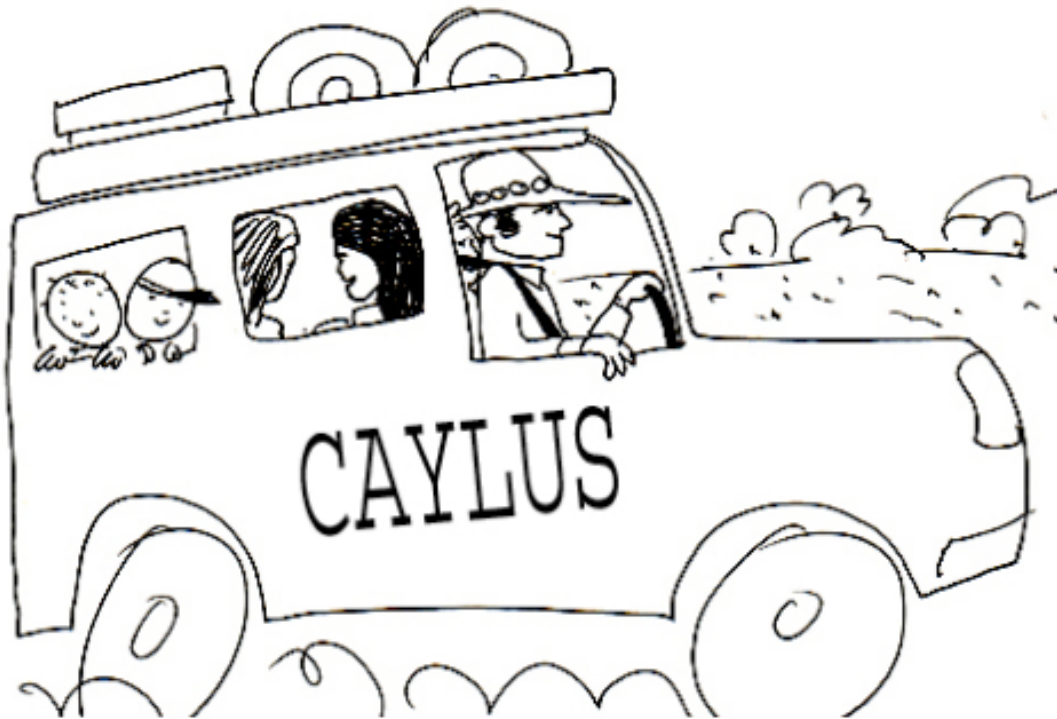


Central Australian Central Australian Youth Link-Up Service



Good practice standards/model for youth programs in remote communities in Central Australia.

Developed by the key remote youth service providers in Central Australia in 2017

Youth model standards

The following five points are considered essential basics for effective youth development programs.

1. Resources and Infrastructure

The following resources are required in each community

- Two youth workers, one male and one female;
- Designated community housing adequate for the needs of these two workers;
- Two 4WD vehicles, preferably Toyota troop carriers, to enable the maintenance of gender separate activities – one Toyota for girls, and one for boys and young men;
- A youth program base or headquarters, in the form of a youth centre, such as the recreational halls commonly found on communities. This building would ideally be multi-purpose, containing a large open space for indoor sports and games and other activities, a kitchen, storeroom and possibly extra smaller spaces which function as areas for smaller group activities;
- A range of equipment to be built up over time. Basic items would include sporting goods, camping gear, kitchen and cooking utensils. Further equipment needs would unfold gradually in accordance with the scope of the program;
- The provision of line management of the youth worker positions, including access to support, supervision, training, and human resource services.

2. Regularity and Consistency of Activities.

A basic level of youth program provision must be constant, involving a platform of scheduled activities to provide a reliable and stimulating environment for young people. Regular and consistent activities are of particular importance for young people during the school holidays, periods known to induce high levels of boredom and potentially outbreaks of substance abuse.

This could be reported on by collecting data on activities, including age and sex of attendees. Also through providing the schedule of youth activities advertised in the community.

3. Gender and Age Status Appropriate Activities.

Youth programs need to uphold community protocols and cultural obligations by featuring separate activities for children, young women and young men. Relevant activities must be developed which cater exclusively for these gender and age status categories. The capacity to provide exclusive activities is dependent on having male and female youth workers and a platform of constant, ongoing regular activities for younger children.

This could be reported on through identifying age specific activities provided, number and gender of attendees.

4. Activities which are Meaningful, Stimulating and Culturally Relevant.

Meaningful activities should focus on the fostering of self esteem and confidence in young people, and be based around such themes as personal development, nutrition, positive adolescent health, and the development of valued cultural skills.

Youth programs should aim to foster strong intergenerational relationships and to encourage intergenerational transmission of knowledge. A range of intergenerational activities may be supported within youth programs, including day trips and camps for bush tuckering, seed and bush medicine collection and preparation, artifact making (such as digging sticks, spears, boomerangs), and involvement in visits to country and sites of significance, and land management work. These activities should consist of young people together with senior members of their families, supervised and supported by the youth workers.

This can be reported on through outlining the activity and it's intention, and listing community members who assisted with the activity.

5. Involvement of Role Models

The involvement of a number of young men and women who demonstrate leadership qualities is vital in directing, supervising and managing youth program activities. The involvement, guidance and support of a group of young leaders, which may be in the form of a community 'Youth Team' or youth committee, ensures that the ideas for activities which make up the youth program come from young people themselves.

This can be reported on through provision of data re local Indigenous employment, and notes from any planning meetings involving these people.