

## **Attachment 1**

### **COMPLEMENTARY PREVENTION AND DIVERSIONARY PROGRAMS FOR WILLOWRA COMMUNITY YOUTH**

AERF, CAYLUS, and NT FACS have funded a position for a youth worker currently administered through Yuendumu Community Council. The youth worker has been employed since the 28<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **Role of Youth Worker**

- ❖ Work with community members in Willowra to design and implement appropriate youth programs.
- ❖ Work with young people exiting treatment services and returning to the community to facilitate access to other services, programs, employment and meaningful activity once they return.
- ❖ Work with the Central Australian Youth Link Up Service (CAYLUS), NT Sport and Recreation and other relevant agencies to pursue funding for additional youth resources.
- ❖ Work to improve the quality of life for young people in Willowra through providing regular activities, access to training, support services and other programs.
- ❖ Be a contact and organisational point for outside agencies that work with young people in Willowra.

#### **Willowra Community Consultation**

- ❖ Young people to learn traditional culture with elders, elders to oversee content of program and provide leadership and support for the program
- ❖ Improve literacy and numeracy of young people.
- ❖ Training and creation of projects for jobs in local and wider community.
- ❖ Young people to gain experience and confidence in wider community through excursions to sporting and cultural events.
- ❖ Youth Centre to be established as a focal point for education, recreation and training for young people in the community
- ❖ Musical equipment to be purchased, protected, and maintained at the youth centre.
- ❖ Great need for sporting facilities and equipment.
- ❖ Alcohol abuse and petrol sniffing are disrupting the community, particular concerns are safety from drunks at night, and young children not being appropriately cared for when both parents are drinking.
- ❖ Willowra community elders to take an active role in the Mt Theo program in Willowra and at Mt Theo

- ❖ Community members want a night patrol service in Willowra.
- ❖ There is a general feeling of powerlessness about accessing funding and being a part of the planning and decision-making process. Many people say that Yuendumu takes all of Willowra's money, or that other individuals have misspent funds.

## **PROACTIVE PROGRAMS NOW IN PLACE**

Young women and occasionally men join the Willowra School (primary) as the technical crew for Warlpiri sessions (2 way curriculum). Young people film, photograph and produce materials to be used in the class room. The youth accompany the school on Wednesday morning bush trips and overnight camps. Regulars are improving written and multi media literacy for themselves and young children. They will eventually be very capable up and coming teachers for the school.

A group of young and elder women camped at Windijong, to hunt, tell stories, and collect bush medicine. WYN (Willowra Yuendumu and Nyirripi) Community Health provided food and transport and accompanied the group to informally discuss community health issues, and possible candidates for training and jobs as community health liason workers. Bush medicine was brought back to the community and prepared at the school with the younger children whilst the young women filmed and assisted with the supply of necessary equipment and materials. A container of prepared bush medicine was given to the clinic to be accessed by the community. Two young women recently returning to the community from the Mt Theo Program are being taken out bush for traditional singing treatment. Young women are currently editing a film of the trip to be used by WYN Health and Willowra Clinic. A similar men only trip is being planned for June.

Willowra Community are engaging with the Mt Theo Program to face the petrol sniffing problem together. Meetings with Mt Theo have improved the families support of the Mt Theo Program and helped the Willowra Community to take a more proactive role. The community is identifying elders to represent Willowra on the Mt Theo Committee. One male elder and one female have been actively working to consistently and actively support the program and possibly take that role on formally. At the request of the community, the youth worker from Willowra is continuing support and training for young people whilst they are at Mt Theo.

Regular discos are being held on Friday and Saturday nights. When equipment is available, slide shows of photos taken by young people and combined with music and special effects are shown at the discos. Young people actively source, acquire and record local and rap music to play at discos. Young people set up and pack up and operate the equipment responsibly.

A catering group initiated by a group of young women to provide low cost meals at discos is running smoothly and independently. The whole community buys food at the disco as there is no other take away outlet operating. The young women involved are gaining experience in planning, estimating quantities, keeping accounts, hygienic preparation and handling of food, and have gained great confidence from the success and popularity of this venture. They plan to cater for other organisation's functions, and to expand the operation in the proposed youth centre.

Warlpiri Media with the assistance of a group of young people has begun to establish a BRACS station at Willowra. So far we are only able to broadcast visually through the television transmitters, however plans to connect to radio are underway. The video editing equipment at the BRACS room are essential to all of our multi media activities. Simple activities, like compiling play lists and burning CDs for discos are developing young peoples confidence in literacy and computer literacy. Some individuals are taking multi media skills further as mentioned before and anticipating future working opportunities in multi media.

Young men have sourced various parts to assemble an entire band equipment collection from old equipment around the community. With the generous donation of a bass amp and mixer from Peter Toyne MLA, we will shortly have working instruments. They have also been experimenting with some song writing computer software.

Regular afternoon basketball and football has become very popular.

Yirara High School is currently running a 6 week program for high school age boys. The Youth Program is supporting the program through linking them with Warlpiri Rangers bush visits, following up on numeracy and literacy programs in a concrete, fun way leading to possible building jobs on proposed youth centre, and generally supporting the teacher to get to know the young men and elders in the community and keep up the great attendance rates.

The male nurse at Willowra Clinic is running young men's clinics and showing videos in tandem with Friday night discos.

The Youth Program ran an outside cinema on the clinic wall and late night sausage sizzle to assist the nurses to attract young people to the young men and women's sexual health screening.

One local female CDEP worker currently works as a youth worker training people in multi media and supervising sporting activities.

## **PLANNED PROJECTS**

Completion of the BRACS room.

A Youth Centre to be planned and built by young people with the training and guidance of Tangentyere Constructions. Funding still being sourced for youth centre. The Youth Centre to house and supervise the use of musical equipment, disco equipment, sporting equipment, and expand catering service. Youth Centre to be a recreation and sporting centre as well as provide computers and training facilities and link up for outside agencies.

Driving instruction, Licenses and possible drink driving avoidance training with CDU to begin in June.

ITEC employment agency is funding a music training and recording workshop to begin in June. Two young men and one elder will go to leadership training in Alice Springs, then provide a mentoring role for the other young men using the musical equipment. A similar follow up will occur in approximately 6 months time in Darwin and Willowra with CDU.

Men and Women are from today able to access music and song writing software on a lap top computer provided bialys.

Central Lands Council's Desert Fire project plans to take elders and youth out bush to discuss and produce a book on traditional burning. The youth program will film and produce a short film. CLC will provide follow up training in GIS mapping when the youth centre has computers with internet access available. We hope to introduce this idea to the community with a follow up traditional mapping bush visit. This project also encompasses the work of the Warlpiri Rangers and introduces important training for local jobs which may be available in the future.(Willowra Cattle Company, Warlpiri Rangers)

Men's traditional medicine bush camp to be funded by WYN Health and to include the male nurse at Willowra Clinic, in June .

ITEC employment agency will employ youth workers, two male and one female for a 32 week period, when the youth centre project begins. ITEC will be able to provide some assistance with building materials and training, and some other community building project positions.

**THE WILLOWRA YOUTH PROGRAM SEEKS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. INDIVIDUALS , FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES ARE SUPPORTED TO ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE AND DEVELOP CAPACITY TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN WELL BEING.**

