



Promoting health. Preventing harm.

# Annual Report 2013 - 2014



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# About Youth Solutions

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*Promoting health. Preventing harm.*

## Overview

*Youth Solutions is a youth drug and alcohol prevention and health promotion charity working with young people aged 12 – 25 years and all others who play an important role in their lives.*

## Vision

*To improve the health, wellbeing and resilience of young people.*

## Mission

*To be the leading community Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) prevention and health promotion service in Macarthur and Wingecarribee.*

# About Youth Solutions

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## Values statement

*Empowering young people  
Promoting safer choices  
Building a stronger community*

## Ethics statement

*Providing services in an ethical way  
Adhering to all industry standards*

## Strategic directions

*Providing accessible and quality services and programs*

- *commitment to evidence based strategies*
- *working with marginalised young people*
- *cultural safety and appropriateness*

*Sustaining quality external relationships*

- *working in partnership*
- *whole of community approach*

*Building a better organisation*

- *culture of innovation and flexibility*
- *commitment to quality improvement*

## Guiding principles

*Alcohol and other drug (AOD) prevention*

*Harm minimisation*

*Social determinants of health*

*Health promotion*

*Social marketing*

*Youth participation*

*Building resilience in young people*

*Promoting health. Preventing harm.*

# Our people

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## The Board

**President and Treasurer** Peter Campbell

**Vice President** Rebecca Whitford

**Executive Member** Tony Ross

### Board Members

Jodie Dench

Geoff Ellis

Aaron Ellis

Rachel Elliott

Martyn Farrar

Emma Macfarlane

Damon May

Belinda McLean

**Public Officer** Geraldine Dea



## The Team

### Chief Executive Officer

Geraldine Dean

### Program Officer – Health and Strategy

Lauren Ognenovski

### Program Officer – Youth and Community

Karen Yuen

### Program Officer – Communications and Marketing

Amanda Partridge

### Program Officer – Engagement

Corin Boughton

### Executive Administration Officer

Sue Willoughby

### Executive Finance Officer

Shannon McEwan



# Our people

## Fundraising Committee

Rachel Elliott  
Nicole Ellis  
Brooke Manzione  
Cassandra May  
Belinda McLean  
Sharon Moyle  
Margaret Ross  
Geraldine Dean



## Youth Advisory Group (YAG)

Aaron Ellis  
Ashley Allison  
Blair Ellis  
Bryce White  
Callum Cherrett  
Casey Green  
Emily Elliott  
Erin Middleton  
Francis McAleese  
Isabel Mellor  
Kelvin Tran  
Lana Nguyen  
Robert Barrie  
Shayley Venn  
Stephanie Blaker



*Promoting safer choices*

## President's report Peter Campbell

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As I reflect on my second year as the Youth Solutions' President I am more impressed than ever with the great sense of community that exists within the Macarthur and Wingecarribe regions.

Couple the great community spirit of this area we service, with the dedication and passion of a great team, Board and Youth Advisory Group and it is no wonder the 2013 – 2014 year was a grand 12 months for Youth Solutions.

In her third year as Chief Executive Officer for the Service, Geraldine Dean has done a wonderful job of steering a team of passionate employees to make a difference in the lives of young people, with a focus on "Promoting health. Preventing harm."

In the past year Youth Solutions bid farewell to team members Kate Angelucci, Dan Lea and Brooke Manzione. We wish Kate, Dan and Brooke well with their new roles and welcome their continued involvement with Youth Solutions in the future.

I would like to welcome two new team members Corin Boughton, Program Officer – Engagement, and Amanda Partridge, Program Officer – Communications and Marketing. Corin and Amanda bring a variety of great skills and experience to the Service and will join our dedicated and hard-working team members Lauren Ognenovski, Program Officer – Health and Strategy, Karen Yuen, Program Officer – Youth and Community, Shannon McEwan, Executive Finance Officer, and Sue Willoughby, Executive Administration Officer.

During the past 12 months I have been floored by the great increase in community support for Youth Solutions. The Service embarked on a new three year partnership with Campbelltown Catholic Club, partnering to support Youth Solutions' Safer Celebrations project. The 2014 – 2015 campaign, titled 'Keep it in Check' has just been launched and after the success of last year's award-winning campaign 'What's the cost to you?' I am looking forward to seeing the new campaign and its important messages disseminated in the community.

*The Rotary Club of Narellan, McDonald's in Macarthur, and BTIG* have once again greatly assisted the Service in delivering their major projects throughout the year. This year's annual Charity Event also attracted its highest level of community support ever, with 23 sponsors jumping on board to ensure its success. Please read on to find a full list of our sponsors and supporters over the last 12 months.

As always, the service has received fantastic support from our local media including C91.3FM, the *Macarthur Chronicle*, *Campbelltown – Macarthur Advertiser*, *Camden – Narellan Advertiser* and *Wollondilly Advertiser*. Thank you for assisting us in getting our messages out to the community. I would also like to thank our local elected representatives for their support of the young people in our community and for believing in our mission.

The Youth Solutions Youth Advisory Group (YAG) continues to provide fantastic ideas and support for the Service. Their involvement in the Peer Enrichment and Empowerment Project (PEEP) and their own youth-led campaign 'Give Us a Hand, Smoke ... do you *really* want it?' has kept them very busy during the past year and we thank them for their dedication to Youth Solutions and for being a voice for their peers.

Our Fundraising Committee has also been kept busy and is powering ahead with a fundraising calendar clearly set out for the next 12 months. Thank you to the members for their work on the 'Glitz, Glamour, GATSBY' Charity Event and their continued support of Youth Solutions.

Finally I would like to recognise our Board. We have a very skilled and passionate group of community members who are dedicated to getting Youth Solutions' principal messages and projects out to the Macarthur and Wingecarribee community. Thank you for your hard work during the past year, it has been a pleasure working with you all.

With a number of award wins under our belt, growing community support and a host of great projects and initiatives on track I am certain 2014 – 2015 will be a year of great things for Youth Solutions.

**Have a Merry Christmas and a safe new year. Remember to follow the 'Keep it in Check' campaign on Facebook for tips on how to celebrate safe this summer.**

*Empowering young people*



## CEO's report **Geraldine Dean**

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It has been a wonderful year for Youth Solutions.

During 2013 – 2014 our hard work in promoting health and preventing harm to our young people was recognised in the community with a host of award nominations and a positive media presence.

In the past year we have continued our work with young people and partnered with many other organisations in our region who value our mission of minimising drug and alcohol harm in our community as well as promoting general health and wellbeing for our young people.

The Youth Solutions team and Board believe in a 'whole of community approach' and thus our success in making a difference in the lives and health of young people depends on partnerships and the support of the community. As stated by Peter, our corporate partners, supporters and sponsors are the key to enabling us to do what we do and for this we are truly thankful.

This year, Youth Solutions has worked to implement our Operational Plan 2013 – 2014. In line with this plan, during the last 12 months, our strategic priority areas have seen us work hard to deliver our three major projects and to continue to provide quality alcohol and other drug prevention and health promotion services for young people and the wider community.

The Peer Enrichment and Empowerment Project (PEEP), Drug, Alcohol and Resilience Education (DARE) and Young Aboriginal Reference Network (YARN) projects have achieved great results in addressing youth alcohol and other drug prevention in the Macarthur and Wingecarribee regions. Our projects, workshops and activities have reached nearly 1500 young people during the past year and participants have reported great improvement in their resilience as well as their knowledge of alcohol, other drugs and the associated harms.

Our online information and referral service is constantly being improved and refined. Our website visitor numbers are increasing, with more than 9000 hits during the last 12 months, and the number of people being referred to our Service via our social media and website is increasing. We have been working hard to be accessible to our community and innovative in finding new ways to communicate to our service users and stakeholders. If you haven't already, please 'Like' us on Facebook and 'Follow' us on Twitter and Instagram!

Our advocacy project, AOD Link is continuously providing opportunities for Youth Solutions to stay in touch with other organisations in the region and support the alcohol and other drug sector. After a successful 12 months I look forward to seeing some more great initiatives come out of this network over the next year. Youth Solutions has also maintained strong relationships with our local councils and elected representatives in the community.

The Youth Solutions volunteer arm is continuing to grow and over the next year we expect to see our volunteer numbers rapidly increase as we refine our volunteer program. Our Youth Advisory Group (YAG) in particular, continues to represent young people in the region. Congratulations to YAG on their 'Give Us a Hand' campaign, Smoke ... do you *really* want it? and their involvement in PEEP.

In July we hosted our record-breaking Glitz, Glamour, GASTBY Charity Event and I want to thank our Fundraising Committee for their tireless work in making our major fundraising event the success it was. The record turn-out at the event helped to secure \$38,000 for our Service. I look forward to future fundraising events and working with such a creative and enthusiastic group of volunteers to implement new ideas.

To our Board, thank you for your guidance and passion for what we do. We are lucky to have such a diverse, skilled and dedicated group to lead our organisation. On a personal note I would like to thank you for your support.

Finally to the Youth Solutions team. Thank you for your great work and passion for what you do. I am proud to lead such a fantastic team who believe in health promotion and all have the same focus; promoting health, preventing harm and supporting our young people in making safer choices in their lives.

Please read on to see what else has been keeping the team busy this year. We look forward to the next 12 months when we will continue to achieve outcomes for our three major projects, work with the *Campbelltown Catholic Club* on the 'Keep it in Check' campaign and continue to provide services for the Macarthur and Wingecarribee community in youth alcohol and other drug prevention and health promotion.

*Have a wonderful festive season with your friends and family. Remember to celebrate safe.*

*Building a stronger community*



## Projects 2013 – 2014

### Peer Enrichment & Empowerment Project (PEEP)



It has been a great year for PEEP. The project focuses on peer enrichment and empowerment through the Youth Solutions' Youth Advisory Group (YAG), the YAG training program, peer education workshops and the Give Us a Hand (GUAH) Campaign.

The YAG were the recipients of the 2013 Macarthur Volunteering Award for 'Innovation in Volunteering' and PEEP was selected as a finalist for the 2014 Champions of the West in the Young Achiever category. The YAG were also nominated for the 2014 ZEST Award for Outstanding Voluntary Group/Organisation.

Since 2012 PEEP has successfully engaged and trained 20 passionate young people from Macarthur to become peer educators. The YAG has facilitated six peer education workshops, engaging with 251 young people and 26 community members. 90.01% of youth participants reported an increase in skills and knowledge in the areas including resilience around alcohol and other drugs, coping strategies, communication, teamwork, goal setting, safe decision making, mental health and wellbeing.

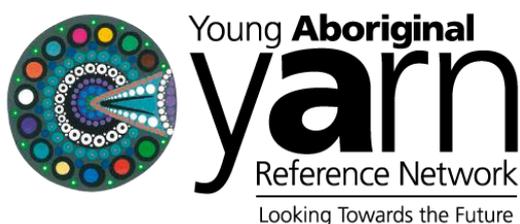
During the next six months, the Youth Advisory Group will engage with a mix of theory and practical peer education training, develop peer education activities based on their strengths and continue the 'Give Us a Hand' campaign with a focus on tobacco cessation.

#### Give Us a Hand – Smoke ... do you really want it?

'Give Us a Hand' is a campaign created by the YAG as part of the PEEP project. With tobacco identified as a major concern among young people, the YAG came up with 'Smoke ... do you really want it?' as the message for the Give Us a Hand campaign. The campaign is targeted at young people aged 16 – 21 years and aims to get young people thinking about why they are choosing to smoke and start the conversation.

People are encouraged to visit [www.giveusahand.org.au](http://www.giveusahand.org.au) to make a virtual hand in support of the campaign which they can share on Facebook, Twitter or email it to their friends.

### Young Aboriginal Reference Network (YARN)



The YARN is a project which engages young Aboriginal people aged 12 – 25 years to address issues including binge drinking, alcohol related harm and safe decision making.

In November 2013, Youth Solutions began consulting with local high schools to develop a school-based workshop resource for the YARN Project, to accompany a creative arts workshop component titled 'ARTucation'. After extensive consultation with James Meehan High School, the resource, with flexible activities, was finalised in April 2014. The resource is ready for implementation in local high schools in 2014 – 2015.

As of July 2014, YARN will amalgamate with the Youth Solutions Youth Advisory Group (YAG) in order to undertake peer education training and facilitate peer education workshops in the community. The Aboriginal members of the YAG will continue to advise Youth Solutions on the YARN Project and seek opportunities to continue engaging with the Aboriginal community.

## Projects 2013 – 2014

### Drug, Alcohol and Resilience Education (DARE)



The Drug, Alcohol and Resilience Education (DARE) project reached over 200 young people in 11 secondary schools between 2013 and 2014. The project also engaged 65 parents and carers, teachers and educational institution staff.

DARE has been designed to address a range of issues including peer pressure, mental health and communication breakdown by building resilience in the workshop participants with an aim to minimise drug and alcohol related harm.

DARE will be rolled out across more schools in the Macarthur and Wingecarribee regions during the next year, with continuing development of the project's resources and activities.

### AOD Link

AOD Link is a professional network auspiced by Youth Solutions. In 2013 – 2014, AOD Link engaged with 15 services to identify issues relating to alcohol and other drugs (AOD), develop and implement strategies to address these issues, and share information on currently accepted best practice in the AOD sector.

The services involved with AOD Link include Camden Council, Campbelltown City Council, Gambling Treatment Clinic, headspace Macarthur, Housing NSW, Lifeline Macarthur, Macarthur Disability Services, Maryfields Day Recovery Centre, Odyssey House, Southern Family and Youth Service, St. Vincent De Paul Society, SWS Medicare Local, TAFE NSW South West Sydney Institute, Traxside Youth Health Service (Macarthur), UnitingCare Burnside.

Four training sessions were provided on the topics of gambling issues, crystal methamphetamine (ice), mental health and AOD co-morbidities and interventions for cannabis users.

In 2013 – 2014, a partnership was developed with Maryfields Day Recovery Centre, Lifeline Macarthur, Campbelltown Anglican Churches and Macarthur Mental Health Promotion Network Inc. to bring an International Overdose Awareness Day event to Macarthur for the first time. The event will be held in the 2014 – 2015 financial period and is expected to lead to an ongoing partnership.

### Student placements



Youth Solutions is dedicated to supporting students in their professional development. In 2013 – 2014, Youth Solutions hosted students from local high schools, Macarthur Workplace Learning Program, the University of Western Sydney – Campbelltown Campus, TAFE NSW South Western Sydney Institute, OTEN and BCE International.

The students came from a variety of different educational backgrounds including administration, youth work, community services, health promotion and public health. Youth Solutions would like to give a big thanks to all student placements in 2013 – 2014 and wish them the best of luck with their studies and employment.

## Projects 2013 – 2014

### Mud Fun Mural



In December 2013, Youth Solutions developed a partnership with Community Links Wollondilly and Picton High School to facilitate an Aboriginal art project at the mud brick structure at Wollondilly Community Nursery.

The Mud Fun Mural Project received funding from Wollondilly Shire Council under the Community Artists Support Program.

On Thursday, 12 April 2014, 15 young Aboriginal students from Picton High School joined the Mud Fun team and local Aboriginal artist Kelly Duncan to paint one of the pillars of the mud kitchen. The mural was designed by the young people and incorporated Aboriginal art techniques.

Youth Solutions is very excited to share that the Mud Fun Mural Project will continue throughout 2014 – 2015 with the aim of completing the four pillars.

### Youth Week

As a part of NSW Youth Week, which ran from 4 April – 13 April 2014, Youth Solutions received a grant from Camden Council to facilitate an Aboriginal art project with students from Camden High School.

On Wednesday, 11 April 2014, 15 young Aboriginal students joined local Aboriginal artist and long-time Youth Solutions supporter, Danielle Mate Sullivan, in creating a mural. The mural was designed by the young people and depicts Australian native animals dancing in unity as the sun is setting over the horizon. The mural is on display at Camden High School.



Youth Solutions is honoured to have been involved in Camden Council's Youth Week Program, which was awarded the Best Local Youth Week Program in NSW for 2014. Congratulations to the team at Camden Council and the Camden community for such an amazing achievement.

*Believe in the power of community*

# Projects 2013 – 2014

## Safer celebrations – What's the cost to you?

Youth Solutions has partnered with the *Campbelltown Catholic Club* once again to continue producing safer summer campaigns for young people and the community.

Last year's 'What's the cost to you?' campaign urged young people to consider the financial, health, social and emotional costs of a night out. This included considering the costs to your celebrations, your health and safety, your friends, your home and your social self. The campaign also received great promotion in the local media.

The message for 2014 – 2015 is Keep it in Check. The interactive and social media focused, social marketing campaign will encourage young people to keep sight of their choices by checking for safer ways to celebrate this season.



**Campbelltown Macarthur Advertiser**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2014      A FAIRFAX COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER      CLASSIFIEDS PH: 13 24 26

**Happy New Year to all our readers**

**All the right moves**

Enjoy your celebrations – but make the start to your 2014 a safe and happy one. **Ben Chenoweth** reports.

WITH the festive season in full swing, health service Youth Solutions wants to remind its members 'What's the cost to you?' to avoid making any bad decisions.

The campaign – part of the Campbelltown Catholic Club and sponsored by the *Advertiser* and CS13 – warns locals about the repercussions of making bad decisions while 'under the influence'.

Youth Solutions chief executive Geraldine Dixon said while the Christmas and New Year period was one to celebrate, locals also needed to exercise caution.

"The festive season can be associated with lots of drinking, the hot summer sun and risk taking," she said.

"Last festive season we ran a campaign about 'regrets' and found that a lot of young people regretted spending a lot of money, fighting with friends and a whole range of other things."

"What's the cost to you?" aims to promote messages to young people and the community about how to celebrate safely this summer and consider the costs of unsafe choices.

"It is important young people have the information they need so they can enjoy a night out to celebrate but don't risk their lives in the process."

Mrs Dixon said there were a number of things to consider before the celebrations began.

"Having a plan to get home and enough money for food and transport, nominating a designated driver, having access to plenty of water and making sure you know where your friend's car – these are just some things that we ask young people to consider before a night out," she said.

**To support the campaign or find out more call 4828 2319, email [info@youthsolutions.com.au](mailto:info@youthsolutions.com.au) or visit [facebook.com/safecorrectionsandyouthsolutions.com.au](http://facebook.com/safecorrectionsandyouthsolutions.com.au)**

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## Fundraising events 2013 – 2014

### Golf Day



On Friday 9 May 2014 keen golfers took to the renowned *Campbelltown Golf Course* to help raise money for Youth Solutions.

Originally scheduled for March, the initial event was rained out, but that didn't stop more than 40 golfers pulling out the clubs two months later to raise \$6000 to support Youth Solutions' projects.

### McDonald's Charity Fun Night

On Wednesday 12 March 2014, Youth Solutions staff and volunteers cooked fries, mastered the soft serve and served customers at *McDonald's In Macarthur* restaurants as part of the McDonald's Charity Fun Night.

Donating 10% of all sales generated at food court stores between 3pm – 5pm and drive thru restaurants between 6pm – 8pm, a total of \$3,090 was raised for Youth Solutions.

*McDonald's in Macarthur* have been major supporters of Youth Solutions for over 13 years and we thank them for their commitment and dedication to supporting young people in Macarthur and Wingecarribee.



### Charity Event

On Saturday 19 July 2014 businesses, organisations, elected representatives and members of the community raised over \$38,000 at the 'Glitz, Glamour, GATSBY' themed Charity Event, to assist Youth Solutions in the delivery of youth drug and alcohol programs in Macarthur.



Guests were treated to a special performance from local dance troupe *The Bloc Dance Academy* and enjoyed a full night of dancing to the jazzy tunes of *The Enormous Horns*.

This event was coordinated by the Youth Solutions Fundraising Committee and received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback. In our largest year yet, 23 community sponsors ensured the success of the event with Major Sponsor, *The Rotary Club of Narellan*, contributing \$10,000.

*Next year's Charity Event will be held on 25 July at Campbelltown Catholic Club*

## *A series of stories* Behind the projects

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### **Youth Solutions is a youth alcohol and other drug prevention and health promotion service – but what else do we do?**

For the past 26 years Youth Solutions has become an integral part of the Macarthur and Wingecarribee community.

With its passionate team, Youth Solutions delivers workshops to the region's young people in addition to developing and implementing youth projects and campaigns.

While projects, campaigns and a hardworking team are at the heart of this community organisation, there are some aspects the community don't hear about that are just as important.

During the 2013 – 2014 year Youth Solutions collected over 2000 surveys from the community about a range of topics. These included:

- workshop pre-evaluations
- workshop post-evaluations
- stakeholder surveys
- What's the cost to you? Pre-survey
- What's the cost to you? Post-survey

Some key findings of the 2013 – 2014 research included:

- 62% of young people get their information about drugs and alcohol from their parents
- 82% of young people would go to a family member if they need help with drugs or alcohol
- 84% of young people aged 18 – 25 binge drink on a night out
- 70% of young people post about their night out on social media
- 46% of young people have been in a fight with another person when drinking alcohol
- 22% of young people rated their mental health as 'okay' or 'bad' as opposed to 'good' or 'excellent'

All survey results are used to inform current and future Youth Solutions' projects and used to advocate and encourage stronger support for young people in the Macarthur and Wingecarribee regions.

*Young people are the future*

## A series of stories Proud community leaders

**The 2013 – 2014 year was incredibly fruitful for Youth Solutions with many accolades cementing the relevance and importance of its projects.**



In December 2013, Macarthur MP Russell Matheson awarded the Youth Solutions Youth Advisory Group (YAG) the Macarthur Volunteer Award for Innovation in Volunteering.

The YAG is made up of a voluntary group of passionate young people who meet regularly to identify issues affecting youth and develop solutions and strategies to address these issues. The YAG is involved with implementing the Peer Enrichment and Empowerment Project (PEEP) and a health promotion campaign.

*"The Youth Solutions' Youth Advisory Group was a very worthy recipient of this award,"* Russell Matheson MP - Federal Member for Macarthur said.

*"The group impressed the judging panel with their innovative ideas to reach their peers and raise awareness to prevent alcohol and drug use amongst young people in our community. I am very proud of the YAG. It is a fantastic group of young people who are inspirational role models for their peers and the wider community."*

*"They have a great passion for social justice and giving back to their community. The*

*young people of Macarthur are very fortunate to have such a highly motivated and passionate group of people supporting them."*

This year the YAG was also nominated for the ZEST Award for Outstanding Voluntary Group/Organisation as well as the Champions of the West Awards in the Young Achievers category.

In 2014 Youth Solutions was also awarded the ZEST Award for Exceptional Community Partnership in a Local Government Area. The award recognised Youth Solutions' Safer Celebrations campaign 'What's the cost to you?' which is made possible by a strong partnership with Campbelltown Catholic Club. The campaign was also awarded the ClubsNSW Award in the Health category.

This year also saw Youth Solutions' Chief Executive Officer Geraldine Dean honoured with a ZEST Award nomination for Outstanding Community Leader.

*"These awards are a fantastic credit to our team and highlight the impact Youth Solutions' projects have in the community,"* Chief Executive Officer Geraldine Dean said.

*"Take last year's Safer Celebrations campaign for example. That partnership with Campbelltown Catholic Club did more than win two awards. It reached hundreds of young people. It circulated 1000 Safer Celebration guides to young people, with vital facts and information on how to celebrate safely including points about why you should never be afraid to call an ambulance for a friend in need. That sort of information saves lives."*

As Youth Solutions powers ahead with its project delivery in 2014 – 2015, the support of the community will remain paramount.

*"The only way for Youth Solutions to continue towards its goal of promoting health and preventing harm to young people in our region is to have the support of the whole community,"* Mrs Dean said.

## A series of stories Our great partnerships

**As Youth Solutions marks its 26<sup>th</sup> year of serving the Macarthur and Wingecarribee communities, the value the youth charity places on 'working in partnership' is more evident than ever.**

Since the organisation's inception in 1988, working in partnership with other service providers, businesses, community organisations and individuals has been at the core of Youth Solutions' values.

Youth Solutions recognises that only through strong community partnerships will it be able to reach its goals of improving the health, wellbeing and resilience of young people.

Be it partnering with other organisations to host community events, working with schools and youth services to deliver information to young people or recruiting the support of local businesses to ensure the charity's growth, Youth Solutions knows the key to success is cherishing existing partnerships with loyal supporters and seeking new relationships.

One of Youth Solutions most recognised partnerships is with the *Campbelltown Catholic Club*. The partnership flourished in 2009 when the two organisations linked up to deliver Safer Celebrations campaigns to the community.

Since that first campaign in 2009, Youth Solutions and *Campbelltown Catholic Club* have worked together each summer to deliver ongoing campaigns which promote safer celebrations over the festive season, with a particular focus on providing safe partying tips to young people 18 – 25 years of age and preventing alcohol related harm in the community.

Also in 2013 – 2014, Youth Solutions raised a record \$38,000 from its annual Charity Event, largely due to the support of 23 sponsors, including the major sponsor *The Rotary Club of Narellan* which contributed \$10,000. The event also had a record number of guests.

Youth Solutions Chief Executive Officer Geraldine Dean credited Youth Solutions' success to the support shown by the region's community organisations and businesses.

*"Our partners and sponsors share the same passion we have for meeting the needs of our young people," she said.*

*"Their unwavering support extends beyond financial contributions, as these partners share the same desire to promote health and prevent harm, particularly when it comes to our community's young people.*

*"I can only hope we can continue to work with these partners for many years to come and recruit new supporters along the way.*

*"It is also important to acknowledge the great community organisations Youth Solutions has enjoyed working with over the years."*

On average, Youth Solutions engages with over 50 services per year.

As well as community organisations; local councils, elected representatives, NSW Police, businesses and business networking groups such as Campbelltown, Camden and Narellan Chambers of Commerce and Rotary Clubs, have all contributed to the success of Youth Solutions.

Youth Solutions also receives regular support from local media organisations, C91.3FM, *Macarthur Chronicle* and *Campbelltown-Macarthur, Camden-Narellan* and *Wollondilly Advertisers*.

It is also important to acknowledge the fundraising support from *McDonald's In Macarthur* and *BTIG* who have provided Youth Solutions with generous donations and fundraising opportunities that have played a massive role in contributing to key programs and activities.

**For a full list of sponsors, supporters and donors visit [www.youthsolutions.com.au](http://www.youthsolutions.com.au) or read on for more details.**

*Thank you for giving us a hand*

## A series of stories Our proud supporters

**TLD Logistics owners Sharon and Drew Moyle have lived in the Macarthur region for nearly 21 years. The couple and their Smeaton Grange warehousing, pick and pack, and distribution business have been supporters of Youth Solutions for nine years.**



*"Nearly nine years ago a friend invited us to be involved with an organisation she worked for called Youth Solutions. At the time, we had two teenage children and we saw that drug and alcohol education was important for them while growing up. We live at Kirkham, we brought our kids up in the Macarthur area and our business is in this region, so we saw the invitation as chance to give back to the local community.*

*So we jumped on board and our support of Youth Solutions hasn't wavered. We've been involved with Youth Solutions as a member of the Fundraising Committee, sponsoring the Charity Event and Golf Day, making prize donations and participating and volunteering at lots of events. Our children have also volunteered for Youth Solutions events.*

*Youth Solutions provides information for young people about drugs and alcohol, with a focus on preventing harm. Anything that helps give our kids the right information about drugs and alcohol and how it can affect their lives, is a great thing to be involved with. We choose to support Youth Solutions because we believe in*

*the work the team does. Even though our children are grown up, we still think drug and alcohol education forms an important part of kids' education. A lot of young people don't have any other way of learning about the issues of drugs and alcohol without the work of Youth Solutions.*

*During our time supporting Youth Solutions we have formed some great friendships. We also enjoy being able to give back to the community and working with Youth Solutions allows us to do that. On a personal level we get a lot of benefit from knowing that we are helping young people in our community through our support of Youth Solutions.*

*From a business perspective the brand exposure has been great. Having our logo and name out there at community events and being aligned with Youth Solutions has been good. Working with Youth Solutions has helped us to connect with others in the community and make great contacts. Politicians, businesses and organisations attend Youth Solutions events and get to know who we are through our support of Youth Solutions and that's positive for us.*

*We encourage any business or individual to get involved with Youth Solutions. Another organisation we have been involved with for 10 years – The Rotary Club of Narellan – is also a Youth Solutions supporter.*

*We are always telling others that we help out and volunteer with Youth Solutions and we encourage them to do the same. We spread the word about how rewarding it is. From our experience, everyone always has a great time at a Youth Solutions event and the enthusiasm and professionalism of the Youth Solutions team makes it easy to be a supporter. It's these sorts of things that keep us coming back as a proud sponsor, donor, volunteer and supporter."*

*Together we make a difference*

## A series of stories Our youth lead the way

**20-year-old Lana Nguyen is a passionate Macarthur resident. Lana, who is studying a Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery at the University of Western Sydney, has been a member of the Youth Solutions Youth Advisory Group for three years.**



*“Youth Solutions caught my eye a few years ago. Two friends of mine had been involved with Youth Solutions and were always spreading information about the organisation and I was intrigued.*

*When I looked into it I was amazed. I grew up in Campbelltown and I hadn't really heard about this awesome charity right on my doorstep, servicing my community and looking out for young people like me. I wanted to get involved and spread the word.*

*Through YAG I have been able to volunteer at different events and for me that's the whole point. I feel I need to give back and I think it's important for me to step up and do that. I've been known to take Youth Solutions surveys to my friends at my own birthday party because if I'm going to talk the talk, I need to walk the walk and spread Youth Solutions' messages.*

*More recently through YAG we have been involved in PEEP and we have had the opportunity to facilitate workshops with other young people and that's something I really enjoy. A highlight for me was when my idea to use “life-decisions” Jenga in our workshops was picked up by Youth Solutions and run as a regular activity. It felt really good to know*

*Youth Solutions has believed in my idea enough to make it a regular activity.*

*The Youth Solutions Charity Event is also another highlight. It's amazing how well that event can bring together everyone in the community and as a member of YAG it is always something I look forward to.*

*I have really enjoyed getting to know different people in the YAG, who are from different age groups and backgrounds. It's nice to mix with people I might not otherwise have crossed paths with.*

*When I first started as a member of YAG I liked the idea of being able to put it on my resume. But now it's about so much more than that. I can help make sure Youth Solutions is targeting the right audience and spread the word to other young people. Youth Solutions needs a YAG because if they are running events and projects for young people, they need them to properly engage young people – and who knows how to engage young people better than other young people?*

*Being really busy this year I thought really hard about how to spend my time and I asked myself as a young person ‘what do I care about in life and what do I want to contribute?’ and what really stuck out was that I want everybody, every young person, to achieve whatever they are capable of and to not be disempowered. Youth Solutions really focuses on that. If young people are getting into drugs and alcohol they will not be reaching their potential. That's where the work of Youth Solutions comes in. Youth Solutions actually makes a difference and is reaching young people directly and that's something I want to be involved in. What I love about Youth Solutions is it links young people so well with existing services and fills the gap in prevention work, which is so badly needed.*

*When young people hear about Youth Solutions and YAG sometimes their first thought is ‘but I don't have a drug or alcohol problem, it doesn't affect me’. But we are all affected, if not ourselves it affects our friends, their friends, their family, and we have a social responsibility to find out more about it and take action. Prevention work, like that of Youth Solutions, is the best place to start.”*

# Corporate Partnership Program

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## Corporate partner



## Corporate sponsor



Rotary Club of Narellan

## Media partners

CAMPBELLTOWN-MACARTHUR CAMDEN-NARELLAN WOLLONDILLY

**Advertiser**



NEWSLOCAL

**Macarthur Chronicle**

# Corporate Partnership Program - Supporters



# Project partnerships

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## *Project partners and supporters*

### Peak bodies and memberships

- Network of Alcohol and Other Drugs Agencies (NADA)
- Council of Social Service NSW (NCOSS)
- Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA)
- Youth Action and Policy Association (YAPA)
- Sector Connect
- Australian Health Promotion Association
- Western Sydney Community Forum
- Business Relationships at Sunrise (BRAS)
- Camden Chamber of Commerce
- Campbelltown Chamber of Commerce
- Narellan Chamber of Commerce

### Community Services

- Australian Foundation for Disabilities (AFFORD)
- Campbelltown Anglican Churches
- Community Links Wollondilly
- Danielle Mate-Sullivan – from DJ Mate
- headspace Campbelltown
- Lifeline Macarthur
- Rotary Club of Narellan
- Local, State and National Non-Government organisations
- Local youth services
- Youth Health Service Macarthur (Traxside)
- Macarthur Workplace Learning Program (MWLP)

- Macarthur Mental Health Promotion Network Inc
- Maryfields Day Recovery Centre
- Midnight Basketball Australia
- MTC Australia
- Muru Nanga Mai
- Sector Connect
- South Western Sydney Academy of Sport

### Government

- Campbelltown City Council
- Camden Council
- Wollondilly Shire Council
- Wingecarribee Shire Council
- State Members
- Federal Members
- NSW Police

### Media

- C91.3FM
- Campbelltown – Macarthur Advertiser
- Camden – Narellan Advertiser
- Macarthur Chronicle
- Wollondilly Advertiser

### Education Institutions

- University of Western Sydney (UWS)
- University of Wollongong
- TAFE South Western Sydney Institute
- NSW Department of Education and Communities
- High schools

# Youth Solutions' Key Statistics 2013—2014



Direct contact  
with over

**1425**

young people  
via workshops,  
presentations,  
surveys and  
consultations

**86%** of  
referral  
calls were  
aged **19-25** with **57**  
per cent female



**8** E-Newsletters were  
sent to over **800**  
subscribers



**81%**

Of young people surveyed  
said **alcohol** was the  
biggest **issue** in the  
community

32 127 page views on [www.youthsolutions.com.au](http://www.youthsolutions.com.au)

**32 127**

**13,402**



resources distributed for  
the What's the cost to  
you? campaign

**Over 50** partnerships  
maintained throughout the year  
including businesses, communi-  
ty organisations, peak bodies,  
government and  
the media

**f** Reach of **50,127** on  
Facebook

**71 stories**

featured in the  
media including on  
radio, in newspapers  
and magazines.

**82% success rate**  
for media releases

**78 tweets** on Twitter



Joined Instagram in  
November 2013

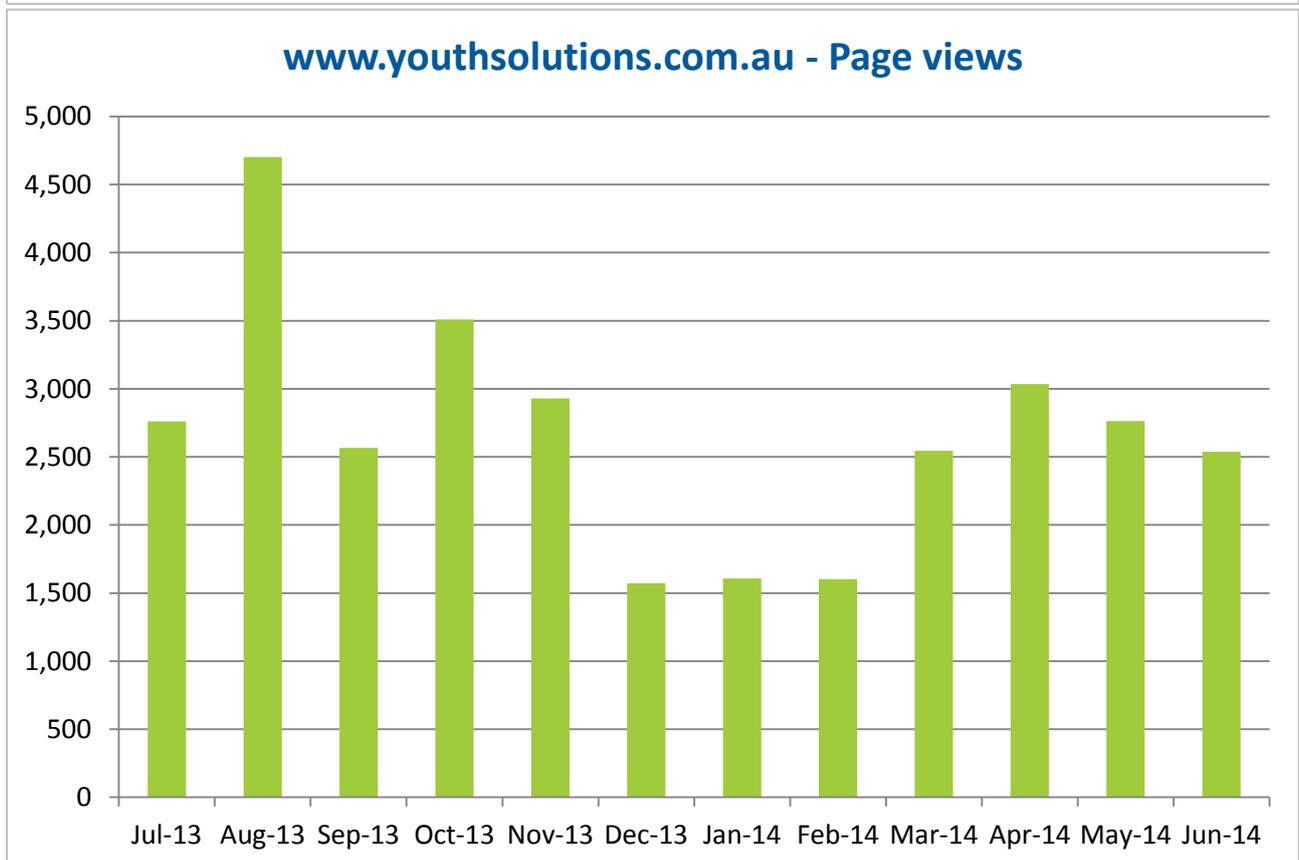
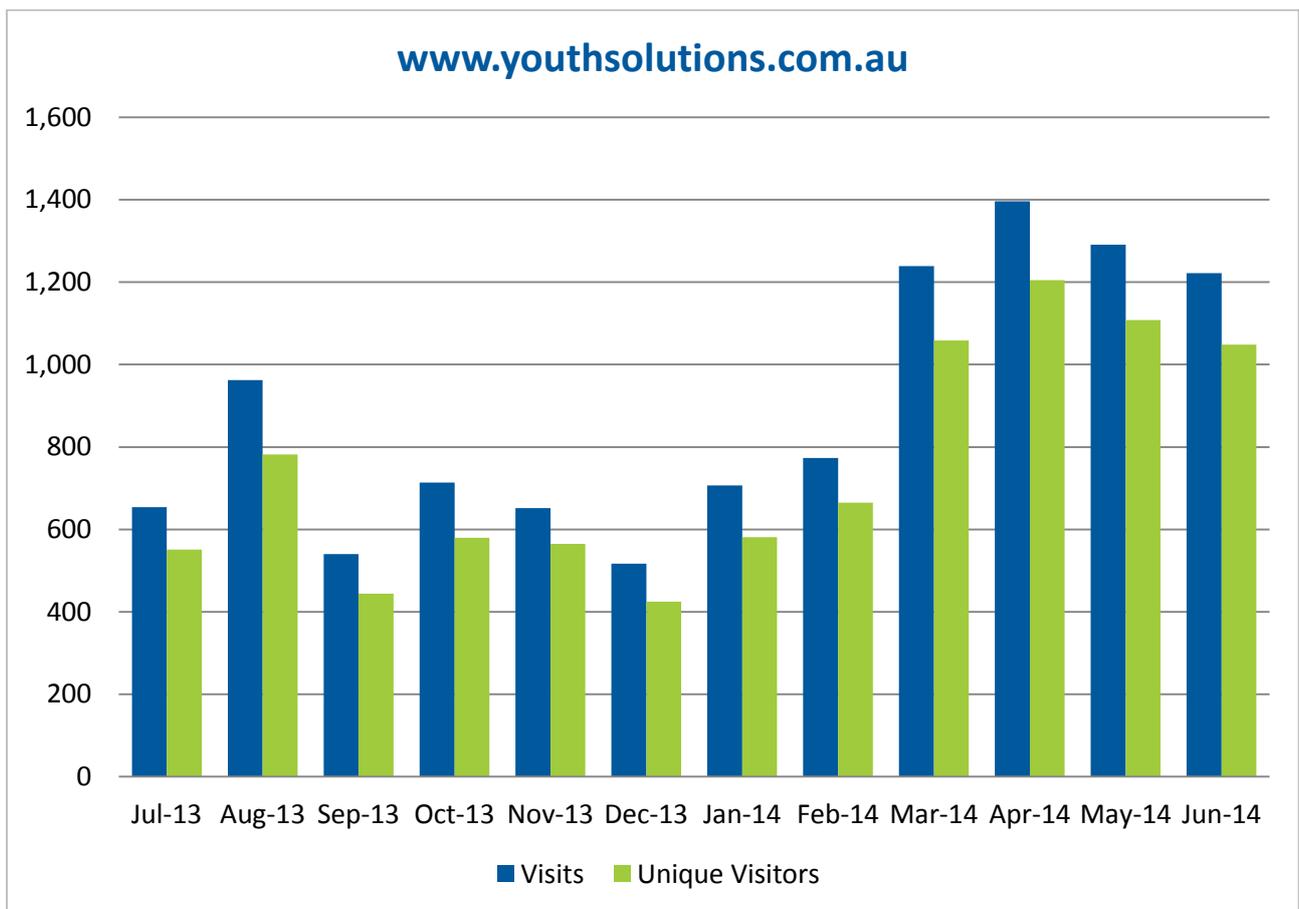
**84.5%** of all YAG partici-  
pants reported skill and  
knowledge increase

**93%**

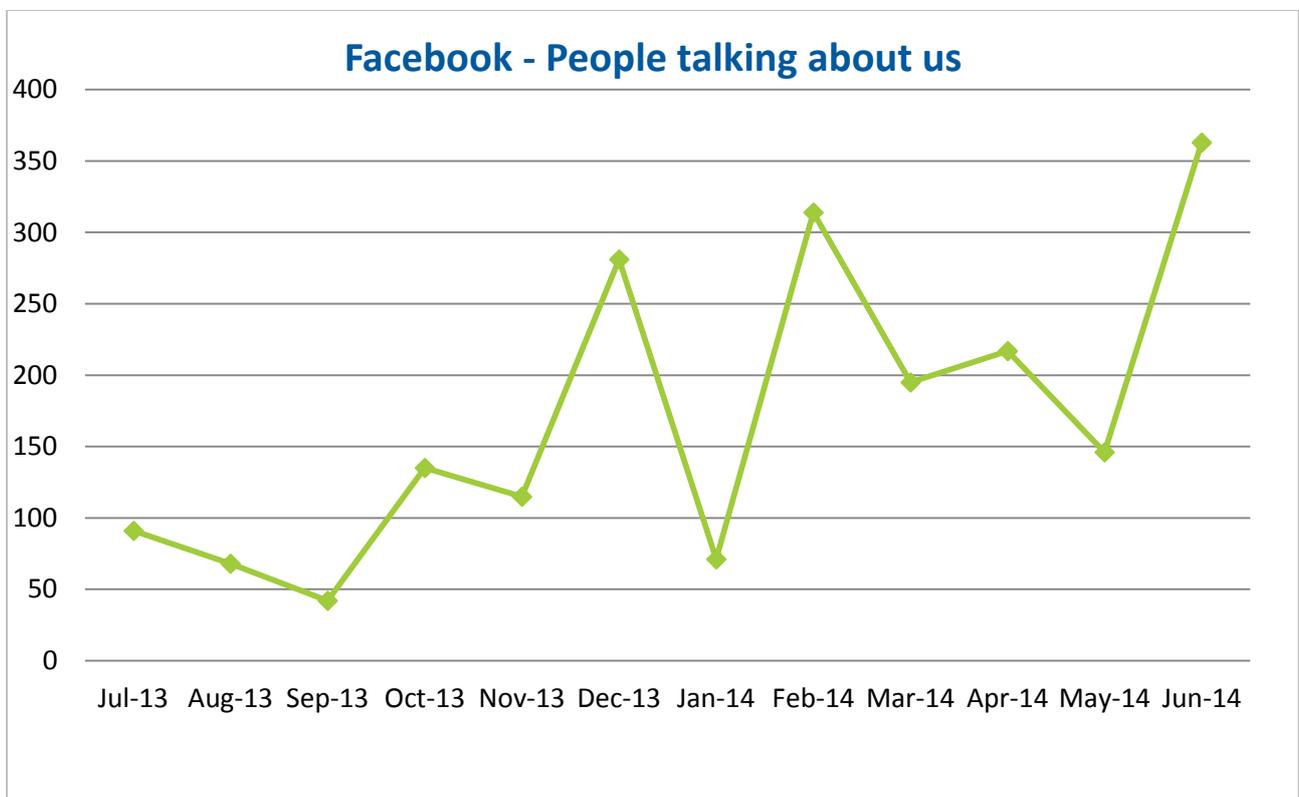
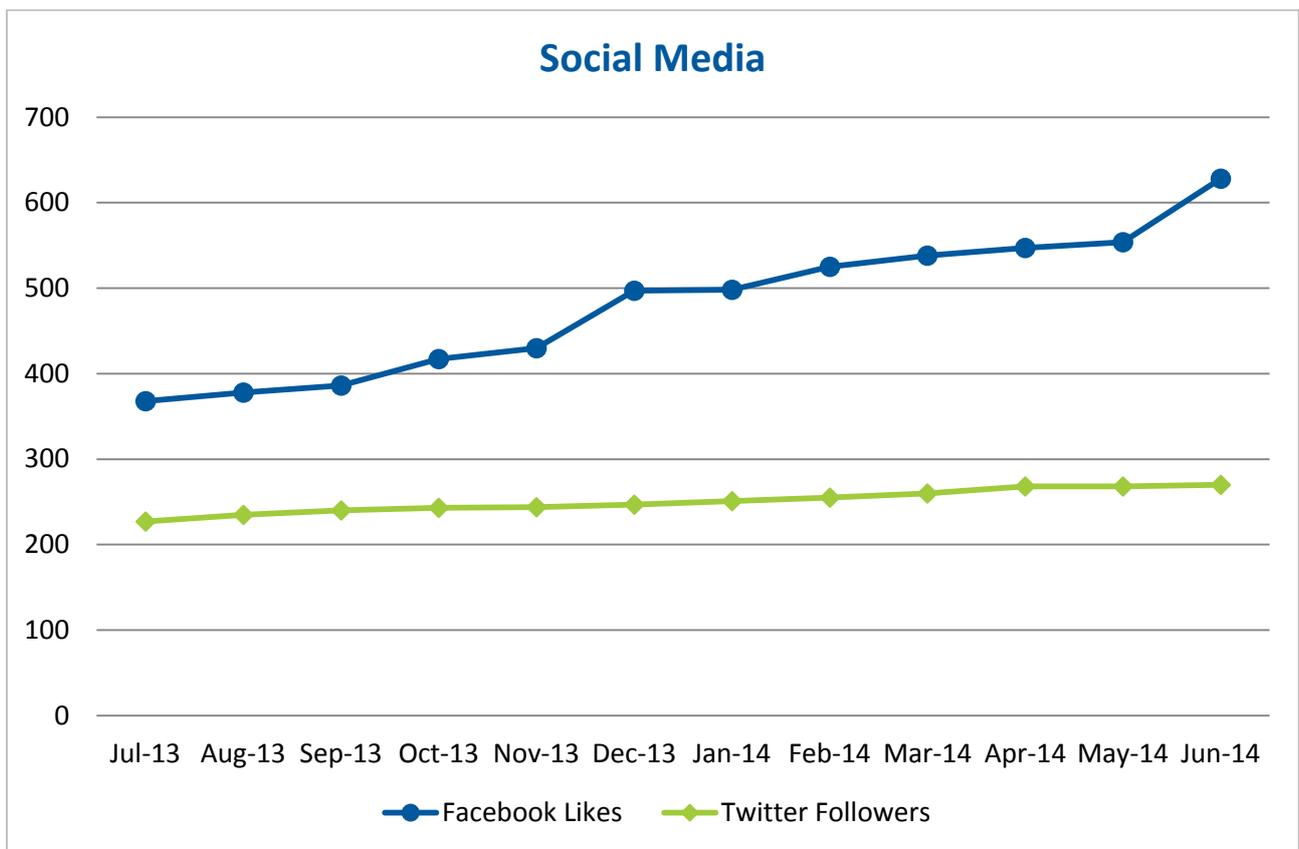
of participants  
reported their re-  
silience has im-  
proved **after**  
**completing**  
**DARE**



## Website statistics



## Social media statistics



# A picture is worth a thousand words





**Location:** Suite 19 Level 4 Macarthur Square Shopping Centre Gilchrist Drive, Campbelltown, NSW 2560

**Website:** [www.youthsolutions.com.au](http://www.youthsolutions.com.au)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/youthsolutionsnsw](http://www.facebook.com/youthsolutionsnsw)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/youthsolutions](http://www.twitter.com/youthsolutions)

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/youth\\_solutions](http://www.instagram.com/youth_solutions)

**Community campaign:** [www.giveusahand.org.au](http://www.giveusahand.org.au)

**Email:** [info@youthsolutions.com.au](mailto:info@youthsolutions.com.au)

**Phone:** 02 4628 2319

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*Promoting health. Preventing harm.*