



# THE WEB YOUTH SERVICE

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## The WEB Youth Service Young Men's and Women's Groups

Young Men's and Woman's groups commenced August 2003 with money obtained through State Government funds to enhance the WEB Youth Service programs and staffing levels to provide quality services to young people. **With great regret the Department of Community Services had informed the youth centre in 2008 that Central Coast Region Office has no uncommitted funds left.** Without that \$50,000 enhancement fund that we once received it will be impossible to operate and employ the necessary staff to operate the centre efficiently. In April 2009 the WEB Youth Service closed its doors on the Mondays and has slashed daily operational hours to a minimum which has affected staff and the local youth. This will now have a major impact of our service attempting to run these groups in the future.

Youth Workers were employed for this program with the aims of promoting and facilitating positive and appropriate interaction skills for use in social situations. Build positive relationships in the community with young people to further assist within the group environment the young people are encouraged to participate in community events and community decision making processes. One of the many valuable products of the groups is the reduction in community harm. By providing the opportunity for young people to be with friends, have some fun and learn some social etiquette at the same time.

The community are informed of our additional services through posters at the both the Umina and Woy Woy campuses of Brisbane Waters Secondary College along with school visits involving addressing entire school assemblies and engaging with students to inform the school communities of our new services. Also, articles and photos will be printed in the local newspapers informing the greater community what the WEB Youth Service is up too.

The operation of this project has meant that The WEB Youth Service has been able to operate more efficiently and effectively especially with a more desirable ratio of staff to young people. This Project is now under review until we receive the much needed funds. We will continue to advocate for the continuation of those funds into the normal operation of the WEB Youth Services yearly budget.

Groups that have been implemented are Alcohol & Drug education, health information run by youth health nurses & social workers, life skills courses, cooking, budgets, anger conflict, & relationships run by youth workers throughout the year. Also social activity groups such as Challenge Ranch, bushwalking, ice-skating, fishing & movies are only a few examples.

Partnerships are established with many local businesses including Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club, Central Coast Community Chest, Umina Rotary Club, Brisbane Water Bridge Club, Civic Video Woy Woy, Peters Meats, Bakers Delight & Donut King inside Deep Water Plaza Thankyou for your kind donations in the past, local business support is invaluable towards the Peninsula youth. The WEB Youth Service will continue to build better relationships with the community by encouraging young people to be involved in a variety of community projects.

We are hoping of running our first Rock and Water programme by October 2009. To run the program we first required the Rock and Water equipment which included 10 strike shields and 10 mats. I would like to thank Umina Rotary for their belief and support in this important program and also their kind donation so we can buy the necessary equipment.

**Rock and Water** was developed as a gender specific program but experience has shown it can be applied with girls, although an extra component is taught around how to be assertive in a threatening or stressful situation. Rock and Water works best in gender specific groups. The ultimate aim of Rock



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and Water is to stop violence by teaching alternatives to aggression, anger and fights. Young people who wish to work on their anger issues, confidence, improve their assertive skills and develop purpose in their life are suitable for this course.

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