



MINUTES

GREATER DANDENONG YOUTH NETWORK

Young people, drugs and alcohol

Wednesday 3 April 2019

9:30am – 11:30am

City of Greater Dandenong Council Chambers - Level 2

225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong - Corner of Lonsdale and Walker Streets

ITEMS	NOTES
<p>Welcome</p> <p>Introduction & Meeting Purpose</p> <p><i>Kylie Wilmot – Youth Development and Community Engagement Officer, City of Greater Dandenong</i></p>	<p>All welcomed and Traditional Owners acknowledged.</p> <p>Kylie welcomed all network members to the meeting, and noted that Victorian Youth Week runs from 5-14 April. A calendar of events in Greater Dandenong has been produced, with activities from Centre for Multicultural Youth, South East Community Links, Dandenong Library, and Youth and Family Services. Network members were encouraged to share this calendar of events with young people and to encourage their participation in Youth Week activities.</p>
<p>Presentation</p> <p>Alcohol and Other Drugs in Greater Dandenong – An overview</p> <p><i>Senior Constable Travis Ellams, Community Engagement Coordinator – Victoria Police</i></p>	<p>Senior Constable Travis Ellams provided an overview of the trends in alcohol and other drugs (AOD) offences in the Greater Dandenong Police Service Area (PSA).</p> <p>Key information included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>rate</i> of drug arrests in the Greater Dandenong PSA has remained relatively stable – although the overall number of arrests has increased, this has been in line with population growth. • Cannabis and amphetamine/methamphetamine are the most common types of drug arrests. Amphetamine / methamphetamine use ‘spiked’ around 2014/2015 but has since declined. • No particular location (suburb) is identified as a ‘hot spot’ with most intercepts occurring when police stop a vehicle. • <u>Drug Diversion Program</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early intervention program, that diverts adult and juvenile offenders detected for use/possession of small quantities of an illicit drug - Case management provided by DHHS - The person must admit the offence, understand the caution and not be involved in other offending - Involves attending 2x sessions with a drug counsellor (this is voluntary with a cannabis caution)

<p>Embedded Youth Outreach Program</p> <p><i>Kellie Hocking, Victoria Police and Sarah Williams, YSAS</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Alcohol Diversion Program</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports recidivist drunk offenders recover from addiction - Offenders are offered an opportunity to go into detox in consultation with courts, Monash Health and other partners - Success rate over 90% • <u>Embedded Youth Outreach Program</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12 month pilot program – partnership between Victoria Police and YSAS. - YSAS worker based at the station 6pm – 2am every night, working with the Frontline Tactical Unit. - When a call is received involving a young person, Victoria Police first make sure the situation is safe. A police officer and youth worker then go to the call out or visit young person in the cells to engage and take referral. The aim is to link young people to appropriate services. - The pilot has been underway for 8 months and has proven successful in being able to respond to issues in young people’s lives which may underpin offending, AOD use, or mental health. These include housing, family support and more.
<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Panel members included:</p> <p>YSAS: Sarah Williams and Maddy Giummarra</p> <p>Taskforce: Robbie Hendry</p> <p>Windana (Youth Withdrawal Unit): Michelle Evers</p> <p>Monash Health Youth Drug and Alcohol Service: Jeffrey Weitzel</p>	<p>A panel of local service providers responded to questions from meeting attendees, including:</p> <p><i>How can schools encourage students to make it to appointments with drug and alcohol services?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YSAS can meet students onsite at school, rather than asking a young person to travel to them. There can also be capacity to drop young people off to school or pick them up from school as part of their case management. • Taskforce provide in-school presentations utilising a harm minimisation approach –this can be a soft entry point for establishing rapport with young people who may require further support. <p><i>What work is happening to engage culturally diverse groups of young people?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria Police are leading the African-Australian Taskforce, involving patrols with leaders and community members. • Focus on positive engagement, recognising that only a small percentage of the community are involved in offending behaviours • Examples include Victoria Police will attend the 2K19 Soccer Tournament in Dandenong (12 April) and recently held a basketball competition in St Kilda, which attracted young people from Dandenong and other suburbs in the south-east and west. • Engagement with media to share ‘good news stories’ continues to be a challenge. <p><i>What trends do panel members see in their service and direct work with clients?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthetic cannabis on the rise: leads to more extreme reaction, including highly erratic behaviour. Young people may not always be aware that they are using synthetic cannabis. • Alcohol remains an ongoing issue with young people. • Methamphetamine continues to be seen by services, but the number of presentations is consistent (and not increasing)

- Chroming continues to occur amongst young people, as it is low cost and highly accessible.
- Some young people presenting for misuse of benzodiazepines (eg: Valium taken without a prescription)

How can services advocate for the Embedded Youth Outreach Program to be extended?

- Both Victoria Police and YSAS are keen to see the program extended. An independent evaluation is being undertaken by a university, to develop an evidence base supporting the outcomes of the initiative.
- The current program will continue until August 2019.

What advice can panellists share for youth workers looking to engage young people in conversations about drugs and alcohol?

- A collaborative approach is important – one worker doesn't have to know everything.
- Focus on positive stories and small steps.
- Be genuine in your approach; look for opportunities to have a conversation (such as when a young person asks questions or expresses curiosity).
- Consider abstinence vs harm minimisation approach. If someone shows up substance affected to a program/service, it is still positive that they've made it there.
- Try to understand the benefits a young person sees for their substance use – this can be an insight into what supports they may need.

What resources can you recommend for youth workers?

- Australian Drug Foundation
<https://adf.org.au/> or 1300 85 85 84
- YoDAA (Youth Drug and Alcohol Advice)
<http://yodaa.org.au/> or contact the helpline on 1800 458 685
- Direct Line (help navigating services)
www.directline.org.au or call 1800 888 236
- Touch Base (LGBTIQ youth-friendly website)
www.touchbase.org.au
- Erowid (peer reviewed articles from academic, medical and experiential experts)
www.erowid.org.au

Is there a rise in violent crime, and if so, is this linked to drug and alcohol?

- Victoria Police advised that whilst drugs and alcohol are generally regarded as a driver of crime, crime stats were released last week and show a decrease in crime 'across the board'.

	<p><i>What strategies are there for engaging with the media to promote positive stories?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panellists advised of successes in generating their own content to counter negative media attending. YSAS have created and sponsored clips on social media. • Victoria Police operate the Eyewatch Greater Dandenong Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/eyewatchgreaterdandenong <p><i>Are there any AOD services that also support families?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All services represented on the panel will support and/or engage families. • The young person’s consent is an important factor in involving the family, however it was noted that recovery outcomes are improved where the family is involved (develops support networks) <p><i>Are young people who are misusing alcohol and other drugs usually disengaged from education and employment?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This depends on the type of service being accessed and their role or the type of support offered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - YSAS and Taskforce advise that they see a range of youth clients, who may or may not be engaged in education or employment - Young people accessing Windana for residential withdrawal usually wouldn’t be engaged in education or employment, but may be receiving Centrelink benefits and connected to a job service provider - Dual diagnosis clients accessing support through Monash Health would not usually be in employment <p>For information about the services participating in the panel discussion, please see the links below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YSAS http://www.ysas.org.au/content/dandenong • Taskforce https://www.taskforce.org.au/ • Windana (Youth Withdrawal Unit) https://windana.org.au/services/community-residential-withdrawal-service-for-youth/ • Monash Health Youth Drug and Alcohol Service http://monashhealth.org/services/services-f-n/mental-health1/south-east-alcohol-and-drug-services1/south-east-alcohol-and-drug-service-seads/
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Information Sharing

	<p>Bridget Hansen, Victoria Legal Aid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder that a professional development session providing an overview of Victoria Legal Aid community legal education workshops will follow today’s meeting • If unable to attend, contact Bridget Hansen on bridget.hansen@vla.vic.gov.au or call 9767 7135 to find out about other opportunities to engage with community legal education.
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Robbie Hendry, Taskforce

- Community Traineeship program is a 2 year program that will support 75 young people living in the City of Greater Dandenong to complete traineeships with community service organisations
- Seeking host organisations willing to employ a full time trainee (12 months) studying Certificate IV in Community Services.
- For more information, contact 0435 807 925 or robbieh@taskforce.org.au

Munira Yusuf, Australian Muslim Women's Centre

- Leadership program for young Muslim women, aged 15 – 24 years, starts 10 April.
- For more information contact munira@muslimwomenscentre.org.au

Sianon Daley, headspace

- Will be delivering a professional development session in early May. Targeted at school wellbeing staff, the session will focus on early intervention with school refusal.
- For more information contact sianon.daley@each.com.au

Kylie Wilmot, City of Greater Dandenong

- Youth Disengagement Forum – Wednesday 1 May
- Professional development opportunity for Greater Dandenong Youth Network members, with opportunities to explore a range of perspectives on youth disengagement.
- Registrations open at <https://cgdyouthdisengagementforum.eventbrite.com.au>
- For enquiries, contact kylie.wilmot@cgd.vic.gov.au or 9793 2155

Karen, Monash Health Community

- Youth Hub for young people aged 16-25 years on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at 122 Thomas Street, Dandenong. Provides access to a range of services including dietician, music therapy, exercise physiologist and more.
- For more information contact 0434 601 300 or email youthtriage@monashhealth.org

Simone Webbey, Launch Housing

- Rough Sleepers Initiative – recently launched service providing outreach and assistance to rough sleepers in the Dandenong area. Support may include emergency accommodation, help to get long term housing, help with health issues and links to other services.
- For more information contact 9729 0750.

Penny Nugent, South East Community Links

- Youth Week event: 4E's Workshop, Wednesday 10 April, 11am – 2pm at 60 Douglas Street, Noble Park. Targeting young people seeking employment.
- Empower Youth Program starting in the City of Casey, working with migrant and refugee young people aged 12-25 years.
- For more information contact pnugent@secl.org.au

Jason Carter, Reclink

- Reclink provide a range of sport and recreation opportunities in the south-east region.
- For details visit the website at <https://www.reclink.org/activities> or contact jason.carter@reclink.org

Jenny Cincotta, Concern Australia

- Seeking lead tenants for the live in mentor program – this opportunity may suit for youth work students seeking further experience.
- Handbrake Turn program – provides young people aged 15-21 years with skills in automotive industry. Next program starts 14 May, and is delivered 3 days/week over 7 weeks. For details, visit <https://www.concernaustralia.org.au/hand-brake-turn/>
- For enquiries, contact jenny.cincotta@concernaustralia.org.au

Gerard Koe, Catholic Care Drug and Alcohol

- Catholic Care have 8 AOD counsellors, working with families
- For more information, visit <http://www.ccam.org.au/page/11/alcohol-other-drug-family-service>

Karmen Dayal, Good Shepard

- Provide financial counselling through workshops and 1:1 coaching – available to young people aged 18 years and older
- For more information contact karmen.dayal@goodshep.org.au

Steph Graham, Mission Australia

- Youth Learning Pathways program targets young people aged 17-25 years, who are involved with (or at risk of becoming involved with) the youth justice system.
- Opportunities include 8 week 'trade taster' programs and Changing Gears, a 4-day program to support young people in gaining their Learner's Permit.
- For more information or referrals contact YLP@missionaustralia.com.au, or call 9213 2500.

	<p>Josh Baron, City of Greater Dandenong</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holiday Activities Committee for term 2, commences 6 May. This is a leadership program for young people aged 12-16 years, where they help to plan a series of activities to take place during the holidays and develop the skills required to 'peer lead' these activities. • Program to be held Monday evenings, 4.30pm – 6.30pm • For registrations please contact Josh on 9793 2155 or Joshua.Baron@cgd.vic.gov.au <p>Tuan Dao, City of Greater Dandenong</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fusion program starting in term 2: an 8 week program for young people interested in learning how to create a podcast. • Comic-Con event: Saturday 13 April, 11am – 4pm at the Dandenong Library and Harmony Square. Registrations open for cosplay competition. • For more information on Fusion or Comic Con, contact 9793 2155 or Tuan.Dao@cgd.vic.gov.au <p>Andrea Savarin, Mission Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Management Service – supporting jobseekers with a disability, injury or health condition to find employment. • For further information or referrals contact savarina@missionaustralia.com.au <p>Gina Webb, MOIRA Better Futures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office has recently moved from Moorabbin to Scoresby, and will continue to service the Greater Dandenong area • Reform underway in out of home care sector – MOIRA's Better Futures pilot has been successful and will continue to roll out, providing further support to young people as they transition from out of home care to independent living. • For further information contact betterfuturesintake@moira.org.au
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>Date: Thursday 6 June 2019 Time: 9.30am – 11.30am Theme: Homelessness and material aid Venue: Dandenong Council Chambers – Level 2 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong For further information or to RSVP please contact Kylie Wilmot, Youth Development and Community Engagement Officer on 9793 2155 or email kylie.wilmot@cgd.vic.gov.au</p>

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