



## **YCOP Update**

### **Facilitator – Jessie Halligan (Yfoundations)**

We have hosted three Youth Communities of Practice (YCOP) Meetings – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018, and 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018. As I understand our next meeting will be in November 2018.

#### **First Meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

At the first meeting we had 20 attendees from various youth homelessness services across the state. We discussed the Terms of Reference, including the size of the YCOP (no more than 25 organisations). We had extensive introductions from each service. After the break we discussed critical service issues – lack of exit options, working with poor housing options (e.g. boarding houses, tents etc), mental health, drugs and alcohol, disability, living skills, inappropriate referrals, OOH service gaps, Advocacy Issues. An advocacy subgroup was formed. We ended by discussing topics for future meetings.

#### **Second Meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

At the second meeting we had an advocacy update from the subgroup. We spoke about issues arising from interagency meetings. We discussed 3 practice issues - Affordable Housing exit point for young people, Lack of appropriate mental health and AOD referral options, and Inappropriate referrals. We ended by discussing Youth Homelessness Matters Day.

#### **Third Meeting – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

At the third meeting we spoke about issues arising from interagency meetings. Then we discussed 3 practice issues – Lack of exit Options for under 18s, Culturally appropriate service for Aboriginal Young People, and we begun mapping services across NSW. The group decided it wanted a draft letter to councils to urge them to make use of unused properties. The group also wanted updates from the Ombudsman Report and HYAP. At the end of the meeting I agreed to formally map the services across NSW (Mental Health, AOD, and Legal), as well as draft a letter to councils.