



## **YOUTH AND FAMILY FOCUS INC SERVICES OVERVIEW**

Youth and Family Focus Inc (YaFF) is a not-for-profit, non-government organisation based in Devonport. YaFF has various programs aimed at assisting and supporting youth, parents, grandparents and families living on the North-West Coast.

The services provided by YaFF include:

### **Family Support Service**

This service is part of the Integrated Family Support Services (IFSS) which provide family support services across the North West Coast. The program focuses on prevention and early intervention strategies to promote children's and young person's wellbeing and safety by reducing and preventing child abuse and neglect.

### **Family Drug Support Service**

This service is designed to assist families in dealing with drug issues in a way that achieves positive outcomes. This service offers a safe and confidential environment for people to address drug issues and individual or family counseling for the drug user and other family members. The service is free and also provides assessment and referral, support and advocacy and education and information sessions for community groups or individuals.

### **Community Focus Alcohol and Other Drug Service**

This service provides a wide range of services that address the needs of young people aged 12-24 whose lives are affected by alcohol and other drugs. It offers an outreach service to the Mersey Leven area and is confidential and free. The service offers counseling, individual and family support, advocacy, referral to other services, community and individual health promotion and education, development and information.

### **Illicit Drug Diversion Program**

The Illicit Drug Diversion Program (IDDI) provides education, assessment and treatment for young drug offenders in the community. Brief intervention enables clients to talk safely and confidentially about their drug use and to identify issues that impact on their health, life style and relationships. It also provides an opportunity for those clients to be linked with YaFF's other Drug and Alcohol Services and, thereby, receive ongoing assistance with their drug issues.

### **Needle Syringe Program**

YaFF is a primary outlet for the distribution and supply of needles and syringes under the HIV Preventative Measures Act 1993. The Needle Syringe Program enables clients to access needles and syringes and information in relation to drug use in a confidential and safe environment. The service also provides clients with an opportunity to seek further support in addressing issues associated with their drug use and to develop relationships with drug and alcohol workers available on site.

### **Youth Focus Accommodation Service**

The Youth Accommodation Crisis Service provides supported temporary accommodation for young people (aged between 13 and 21) in crisis. It provides young people with the opportunity to address issues with the hope of moving into more stable environments. Experienced staff provide support, referral, advocacy, budgeting and lifestyle education. Young people needing to use the Youth Focus Accommodation Service can be given free and prompt access to other services provided by YaFF.

### **Focus on Transitional Outreach (FOTO)**

FOTO offers youth, aged 15 to 21, limited transitional housing options and a support service to assist youth to live independently within the community. The service is free and confidential and also provides referral to other services when required. Staff are able to assist with accessing either public or private housing, developing routines which are important in maintaining a household, budgeting, attendance at medical or other appointments and maintaining or gaining education or employment opportunities.

### **Focus on Future Programs**

Focus on Futures is the name given to the Work for the Dole projects which are coordinated by YaFF. YaFF is one of the many sponsors of the Work for the Dole program and has developed programs with an emphasis on assisting participants with finding direction towards future employment or educational goals. The service provides participants with basic Occupational Health and Safety Training and an opportunity to obtain a Workplace Level 1 First Aid Certificate.

### **Focus on Families**

This service supports families and single parents with young children while they develop the skills and knowledge required to aim towards better parenting and/or positive coping mechanisms. The service provides parents and grandparents with access to counselling and direction for providing a safe and positive home environment as well as supporting children through their formative years.

### **Focus on Improved Services**

The objectives and outcomes of the service are to build the capacity of the organisation to better identify and effectively treat people with co morbid drug and alcohol problems and mental illness, through a range of service improvement activities. The project involves the implementation of a continuous quality improvement framework, with consideration given to the identification and management of co morbid conditions, the revision and implementation of policies and procedures to better support the identification and management of co morbid clients, the development of sustainable partnerships with the wider health and community service network, the improvement of technology and data collection systems and a training and skills development program.