

# ENGAGING WITH DISADVANTAGED YOUNG PEOPLE

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The Youth Development Foundation's  
story





# Our Organisations

The Youth Development Foundation and Employment Outcomes purpose:

*To ensure that all young people in our region have the capacity to engage fully in vocational education and training and move successfully into sustainable employment*

Our reputation:

*“Going above & beyond to make a difference in young persons lives”*



# Why we operate

## Jasmines Story:

- As a child, Jasmine grew up in a negative environment and witnessed domestic abuse between her parents. When her parents split, Jasmin's mum took her and her brothers to raise by herself. At age 9, she was removing needles from her dad's arm.
- Between the ages of 11 – 15, Jasmin was drinking, skipping school, attending street parties, hanging around bad people, using a crack pipe everyday, running drugs, was in an abusive relationship, experienced a major over dose & was diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder.
- At the age of 15 Jasmin was using drugs more than ever. While visiting her boyfriend she was involved in an altercation which resulted in her stabbing a man in the throat. From this, she was charged with Attempted Murder and went directly to Brisbane Youth Detention Centre.
- Today, aged 21 Jasmin has gotten her licence, started a family with 2 children aged 2 & 3. She is renting a home in North Brisbane and working as a Business Trainee for The Youth Development Foundation.
- Jasmin has now not used drugs in 6 years and wants to help others who are experiencing life similar to how she did.
- Jasmin's story is an inspiration.

*"If I did not go into the Youth Detention Centre when I did, I think I would be dead by now. Without YDF's help and support I wouldn't be where I am today."*



# Who we assist

YDF focuses on young people (15 – 29 years old) who:

- Are at risk of disengagement from education, social inclusion, training and employment;
- Have already disengaged from these opportunities.

Employment Outcomes assists anyone who is interested in completing a Certificate III Program that is:

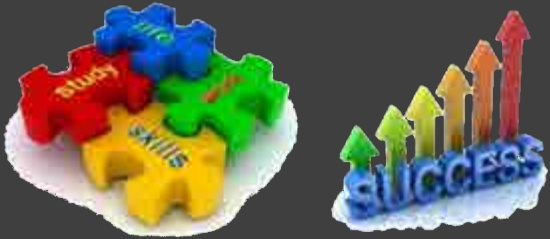
- Eligible for the C3 Guarantee or C3 Boost



# Feedback on our services

"We have had many positive experiences, a particular example of this is one of our 21 year old job seekers who had been unemployed since he was 16, had a number of non-vocational barriers and a criminal history, despite previously being placed in 4 courses he had failed to meet his early school leaver requirements. With the assistance of Employment Outcomes he completed his Certificate II, engaged in unpaid work experience and went on to obtain full time employment (the first stable job he has had since disengaging from school). He is now about to achieve his milestone, 6 months of full time employment".

*Amanda Carmody, Site Manager, HELP Employment*



"I refer my youth job seekers only to YDF, as I trust them and believe that they are completely dedicated to changing the lives of young job seekers on all levels. Due to the dedication of the staff and trainers at YDF, my job seekers have either been placed in fulfilling employment or have gained the hands on experience and skills needed to be able to market them confidently.

*Taryn, Employment Consultant, APM*

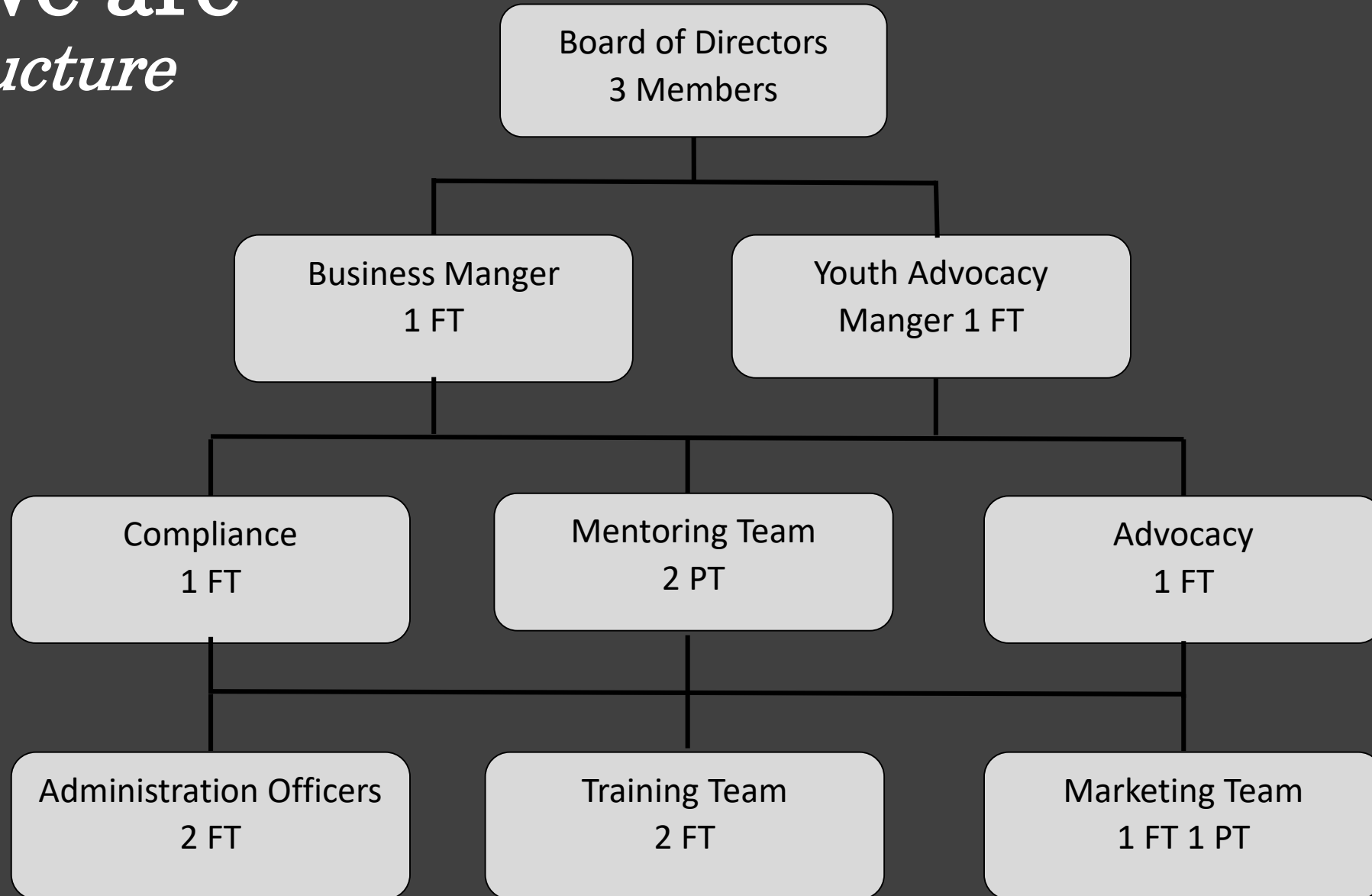
"It is our experience that many young people whom YDF have helped, may have previously been engaged in activities that were less than beneficial for the local community. To have seen, first hand, the change in attitudes and fortunes of these young people has cemented our commitment to ongoing support of YDF. We believe that this support will assist YDF to continue to reduce anti-social and other non-beneficial behaviour in the local area, but more importantly, continue to positively change the lives of many youth in our area."

*David Doyle, Centre Management, Strathpine Centre*



# Who we are

## *Our structure*



# Who we are

## *Our Team*

Gerry Lister	Managing Director   Advocacy   Mentor
Greg Blackwell	Board Director   Mentor
Kylie Parker	Board Director   Finances
Laurie Fitzgerald	Chief Operating Officer
Taleisha Clarke	Office Manager   Qualified Trainer/Mentor
Sarah Maddelena	Administration/Compliance Officer
Loui Leavai	Mentor   Youth Worker
Peter Rees	Qualified Trainer   Supervisor
Jasmine Ridgeway	Business Trainee   Administration
Heath Belford	Site Supervisor
Terry-Dee Taylor	Indigenous Engagement Officer
Jason Owens	Indigenous Engagement Officer



# Our Networks

- Various local Industry Employers
- Brisbane Youth Detention Centre
- Youth Outreach Services – Salvation Army
- Project Booyah
- Vietnam Veterans of Australia (Qld Branch)
- Albany Links Golf Course
- Queensland Police Service
- Police Citizens Youth Club
- Mercy Community Services
- Carinity Baptist Community Services
- Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
- Pine Rivers Probation and Parole
- Youth Justice Service – Brisbane and North Coast Region
- Local Job Active Providers
- Department of Education - Local High Schools
- Australian Trade College – North Brisbane
- Mums, Dads, Grandparents and Carers
- Strathpine Shopping Centre



# Our Programs

YDF and EO specialises in facilitating partnerships that will improve outcomes for 15–29 year olds in our region

## *Why is this important?*

- Youth unemployment can be as high as 27% in our region
- Our schools report some of the highest levels of disadvantage in Queensland
- Large numbers of our youth qualify for Youth Allowance or New Start Allowance (Centrelink) but may not be accessing due to personal circumstances



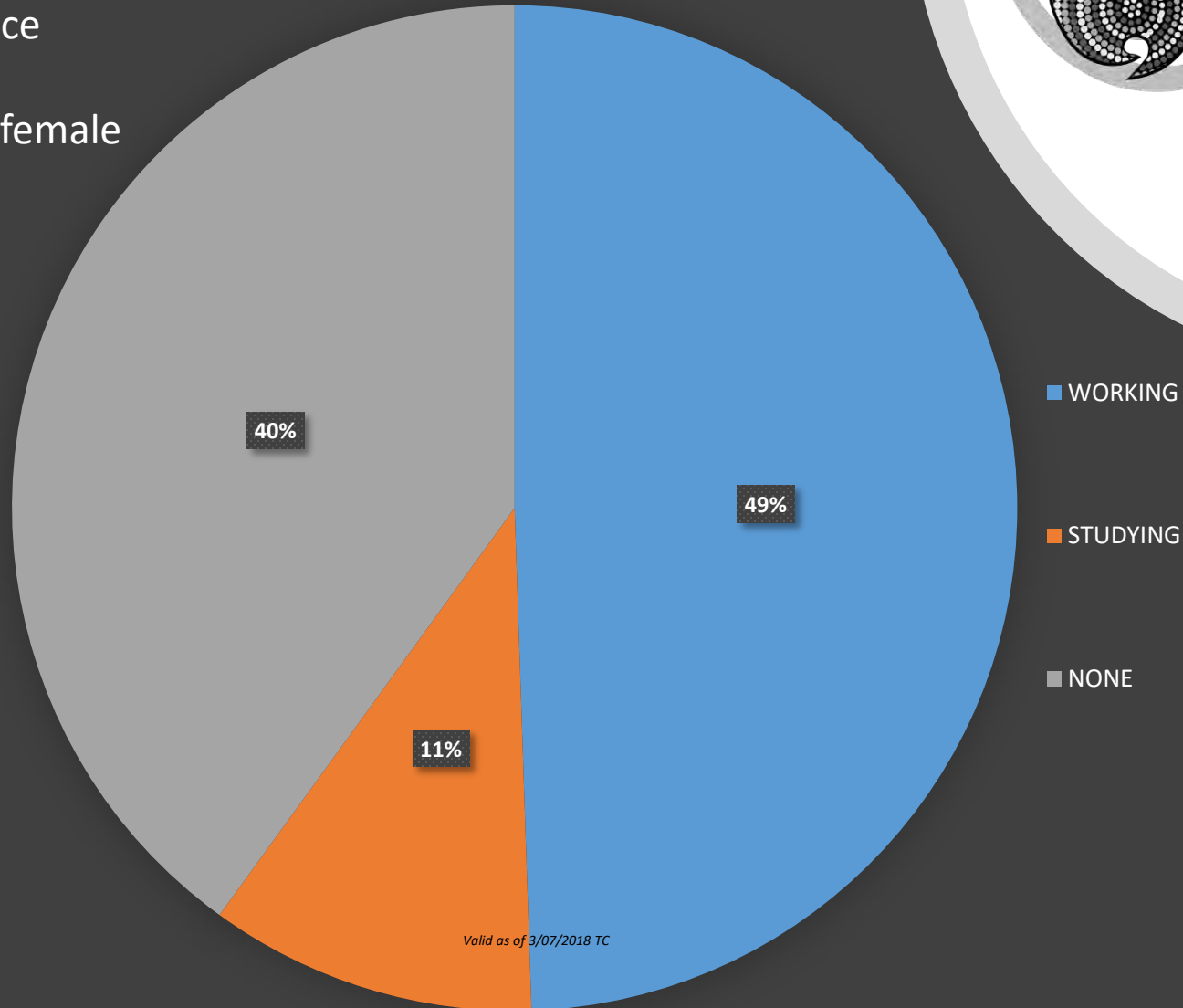
# What makes us different

- **We invest in the individual:** We see improvements to achievement, life skills, personal development and social skills as essential *means to an end*
- **We focus on long term sustainable change:** that targets increased participation in education, training and employment
- **Engagement Strategy is crucial:** YDF focusses on positive engagement through a flexible and safe environment, keeping completion rates high with the best outcomes
- **Context is key:** All of our work is designed to meet the needs of young people and the community in which they live – including local industry
- **Comprehensive Support Services:** YDF as a community youth organisation offers a range of services to assist community members, this includes assistance with housing, food, drivers licences, counselling services, etc. To assist participants to overcome any barriers they may face.



# Statistics

- YDF & EO have serviced over 2000 young people in our region since September 2014.
- 23% of participants are female
- 21% of participants are Indigenous





# Our Impact

- Increased engagement and retention in education, training and employment
- Reduced crime rates at local shopping centre
- Increased community awareness
- Better communication between government and non-government agencies
- More accountability of the young persons actions
- Improving self-worth and skills base of unemployed
- Providing structure and guidance
- An inclusive and non-judgmental environment
- Sense of achievement



# Construction Projects















# Cooking Classes

The fun stuff!



# Working Together

Working together with a range of local employers and other community organisations we can create an awesome space for our young people with real outcomes and support for our future leaders, our young people and our community.

“Unemployment affects people aged 15-29 in disproportionate numbers nationwide, And I am happy to support a program which aims to combat some of the barriers to employment facing young people”

*Mark Furner, **MP, Member for Ferny Grove***



# Dream Plan

- To have safe learning environment to get youth job ready
- To place all youth into sustainable local employment
- To create youth drop in space
- Have counsellors on hand
- Block with housing as main project to eventually create Youth Housing – then duplicate
- Have 'Op Shop' for interview and work clothing
- Social enterprise coffee shop on site
- Food parcels (Community Pantry) available weekly
- **Have financial stability to make this happen**



# Contact Details

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