

Ready Macleay 2024

Theme: Youth Futures
Date: 27 February
Venue: Macleay Valley Country University Centre (CUC), Kempsey Central
Facilitator: Kerry Grace
Notes: Dr. Chad Renando
Guest speakers: Kinne Ring
 Taylah and Evangeline

Attended by:

Anika Malcolm (Benevolent Society), Russell Ingram (Office for Regional Youth), Paul Koch (Learning the Macleay), Chontelle Shore (Learning the Macleay), Taylor Kelly-Scholes (Learning the Macleay), Jane Houghton (six Cats Emporium), Fiona Rosten (ETC), Bruce Morris, Sue Seager (Learning the Macleay), Taylah Moffitt (Student SPC), Evangeline Barton (Student SPC), Ryan Martin (MVC), Mark Morrison (Newington), Beth Fuller (Active Living), Alexanra Wyatt (Kempsey Council), Sam Buchanan (YP Space), Andrea Davidson (YP Space), Kristina Kerr (MidCoast Connect), Troy and Mirasol Irwin

Meeting notes

Existing and past initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local health advisory council referrals • Love bites funding for healthy relationships • Community Connectors – Learning the Macleay • Mapping youth programs (currently being undertaken, Learning the Macleay) • Youth interagency • Learning the Macleay – youth diversion focus (service map, social enterprise development, alternative education system for disengaged youth) and capturing positive stores • Youth Insearch • Existing social media platforms
Ideas for initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual health education • More work experience before certificate and to connect to local community • Transport: Access to training and employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Solution before licence ○ Outside business hours ○ Solution outside CBD • Visibility of programs (parents / youth) • Advertise current options in community already • Somewhere they can go that is safe out of hours • Indoor all-weather sport facility • More project engagement with school system and connectors • How can we better open communication channels? • Encourage more life skills into school system

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth positive housing options • Inform young people about employment rights – employment passports • Youth access to Council meetings • Amplify the voices of young people • Provide examples and representation • Events • Investing in young people to be leaders of programs / facilitators • Efficient process for central sharing of information • Information: Right time, right place, right platform
Additional ideas shared out of session	
What works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventative education at an early age • Wrap around support • Build life skills to give confidence • Start younger to engage young people disengaged from school • Build healthy relationships with youth • Enable community connections • Support for career advisor • Involving young people in decision making • Address the needs of everyone in the community • Follow through – not just taking • Meeting young people where they are • Built in word of mouth • Programs everyone can access
Linkages and support	
Challenges to overcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education system • Programs require young people to disengage with school to gain access • How does the parent know where to go?

There is this idea that senior students are independent. But I am moving out. How will I survive?
 If we can move the roots built, we will have the community and family support

Who can help you with this?

Do young people have hope for their future in the Macleay?

Investing in young people to be leaders of programs / facilitators

Efficient process for central sending of information

Actions and ideas to explore

(NOTE: Responsibilities and actions are not assigned to date, please respond to the survey via [this link](#) to assist us assign responsibilities, resources and timeframes)

Action / idea	What we heard
More access to sexual health education	There are currently inadequate opportunities for young people to learn about sexual health
Increase opportunities to gain and maintain employment	Increase linkages to employers, extend knowledge of workplace rights, implement employment passports
Map transport options	There are limited public transport options however many publicly owned buses that may be leveraged
Improve communication about support programs	It's difficult for people to find information about programs. Appropriate information and linkages would assist.
Provide safe spaces outside hours	There is not a safe place for young people to go out of business hours when they are often most at risk.
Create an indoor all-weather sport facility	There is a need for an all-weather sport facility in the community.
Provide more access to life skills in the school system	Young people require more access to opportunities to learn important life skills
More youth positive housing options	Housing is difficult for young people. It is important for young people to have access to appropriate options.
Give young people more access to Council meetings	Council can be daunting for young people and yet it is important to have a youth voice in Council. What can be done to enhance the voice of young people at Council?
Amplify the voices of young people in all decision making	What can be done to amplify the voices of young people in decision making across the community?
Increase access to youth events	Can we develop more youth events in the community?
Invest in young people to be leaders of programs	How can we invest in young people in the Macleay as our future leaders and leaders of current programs?

NOTE: While care has been taken to capture and record the Community Conversation, the notes may not be an exact reflection of what was said. If you would like to add further information and/or provide other feedback please contact the Ready Communities team.