

Rural and Remote Young People

Young people from rural and remote areas are strong, capable and resilient Tasmanians. There are several concerns for young people in rural and remote areas and there is a gap in the services available to those living in rural and remote communities. Limited services for education, housing, employment and disability support in rural and remote communities can be detrimental to the health and well being of young people. Living in rural and remote areas can also be difficult for young people who are trying to become independent with the increased costs of living and travelling costs to access services.

Young people from rural and remote areas may also face the additional barrier of settling into a new environment without any support networks if they choose to relocate from their hometown. Geographical isolation exacerbates certain mental health concerns as there are less available services and fear of exposure to the community with young people from rural and remote areas having a higher rate of intentional self harm than young people living in major cities, 320 and 207 per 100,000 respectively. Inadequate transport to and from rural and remote areas needs to remain a priority as many young people from rural and remote areas are reliant on individual transport or on family and friends due to the lack of affordable, reliable and accessible public transport.

Young people living in rural and remote communities have the same right as every other young person to have access to the resources they need to develop their potential. Therefore, it is important that work is done to maximise the opportunities available to young people in rural and remote areas.

YNOT is committed to:

- Creating opportunities for young people in rural and remote communities to voice their ideas and opinions and contribute to decision and policy making.
- Advocating for schools and work programs in rural and remote communities.
- Encouraging rural and remote communities to provide local young people with the opportunities to access education, employment and support services.



- Advocating for the resources needed for young people in rural and remote areas to connect with other young people living outside of their community.
- Creating equal access and opportunities for young people living in rural and remote areas.

Future Vision

A Tasmania in which young people living in rural and remote areas have equal access to services and have the same opportunities as other young people in Tasmania and are not restricted or disadvantaged by their place of residence. Increased safe, accessible and affordable transport options for young people in rural and remote areas will allow them to have a degree of independence and have the same opportunities as other young people who reside in the major cities around the State.

References

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2011), *Australia's young people: their health and wellbeing (2011)*, Australian Government, Canberra, retrieved from <http://www.aihw.gov.au/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=10737419259>.