure is biggest issue.
- Learning about alcohol/drugs has very little influence on people.
- Many young people “brag” about what they did on the weekend, how much they drank, who they slept with, etc. It has a lot to do with self image.

- Stereo typing all young people as drinking alcohol is damaging to those that don't drink – makes them think they are different (freak!).
- In a way drinking/drugs is inevitable.
- Live today to be here tomorrow. Health and well being is a major issue. What you do today has huge repercussions for your body in the future.

Health Services

- Do young people know about and access health services?
- Everyone has a right to access healthcare.
- No Family Planning Association
- Hospital
- Community Health Service
- Child and family health
- Hearing
- Screening
- Drug and alcohol
- Community Health Nurses – Outreach
- Through Community Health and the hospital
- Bligh St. – sexual health service.
- Young people need to know that there are support services all around you.
- Ask a school counselor or aboriginal education assistant.
- Community Services Directory available through Tamworth Regional Council and the Youth Centre.
- Can access own G.P.
- All aspects of health care – first point of contact is your community health centre at the hospital.
- Through support people can find out what suits your need. Bligh St. is free and confidential.
- Youth info cards contain much youth service related information.
- Community health – access requires a change of attitude. Considering health as remaining healthy rather than because you are sick.

Community Safety

- Do you feel safe walking around at night time? If not, what is happening?
- Many young people are scared. Lots of stories of violence and bashings on weekends.
- The Youthie provides a safe place for young people to hang out.
- The lighting in the area is very poor – walking by yourself at night is very scary.
- Bicentennial Park is quite scary. Some areas are dark at night.
- People are more confident in groups – need to congregate together.
- Poor street lighting does increase problems and concerns around safety.
- Vandalism is a big issue.
- Where you live in town has an impact on the safety.
- Many parks have no lighting – lots of parties take place at these parks.
- Police response to incidents is often not fast enough.
- How can we prevent violence in the community?
- Increased lighting in hot spots.
- Security guard patrols (e.g. BCP)

- Police do a great job patrolling Tamworth – is it possible to have more officers to patrol all areas of Tamworth?
- The call for more Police is misguided. Local Police are attempting to get more Police.
- Police reports need to be made for all areas. Many assaults that take place, many serious crimes, are not being reported. Reports can provide proof. Reporting incidents is the BIGGEST issue.
- Safer by design – crime prevention through environmental design. Lights seem to be the biggest thing.
- To reduce crime – citizens need to learn to self police.
- Safe party packs. Tell the Police what is going on.
- Many young people do not want to report to the police because there is under age drinking, and that Police will sit outside the party.
- It is illegal to supply alcohol to under age people. Someone has to take responsibility.
- The Police want to know about the party because they know where to go if there is a problem, know who to contact, and you will become a potential witness.
- Nobody communicates with the Police any more.
- Stay in groups is the best thing. Mobile phones are great for security.
- If you have information – let the Police know. You may have information that will help to arrest or stop future problems.
- Police need to know what is going on.
- When you report something to the Police it is entered in the computer. This information builds up over time.
- Crime Stoppers – is for reporting crime. Helps the Police do their job better.
- Council pay for security to sweep through Bicentennial Park.
- It is also about what you can do for other people - a great way to spend some of your time.
- Need to change attitudes. You can help. It has to start somewhere. Organise parties so people don't have too much to drink – if they do send them home. Take responsibility. Everybody has to be responsible. If young people are drinking too much at your party, ask them to leave, or ring the Police.
- Motivational speakers to help self esteem.

Racism, discrimination and Prejudice

- What if you called a zebra spot?
- Is it a big issue for youth in society?
- Racism is improving for young people, more alert to it now, more information. Old beliefs and actions in the past the cause of racism - more accepting of other people now.
- Some schools have racism officers that can provide support and counseling. The community would benefit from a person in this role.
- Not getting better, moving away from more traditional forms of racism. Gay and religion based discrimination is increasing.
- Racism is still a problem – not as bad as it was. Lots of people are not as vocal as in the past. Racism includes those that discriminate against all cultures except one – it is still racism against some. Should not be racist based on one person.
- Solution: create more understanding of different cultures and people. Overcome the barrier of preconceptions. Mainly learn about our own culture. Increase awareness of other religions.
- Is there enough education?
- Opportunity/challenge for the education to deliver more education about the indigenous culture/history that is taught in schools - a step forward in reconciliation.
- Not till later in life do many people realize the extent of racism problems in the community. Need to look beyond the color of people's skin, beyond cultural beliefs, and open your mind and see someone for who they are.

- Most people who are racist are culturally illiterate – don't know others background and beliefs. As you get older this knowledge grows – acceptance with age.
- Choose your socks by the color and your friends by their personality as it wouldn't make much sense to be the other way around.
- There has been a huge improvement in the past 50-60 years in Tamworth.
- One day there is a hope that a program will develop that forces people out of their comfort zone to experience how other people live. A person can be well traveled but not necessarily experience grassroots culture. What a boring old world if we looked and lived the same. We would have nothing to share and swap with each other. Diversity has a great place to allow people to grow and experience the world.
- Disabilities and prejudice widens the discussion. People that don't experience others with disabilities can be scared. Need to increase awareness.
- When people refer to people with a disability as “the others” or “them” this is very negative and discriminating.
- Often when people make comments it is not at an individual – rather a stereotype.
- Growing up with a disability can involve young people being picked on in primary school - Due to a lack of understanding and inability to handle the situation. In high people are more accepting of others as people. Increased education and exposure to people with a disability will help people to become more comfortable around people with a disability and realize that they are the same as everyone else.
- Seniors citizens week brings together older people in the community. Young people at Barraba high school have been going to people in hospital and read stories and talk to them. The older people love it and now look for the young people to come each week. The young people have learnt to talk to the older bed ridden people and how to communicate, may have never had this opportunity before.
- If you don't dare to be different how can anyone else copy you?
- Stereotypes are more an issue today than racism. Need to overcome stereotypes.
- Any strategies/education to eliminate stereotypes?
- Let people know that we need to accept others as they are, not as we perceive them to be.
- It is not only about race. It is much broader – gay, disabilities, religion, colour, race.
- There is no easy answer – it starts with each individual. Learning to listen is a start. Make a difference one person at a time - looking at your own attitudes and challenging these values and beliefs.
- Fear and lack of understanding is the major problem.
- All schools function showcasing people from all different cultures – as a community.
- This forum features people from different cultures, races and backgrounds sitting talking like we are all the same.

Bullying

- Is bullying still a big factor in schools and on the streets?
- Bullying is still a really big problem that is hurting a lot of people. Need to help people who are doing the bullying. Often these people need more help than those being bullied.
- Bullying really does hurt. Suspension does not help. The one thing that works is mediation between the people being bullied and the bully.
- Bullying is often for really stupid reasons – like a haircut.
- Need to tell people to face the problem and tackle it head on - it is not going to go away. Need to confront it before it will get better.
- Need to break down the stereotypes.
- Lunch bags with a message about bullying are being used in some schools in Tamworth.
- What some people don't say often is just as bad as what people do say - non verbal communication.
- All schools should have an anti-bullying plan.
- People know it is the wrong thing to do – yet they still do it.

- Need to identify the root cause of the problem.
- Reporting to the Police can be effective.
- The most common bullying is targeting one person in the group and making fun of them to make themselves look good. If we stop bullying being accepted it will go a long way to reducing or removing the problem.
- Often involves a position of power – need to take away that power. Confront bullying – tell them to stop. Bullying is often encouraged by those around – seen as funny, cool.
- Lots of people turn a blind eye to bullying.
- As a community we need to confront bullying, not acceptable.
- A day of random notes saying something nice about other people – warm and fuzzies. Validating other people.
- Standing up to bullying can make it worse - can lead to public humiliation.
- Bullying is another label for racism and prejudice.
- People who bully have problems also.
- Ignoring bullying does not solve the problem.

Other Issues

- Any transport issues?
- Problem with many young people accessing school buses if they live too close to school – the rule is 1.6kms from school. This rule is an act of Parliament that is not likely to change in the foreseeable future. This rule is causing major problems in the Coledale community and access to Hillvue Primary school for a large number of young children. If you live more than 1.6kms you are entitled to a bus pass.
- Lack of night time transport. No public transport after 5.30pm on weekdays and 2pm on Saturdays.
- Armidale have a weekend “foot patrol” minibus.
- Taxi’s, maxi-taxis are a very good way to travel around and share fares.
- Vouchers are a potential program – subsidized fares.
- Vouchers would be a very useful option.
- Car pooling with friends.
- Access to transport can be expensive.
- Lot of concerns about young people on the South side of Tamworth accessing activities (the Youthie, movies, etc) in town and the lack of transport.
- Foot patrol in Tamworth has been flagged as something that is needed, but has not been acted on. The Armidale foot patrol received funding through the Crime Prevention Committee and the Attorney General’s Department - identified project in the safety plan. Armidale includes a funded position and a bus - requires funding and a group to drive the project.
- Forgetting to take bus passes causes problems. If you have a complaint, write a letter to the bus company and they should respond.
- What other ways are young people traveling around?
- Late night workers rely on parents for transport. Subsidised transport alternatives would be valuable.
- Managers at work can be useful in organizing transport for young people.
- Youthie received funding over the 2005-6 Christmas holidays and ran a shuttle bus home for young people. Around 250 young people accessed this service. Money is the primary factor in providing this type of service.

Suggestions/Recommendations

A list of suggestions/recommendations has been compiled of points raised during the forum.

This list offers some practical ideas that will hopefully shape and influence policies and the provision youth related services.

Some items relate specifically to the Tamworth Youth Centre.

NOT ENOUGH TO DO

- Events at the Youthie – not enough advertising/promotion. Effective advertising? Mentioned a lot at school notices and announcements.
- The internet is an option for centralized communication of community activities. Access to the internet widely available.
- SRC's can put announcements in and promote activities – be involved in promotion. Most effective way through a school is the SRC – direct association with students.
- Encouragement to attend activities, as people may not know anyone there. SRC member from each school associated with the Youthie and reporting back to the schools.
- Youth advisory committee – each school having input.
- District SRC involvement.
- Art and craft workshops once a week?
- Miniature golf – put put golf.
- Peel river small business venture – pedal boats up and down the river.
- All school discos – fund raisers.
- Art exhibition with local students – promoting what Tamworth has and what we can do..
- Drama production once a year.
- Proposal to do ongoing tours of the centre as part of high school initiation activities.
- To increase awareness, do a fundraiser and use money to run an advertising campaign.
- Advertising – walk around handing out flyers on Saturday mornings spreading the word about the Youthie, put posters in the windows at shops.
- ABC radio program on Saturday mornings – offer of stories.
- Meetings several times a year and discuss agendas, return to schools for further discussion.
- Tony Windsor newsletter – design a page to be included in the newsletter.

EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- It's a matter of getting out there and handing out your resume. Out of your comfort zone and showing that you want the job more than anyone else.
- Casual work expo – for getting children at school into the workforce – what you need where the jobs are and what you need to put on your resume.
- If you want a job, hand in your resume.
- School based traineeships lots of opportunities - ideal for people looking for employment. This can lead to permanent employment.
- Oxley 2nd period announcements including casual part time announcements go through schools to promote to young people.
- Newsletter for Youthie to include a checklist for jobs?
- Need to encourage businesses to advertise through schools.
- Jobs through schools – a representative from each employment agency putting together a list of positions vacant can be put on a notice board
- Utilise careers advisors in schools to participate in jobs you are interested in.
- Mock interviews will help to develop self esteem. Jobs in and around the house (e.g. babysitting) is valuable for character references and other skills learnt at home as these skills are valuable work skills.

- Guest speakers at schools would be valuable.
- Careers periods – mock interviews are valuable, improve confidence.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

- Need to address supply of alcohol and drugs to young people. Who is supplying and buying? More about where they are getting it. How can we stop the supply.
- Need to change attitudes. Need to be more education. It is seen as “normal”.
- One measure is to educate young people about moderation and safe risk taking. Harm minimization.
- Education is the key – increasing awareness of own health.
- Make the choice.
- Live today to be here tomorrow. Health and well being is a major issue. What you do today has huge repercussions for your body in the future.

HEALTH SERVICES

- Increase awareness of services that are available:
 - Hospital
 - Community Health Service
 - Child and family health
 - Hearing
 - Screening
 - Drug and alcohol
 - Community Health Nurses – Outreach
 - Through Community Health and the hospital
 - Blight St. – sexual health service.
- Young people need to know that there are support services all around.
- Ask a school counselor or aboriginal education assistant.
- Community Services Directory available through Tamworth Regional Council and the Youth Centre.
- Can access own G.P.
- All aspects of health care – first point of contact is your community health centre at the hospital.
- Through support people can find out what suits your need. Bligh St. is free and confidential.
- Youth info cards contain much youth service related information.
- Community health – access requires a change of attitude. Considering health as remaining healthy rather than because you are sick.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

- The Youthie provides a safe place for young people to hang out.
- People are more confident in groups – need to congregate together.
- Increased lighting in hot spots.
- Security guard patrols (e.g. BCP)
- Police reports need to be made for all incidents. Many assaults that take place, many serious crimes, are not being reported. Reports can provide proof.
- Safer by design – crime prevention through environmental design - lights seem to be the biggest thing.
- To reduce crime – citizens need to learn to self police.
- Safe party packs.
- It is illegal to supply alcohol to under age people. Someone has to take responsibility.
- Stay in groups is the best thing. Mobile phones are great for security.
- If you have information – let the Police know. You may have information that will help to arrest or stop future problems.
- Crime Stoppers – is for reporting crime. Helps the Police do their job better.

- Need to change attitudes. You can help. It has to start somewhere. Organise parties so people don't have too much to drink – if they do send them home. Take responsibility. Everybody has to be responsible. If young people are drinking too much at your party, ask them to leave, or ring the Police.
- Motivational speakers to help self esteem.

RACISM, DISCRIMINATION AND PREJUDICE

- Some schools have racism officers that can provide support and counseling. The community would benefit from a person in this role.
- Solution: create more understanding of different cultures and people. Overcome the barrier of preconceptions. Mainly learn about our own culture. Increase awareness of other religions.
- Opportunity/challenge for the education to deliver more education about the indigenous culture/history that is taught in schools - a step forward in reconciliation.
- Need to look beyond the color of people's skin, beyond cultural beliefs, and open your mind and see someone for who they are.
- Choose your socks by the color and your friends by their personality as it wouldn't make much sense to be the other way around.
- One day there is a hope that a program will develop that forces people out of their comfort zone to experience how other people live.
- Need to increase awareness.
- Increased education and exposure to people with a disability will help people to become more comfortable around people with a disability and realize that they are the same as everyone else.
- There is no easy answer – it starts with each individual. Learning to listen is a start. Make a difference one person at a time - looking at your own attitudes and challenging these values and beliefs.
- All schools function showcasing people from all different cultures – as a community.

BULLYING

- Need to help people who are doing the bullying. Often these people need more help than those being bullied.
- The one thing that works is mediation between the people being bullied and the bully.
- Need to tell people to face the problem and tackle it head on - it is not going to go away. Need to confront it before it will get better.
- Need to break down the stereotypes.
- Lunch bags with a message about bullying are being used in some schools in Tamworth.
- All schools should have an anti-bullying plan.
- Need to identify the root cause of the problem.
- Reporting to the Police can be effective.
- If we stop bullying being accepted it will go a long way to reducing or removing the problem.
- Often involves a position of power – need to take away that power.
- Confront bullying – tell them to stop
- As a community we need to confront bullying, not acceptable.
- A day of random notes saying something nice about other people – warm and fuzzies. Validating other people.

OTHER ISSUES

- Taxi's, maxi-taxis are a very good way to travel around and share fares.
- Vouchers are a potential program – subsidized fares.
- Vouchers would be a very useful option.
- Car pooling with friends.
- Foot patrol in Tamworth has been flagged as something that is needed, but has not been acted on. The Armidale foot patrol received funding through the Crime Prevention Committee and the Attorney General's Department -

identified project in the safety plan. Armidale includes a funded position and a bus - requires funding and a group to drive the project.

- Subsidised transport alternatives would be valuable.

Closing

This document is intended to provide a snapshot of the current climate for young people in the Tamworth Region. It is hoped that this document will be used to inform the decision making process and the allocation of resources in youth related services.

This document will significantly contribute to the development of Tamworth Regional Council Social Plan that is being updated in 2006.

This document can be used to provide supporting documentation in the application of grants.