

## Rural and Remote Young People

Growing up in a rural or remote area can be a wonderful experience, and young people who live in these areas have great strengths, capacity and resilience. However, AYAC acknowledges that there are huge gaps when it comes to services for remote communities – such as education, housing, employment, mental health, and disability support – and AYAC is committed to working with young people and youth workers to maximise their opportunities.

### AYAC believes that:

- Young people have the right to adequate and appropriate youth-specific programs and support regardless of geographic isolation.
- Youth support services are essential community services and have a strong role to play in generating broader community harmony.
- Youth services significantly impact the wellbeing of remote young people and should be long-term, sustainable and based on best practice principles for working with young people.
- Youth programs in rural and remote Australia are tailored to best serve individual communities, and decision-makers should channel resources to support and sustain local initiatives.
- Young people need greater support to stay in their communities so that they are not compelled to move away for further educational or employment opportunities, and those who do leave should be supported to return to their communities.
- When developing programs for rural and remote youth, decision-makers consult young people as a primary stakeholder.
- Equality of access to information, especially via the internet, is critical for young people living in rural and regional communities.
- Accessible, appropriate and relevant training is essential for rural and remote youth workers.
- Additional educational, support should be provided to young people living in areas affected by economic decline caused by drought and flood.

### Further information:

[Heywire](#) – ABC's online space for young people in regional Australia.

[Relationships Australia](#) – Information about rural and remote relationship support services.

[Kids Help Line](#) – Information sheet about rural and remote young people.

Bush Crisis Line - 24 hour phone service 1800 805 391

