

**Youth Services: Phoenix in Footscary**

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## **Introduction**

It is difficult to provide a specific connotation to youth services for it can have different interpretations for different people (Smith 2013). However analysis of the theories governing youth work provides five dimensions which enumerate the elements of youth services. These include focusing on young people; stimulating voluntary participation; enabling associations, relationships and communities; making youths friendly, accessible, responsive and high on integrity and lastly enhancing welfare of the youth (Smith 2013).

## **Services offered by the youth council**

To carry forward and implement the above elements council youth services is a relevant and dynamic medium. One example of such youth service is the Phoenix Youth Center, operated by the Youth Services department of Maribyrnong City Council (Phoenix 2015). The center provides a platform for youths aged between 12-25 years to meet, interact, take part in activities and also access services and support (Phoenix 2015). The major services offered at the center are as below:

Services	Benefit
National Youth Week	Discovering and showcasing of youth talent in arts, music and writing
Band Rehearsal Space	Facility allowing youth bands to rehearse together thrice a week at nominal membership charges
Big Bang	Sports and recreational program for youths residing in the area
Happy, Young and Parenting	A specialized recreational and support program for young parents and their children. The parents are generally in the age group of 16-25 years
Phoenix Youth Arts	A program to help youths develop their visual arts skills
Phoenix Youth Theater	A new theater group which is for the youth and run by the youth. The theater conducts workshops to develop new performances
Raw Elements – Hip Hop	Enables youths to learn more about Hip Hop culture and also prepares them to actively participate in different aspects related to the music and the industry
Street Surfers	The surfers carry gadgets and also staff to provide youths the opportunity to use the gadgets and also learn about activities from the staff
Splash Gallery	A free exhibition space for young artists
Wheels in the West	A program which helps youth learn driving skills to

The services comprise a mix of self discovery, counseling, entertainment and education. From the above it can be summarized that services offered by the council youth services is meant to contribute to the overall development of youths and their personalities and acumen.

### **Role of Youth Workers**

Based on the inputs received from several youth workers the basic role can be identified as helping youngsters in the age group of 12 years to 25 years in their emotional and social skill development. Such skill enhancement support is extended through an informal setting and following a process of education. It is the youth workers who provide new exposures to the members thus enhancing their confidence, making them ambitious and inculcating empathy within them. This is achieved by fostering close relationship between the worker and members. Insights received by youngsters through youth services prepare them to face the challenges of adulthood effectively and enhances their contribution of youths towards society. In summarization it can be stated that the role of youth workers covers a wide spectrum which includes providing support and counseling across number of issues ranging from behaviour to teenage parenting (Blacke 2013).

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