

ARMADALE YOUTH STUDY

WORKING DRAFT REPORT

Project Team :

Matrix Consulting Group - Colin Penter, Darrell Henry

South Metropolitan Public Health Unit - Tammy Allen

City of Armadale - Megan Farr

August 2006

Table of Contents

*Colin Penter & Darrell Henry
Working DRAFT REPORT*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
1. INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 BACKGROUND & AIM OF THE STUDY	5
1.2 PROJECT METHODOLOGY.....	5
2. DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS	7
2.1 PROFILE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE ARMADALE REGION	7
2.1.1 <i>Population of Armadale</i>	7
2.1.2 <i>Age Structure</i>	7
2.1.3 <i>Age structure across Suburbs</i>	8
2.1.4 <i>Aboriginal population</i>	8
2.1.5 <i>Education</i>	9
2.1.6 <i>Family Structure</i>	10
2.1.7 <i>Youth Employment and Unemployment</i>	10
2.1.8 <i>Income</i>	10
2.1.9 <i>Disadvantage</i>	10
2.1.10 <i>Transport</i>	11
2.2 CONCLUSION	11
3. OVERVIEW OF RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS	11
3.1 OVERVIEW OF RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS	12
3.2 DISCUSSION OF KEY INDICATORS OF RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS IN ARMADALE	13
3.2.1 <i>Anti-Social and offending behaviour</i>	13
3.2.2 <i>Schooling and Education</i>	15
3.2.3 <i>Training and Employment</i>	16
3.2.7 <i>Aboriginal Disadvantage</i>	17
3.2.8 <i>Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use</i>	19
3.2.9 <i>Sexual and Reproductive health</i>	20
3.2.10 <i>Supportive local environments and institutions (Infrastructure, services and community participation and engagement)</i>	21
3.2.11 <i>Family, community and social supports</i>	23
3.3 CONCLUSION	24
4. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS OF CONSULTATIONS	24
4.1 ISSUES RAISED BY YOUNG PEOPLE	24
4.2 ISSUES RAISED BY THOSE WHO WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE	27
4.3 CONCLUSIONS	31
5. KEY DIRECTIONS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS	31
6. CONCLUSION	37
APPENDICES	38

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents findings from a youth study completed in the City of Armadale local government area. The South Metropolitan Public Health Unit, in partnership with the City of Armadale, commissioned the study out of a joint commitment to maximise the health and wellbeing of youth residing in the City of Armadale region. Their commitment is reflected in the South Metropolitan Public Health Unit's Strategic Plan and City of Armadale's Youth Plan.

The Armadale Youth study looks at ways to assist young people in Armadale to optimise their potential and wellbeing against a backdrop of adverse trends in young people's physical and psychosocial health and wellbeing (Stanley, Richardson & Prior 2005). Rather than focus just on problems and gaps, the Project takes an asset based approach by focusing on the strengths, assets and capacities of young people and the communities in which they live with the goal of strengthening and building sustainable partnerships between various groups.

Young people need supportive local environments. Families, friends, schools, neighbourhoods, social infrastructure, local community facilities and services, service delivery systems, local community attitudes and structures and socio-economic status all influence youth health and wellbeing.

The study aims to contribute a more effective, inclusive and united approach and positive environment for youth development and wellbeing in Armadale. This Report of the first phase of the Project provides a comprehensive overview of Armadale's young people and outlines youth services, organisations, community groups and activities in the region. The second phase of the Project, to be implemented in 2007, will include a number of specific youth engagement and participation projects and involve more detailed consultation with young people.

The aims of this first phase of the Armadale Youth Study were to:

- Identify the key risk and protective factors affecting the health and wellbeing of young people residing in the City of Armadale
- Identify current programs/initiatives focusing on youth in the City of Armadale
- Identify future directions for promoting positive youth development in Armadale.

The analysis of the demographics of the area (Chapter 2) shows that young people aged between 12 and 24 years make up nearly one fifth of the population of the City in Armadale. This is a slightly larger proportion of youth compared to the metropolitan area. The demographic analysis also points to a number of factors that place young people at risk.

Analysis of indicators of risk and protective factors in the City (described in Chapter 3) shows the presence of factors in the City that have a significant impact on youth health and wellbeing. Many "protective factors" are present in the City and large numbers of young people are doing well. However, the data on risk factors shows that other factors in Armadale place young people at greater risk and many young people are involved in behaviour that places their health and wellbeing at risk.

Risk factors can be compounded due to location. Young people living on the fringe of the metropolitan area in areas such as Armadale are disadvantaged in ways that can increase the impact of risk factors. This is because urban fringe areas are often characterised by:

- Shortfall in infrastructure and services

- Fewer service options in key areas such as education, mental health, health and medical services and alcohol and drug services
- Inadequate funding for youth services and programs spread across larger areas
- Problems with the accessibility, frequency and cost of transport
- Fewer local education, employment and training opportunities.

A variety of services and programs attempt to address youth issues and needs across the City and Region. Some are listed in Section 3 and more detailed descriptions of youth services and programs can be found in Appendix 2. These services are doing an excellent job. However, their capacity to impact on young people's health and wellbeing is limited by a number of factors including:

- Most agencies are regional service providers and may have limited presence in Armadale. As a result they have less capacity to provide services to young people in Armadale.
- There are gaps in social and community infrastructure for young people.
- There are service gaps and inadequate services in a number of key areas.
- Funding for youth service provision is spread thinly across outer metropolitan areas and agencies have difficulty meeting the demands being placed upon them.
- Young people's needs are more complex and challenging for services.

Consultations undertaken with service providers and people who work with youth (described in Chapter 4) identify a variety of strengths with current responses and also highlight issues requiring attention.

Based on the findings five (5) major Directions are presented (Chapter 5) to create a more effective, inclusive and united approach and positive environment for youth development and wellbeing in Armadale. No-one agency or level of government is responsible to implement these. A coordinated and unified approach is required.

KEY DIRECTIONS

Five major Directions are proposed. The rationale for each is presented in Chapter 5.

DIRECTION 1: Improve social infrastructure and services for young people

DIRECTION 2: Increase entertainment, social and recreational options for young people.

DIRECTION 3: Strengthen partnerships and service collaboration between all agencies serving youth (and their families)

DIRECTION 4: Improve youth health and wellbeing

DIRECTION 5: Increase engagement and participation of young people, particularly Aboriginal young people, in community life and community institutions

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background & Aim of the Study

Young people need supportive local environments. Families, friends, schools, neighbourhoods, social infrastructure, local community facilities and services, service delivery systems, local community attitudes and structures and socio-economic status all influence youth health and wellbeing.

The Armadale Youth Study looks at ways to assist young people in Armadale to optimise their potential and wellbeing against a backdrop of adverse trends in young people's physical and psychosocial health and wellbeing (Stanley, Richardson & Prior 2005). Rather than just focus on problems and gaps the Project takes an asset based approach by focusing on the strengths, assets and capacities of young people and the communities in which they live.

The Armadale Youth Study aims to create a more effective, inclusive and united approach and positive environment for youth development and wellbeing in Armadale. The project was designed to provide a comprehensive overview of Armadale's young people and to outline the available youth services, organisations, community groups and activities in the region. The study focused on the assets in the community with the goal of strengthening and building sustainable partnerships between various groups, Government agencies and young people.

The second phase of the Project to be implemented in 2007 will focus on youth engagement and participation.

The main aims of this first phase of the Armadale Youth Study were to:

- Identify the key risk and protective factors affecting the health and wellbeing of young people residing in the City of Armadale.
- Identify the current programs/initiatives focusing on youth in the City of Armadale.
- Identify future directions for promoting positive youth development in Armadale.

The Project was designed to scope and identify youth issues and needs to assist the South Metropolitan Public Health Unit establish priorities for its work with young people. Whilst the Project's focus is to promote young people's health and wellbeing it does so in recognition that many of the determinants of health and wellbeing lie outside the mandate of the health system. A holistic approach is needed to improve young people's health and wellbeing. Health services need to work closely with other sectors, including local government, community services, planning, housing, education and schools, to strengthen existing initiatives, create positive social and community environments and develop comprehensive strategies that foster healthy youth development.

The Youth Needs Study was also a priority identified in the City of Armadale's Community Development Plan 2004-2005.

1.2 Project Methodology

The Armadale Youth Study was conducted in several phases, and involved desktop analysis of existing information, identification of existing initiatives, consultation with youth service providers, stakeholders and community personnel and scoping consultations with a small sample of young people.

The data collected was primarily of a qualitative nature. A considerable amount of secondary quantitative data was analysed including ABS databases, Health Department of WA databases and other government agency information.

Phase 1: Planning and Preparation

This phase involved meeting with staff of the City of Armadale and South Metropolitan Public Health Unit to plan and prepare for the consultancy. Meetings were arranged with local service providers to scope issues, identify key local stakeholders and identify issues to be considered during the Project.

Phase 2: Identify and gather information about existing initiatives and programs targeting young people

A desktop analysis was undertaken to identify community based and youth related initiatives and programs in Armadale. This information was supplemented by consultations with youth service providers. Phase 2 was designed to identify what was already happening in Armadale and build on the strengths of what is already happening for young people. This information is presented in Appendix 2.

Phase 3: Create a demographic profile of youth residing in the City of Armadale area

A desktop analysis was undertaken to identify, source and analyse information on the key demographics of youth in Armadale and the social environment, as well as a number of indicators of risk and protective factors affecting young people's health and wellbeing. This Information is presented in Chapter 2 and Chapter 3.

Phase 4: Stakeholder Consultations

Key stakeholders and youth agencies in Armadale were consulted through face to face and telephone interviews, informal discussion and face to face discussion. A list of stakeholder agencies consulted is in Appendix 1. The findings of consultations are presented in Appendix 2 and a summary is presented in Chapter 4.2. Representatives from 50 agencies were consulted¹.

Phase 5: Consult with Young people residing in the City of Armadale

Consultation with young people was not the major strategy used. The original intention was to undertake a survey of young people in schools and the community. However, problems arose in obtaining informed consent for young people to participate in the survey. Due to the difficulties and delays that resulted and the limited budget for the first phase of the project a decision was taken to undertake more detailed consultation with young people in the next stage of the Project to be implemented in 2007.

A number of informal focus group discussions and scoping interviews were undertaken with a small number of young people (N=12) and the findings are described in Chapter 4.1.

¹ In some cases a number of staff from individual agencies were interviewed, whereas in other agencies only one staff member may have been interviewed.

Phase 6: Research and review best practise strategies for positive youth development

A literature review was conducted to identify best practise for delivering positive programs that support and maximise the health of young people in the Armadale region. Information from the Review is included in relevant sections of the Report and a summary can be found in Appendix 3.

Phase Seven: Synthesis and Report

All information was analysed to identify key emerging themes and issues. Colin Penter and Darrell Henry undertook the data analysis and collation. The key Findings and Directions resulting from the Project were identified, discussed and reviewed by the Project team. The Report was written jointly by the Project team.

2. DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

This section summarises key contextual issues and provides an overview of relevant demographic information.

The City of Armadale covers an area of approximately 545 sq km on the outer edge of the Perth Metropolitan area

Armadale is a significant mixed residential and commercial centre; however it has not yet developed the full range of public, commercial, recreational and entertainment infrastructure commensurate with its status as regional centre².

2.1 Profile of Young People in the Armadale Region³

Unless otherwise stated data is sourced from the 2001 ABS Statistics.

2.1.1 Population of Armadale

- In 2004 the population of the City of Armadale was 52,478, which represents 3.4% of the metropolitan population. Population is projected to increase by 17% by 2011. The population remained relatively steady between 1999-2004 with average annual growth rate of (0.1%) compared to the Region of 1.59%
- Projected population increases in the 10-24 years age group between 2004-2011 is expected to

2.1.2 Age Structure

The age structure is shown in the Table 1 and 2 below:

Table 1: Proportion of Young People within each age group 2004

Age	Armadale numbers	Armadale %	Metro numbers	Metro %
-----	------------------	------------	---------------	---------

²

³ For project purposes the Armadale region includes the following suburbs: Foorestdale, Brookdale, Wungong, Armadale, Sevillee Grove, Westfield, Kelmscott, Mt Nasura, Roleystone, Karragullen, Bedforddale, Illawarra.

0-4 years	3575	7%	92,275	6%
5-11 years	5639	11%	139,241	9%
12-24 years	10,386	20%	293,965	19%

- In 2001 the Armadale region recorded a higher proportion of residents aged between 10-24 years compared to the Perth region. In 2004 the City had a slightly larger percentage of youth aged 12-24 years and children aged 0-11 years compared to the metropolitan area. Youth aged 12-24 comprise 20% of the total Armadale population.

Table 2: Population structure by age and sex- Males

Age	Armadale numbers	Armadale %	Metro numbers	Metro %
0-4 years	1824	7%	47,135	6%
5-11 years	2917	11%	71,429	9%
12-24 years	5275	20%	149,520	20%

Table 3: Population structure by age and sex- Females

Age	Armadale numbers	Armadale %	Metro numbers	Metro %
0-4 years	1751	7%	45,140	6%
5-11 years	2723	10%	67813	9%
12-24 years	5110	19%	144445	19%

- There are a slightly higher proportion of males than females in the age group 12-24 years.

2.1.3 Age structure across Suburbs

Table 4: Age structure by Suburbs 2001

Suburb	% of youth aged 12-24 years	% Indigenous	% youth unemployed (12-24 years)
Armadale	19.7%	3.9%	21.2%
Forrestdale	20.1%	1.30%	16.4%
Bedforddale	n/a	n/a	n/a
Westfield	21.6%	3.9%	17.8%
Kelmscott	19.2%	1.9%	17.0%
Roleystone	19.2%	0.2%	12%
Armadale City	19.9%	2.8%	17.2%

- Armadale and Westfield have the highest proportion of indigenous people.
- The suburb of Westfield has the greatest proportion of youth aged 12-24 years.
- The suburb of Armadale has the highest rate of youth unemployment.

2.1.4 Aboriginal population

In 2004 Aboriginal people made up 3.1% of the total Armadale population which is greater than the metropolitan average. The age structure of the Aboriginal youth population is shown below:

**Table 5: Aboriginal youth population Armadale and metropolitan area
2004**

Age	Armadale numbers	Armadale %	Metro numbers	Metro %
0-4 years	196	12%	2865	12%
5-11 years	326	20%	4441	18%
12-24 years	471	29%	7068	29%

- In 2004 the proportion of Aboriginal youth is highest in the 12-14 year age group. Indigenous young people aged under 14 years represent 47% of the total Indigenous population.
- The proportion of Aboriginal young people aged 12-24 years is comparable to the metropolitan percentage (29%). In 2004 the number of Aboriginal youth aged 12-24 comprises 5% of the Armadale population.
- In 2004 7.4% of all indigenous young people aged under 14 years in the metropolitan area lived in Armadale.

2.1.5 Education

- In 2004 Year 12 retention rates in Armadale were 60% for females and 55% for males, compared to 67% for WA as a whole. Rates varied from school to school.
- Cecil Andrews has the highest number of indigenous students.
- Attendance by Aboriginal students at selected schools is lower than non-Indigenous students (As overall numbers are low the absence of 1-2 students has a large impact).
- In 2001 33% of Armadale residents aged 15 years and over completed schooling to Year 10 as their highest educational level, which is higher than the metropolitan average.
- Armadale has the lowest proportion of people holding a qualification beyond a high school education in the metropolitan area.
- Compared to the 5 metropolitan districts the Armadale region has the lowest proportion of people holding post-graduate degrees.
- The proportion of Armadale residents aged 15 years and over who completed Year 12 was 30%, which is considerably lower than the Perth metropolitan area (42%).
- The Armadale region has the lowest participation rate of person aged over 15 year olds in tertiary education (2.8%) of all metropolitan regions.
- A lower proportion of Armadale residents attend TAFE or University (5% of total population) compared to the Perth metropolitan average (7.7%).

2.1.6 Family Structure

- The Armadale Region has a higher marriage rate, divorce rate and higher proportion of separated persons compared to the Perth metropolitan average.
- One parent families comprise 18% of private dwellings in the Armadale region and this figure increases to 21% in the suburb of Armadale, which is significantly higher than the Perth metropolitan average of 16%.
- In 2001 Armadale had the highest proportion of males (44%) and females (29%) aged 15-24 years still living a home as a non-dependent child, compared to the Perth metropolitan area and WA (males 33% and females 23%).
- Armadale had higher proportion of both married females and sole parent families aged 15-24 years compared to their metropolitan and WA counterparts.

2.1.7 Youth Employment and Unemployment

Table 6: Unemployment Rates 2001

	Armadale	Perth	WA
Unemployment rate (all persons)	9.4%	7.8%	7.5%
Youth unemployment rate (15-24 years)	17.2%	14.2%	14.1%

- In 2001 unemployment rates in Armadale for youth aged 15-24 years was 17.2 %, which was higher than both Perth metropolitan and WA.
- Unemployment among indigenous people is high. In 2001 28% of the Indigenous population in Armadale was unemployed compared to 9% of non-Indigenous people.

2.1.8 Income

- In 2001 median weekly income for individuals in Armadale was lower (\$342) than Perth and WA as a whole.
- In 2001 median weekly income for youth aged 15-19 years in Armadale was (\$80-119) which was higher than the Perth and metropolitan counterparts (\$40-79). This was due to a higher proportion of full time employment in the age group (31% in Armadale; Metro 26% and WA 28% full time employed).

2.1.9 Disadvantage

Analysis of Socio-economic indicators in the Table below suggests slight levels of disadvantage in Armadale, compared to the Region and the State.

Table 7: Socio-Economic Indicators Armadale, Perth and WA

Socio-economic	Armadale	Perth	WA
----------------	----------	-------	----

indicators			
% 15 and over married	48.4%	50.3%	49.2%
Single parent families	25.7%	22%	22%
Renters	17.2%	23.7%	22%
Public housing	3.3%	4%	4.2%
Households without vehicle	6.8%	7.8%	7.5%
Left school before Year 12	66.6%	54.8%	58.7%
% with little or no English	0.41%	1.81%	1.37%
SEIFA Indicators			
Index of Advantage/Disadvantage	950	1,024	1,007
Index of Disadvantage	968	1,018	1,004
Index of Economic Resources	967	1,019	1,007
Index of Education & Occupation	931	1,019	999

2.1.10 Transport

- Across the 5 metropolitan districts the Armadale Region recorded the highest proportion of people who travelled to work to train.

2.2 Conclusion

The analysis of the demographics shows that young people aged between 12 and 24 years make up nearly one fifth of the population of the City in Armadale. This is a slightly larger proportion of youth compared to the metropolitan area.

The demographic analysis points to the existence of a number of social demographic factors in Armadale that if combined with other factors can compound risk for young people. These include:

- Higher levels of disadvantage and lower levels of weekly income compared to the metropolitan area
- Lower Year 12 retention rates compared to WA as a whole
- Lowest proportion of people holding a qualification beyond high school education in the metropolitan area
- Lowest proportion of residents aged 15 years and over who completed Year 12 in the metropolitan area
- Higher divorce rates and higher proportion of separated persons compared to the metropolitan area
- Higher proportion of one parents families than the metropolitan area
- Higher youth unemployment rates and Indigenous unemployment rates than the metropolitan area

3. OVERVIEW OF RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

This Section provides an overview of risk and protective factors that have a significant impact on youth health and wellbeing in Armadale. Many factors impact on young people's health and wellbeing. Six (6) categories of factors are significant:

- Young person or personal factors
- Family factors
- School context
- Life events
- Community and Cultural factors
- Structural factors (disadvantage, poverty, socio-economic status).

Factors which increase the likelihood of a poor outcome are called *risk factors*. The potential impact of risk factors is complex and the existence of multiple risk factors can place young people at greater risk. However, the existence of multiple factors does not mean poor outcomes.

Factors which increase the likelihood of a positive outcome for young people are called *protective factors*.

3.1 Overview of Risk and Protective Factors

Adolescence is a time when young people engage in risk-taking behaviours that compromise their health and can lead to poor health outcomes in adulthood. These behaviours can include:

- tobacco use
- alcohol and illicit drug misuse
- sexual risk taking behaviours
- crime and antisocial behaviour (Patton 1999).

There are many factors that can determine a young person's likelihood of participating in risk-taking behaviours. Despite this, literature has shown that if a young person has internal and external assets, they have a greater chance of succeeding and overcoming challenges in their life. These positive factors counteract or 'protect' against risks youth face (Bert 2002)

Internal assets are positive strengths that enable a young person to fully engage in the community and allow them to have the skills and ability to cope with problems and risks (Patterson 2001). These include:

- Positive values (to make healthy life choices, being caring, honest, responsible)
- Positive identity (belief in self worth, sense of purpose, positive view of future)
- Social competence (skills in interacting, making difficult decisions, coping with situations)

Commitment to learning (connectedness with school, motivated to do well)

External assets are structures, relationships and activities that create a positive environment. These include:

- Support (school, community, family)
- Boundaries (consistent, clear rules)
- Empowerment (feeling valued, safe and respected)
- Constructive use of time (opportunities to learn and develop new skills and interests).

The higher the level of internal and external assets, the less likelihood of a young person being affected by risk taking behaviours that compromise their health and wellbeing (Patterson 2001).

For the purposes of this project seven indicators or measures for risk and protective factors were chosen to examine the circumstances of young people. The choice of these indicators was shaped by the availability of recent data and the relative importance of the indicators in shaping young people's wellbeing. The indicators are:

- Anti-social and offending behaviour
- Schooling and education
- Training and employment
- Alcohol, tobacco and drug use
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Supportive local environments and institutions
- Family community and social supports.

3.2 Discussion of key Indicators of risk and protective factors in Armadale

The following section looks at specific indicators for risk and protective factors for young people in Armadale. Information on the current situation for young people is described and examples of programs/initiatives currently addressing these issues are provided.

3.2.1 Anti-Social and offending behaviour

Issues

Anti-social and offending behaviours such as vandalism, assault, bullying, aggressive communication and antisocial acts of violence are common risk taking behaviours displayed by youth. These behaviours may be a result of:

- adolescent rebelliousness
- parent-adolescent conflict
- weak family attachment and peer antisocial behaviours (Toumbourou et al 2001)

Antisocial behaviour is also strongly linked with accidental injury, substance abuse and deliberate self harm (Patton 1999).

The main risk factors which place children and adolescents at increased likelihood of anti-social and offending can be identified at an early age and arise from many sources. They include:

- *Child (individual)* factors such as early anti-social behaviour, race, gender, emotional factors, poor cognitive development, low intelligence, disability, illness, health.
- *Family and parent* factors such as parenting, maltreatment, family violence, harsh or inconsistent discipline, family size and structure, family stress, divorce and family breakdown, parental mental illness, drug and alcohol abuse, family criminal history, intergenerational disadvantage.
- *Peer* factors such as association with deviant peers, peer rejection.
- *School and community* factors such as poor school performance, lack of school attachment, lack of school attendance, low educational aspirations, inability to relate to peers, living in a poor family, neighbourhood disadvantage, poverty, overcrowded housing
- *Social and environmental* factors such as access to weapons, availability of alcohol and other drugs, access to weapons, community violence

Protective factors against antisocial behaviours

Certain protective factors reduce the likelihood of a young person becoming involved in antisocial behaviours. These are highlighted in the table below (Fergus et al 2005)

Behaviour	Assets/protective factors
Anti social socialisation	Pro-social beliefs, parental monitoring and support, anger control
Gang involvement	Religiosity, parent-family connectedness
Racial discrimination (violent behaviour)	Racial identify, public regard, parent-family connectedness

The early adolescent years are a critical transition point in pathways to adolescent anti-social and offending behaviour. Problems with education and schooling are risk factors for early involvement in anti-social and offending behaviour. Poor educational achievement and school failure are strongly and consistently linked with involvement in anti-social and offending behaviour

WA and Armadale Statistics

- Although data is limited, the cost to the community of anti-social and offending behaviour by 10-15 year olds is high. The problem particularly affects local government and local communities where most anti-social and offending behaviour occurs.
- In 2004 117 juveniles were cautioned in Armadale. Principal offence categories were property offences, other offences, offences against good order and offences against the person.
- Based on WA data about the proportion of young people aged 10-17 years who have contact with the criminal justice system the potential target group of 10-15 year olds who are involved in anti-social behaviour and offending is substantial. This is particularly the case with Indigenous youth.
- Between 2003-2005 in WA twenty three (23%) of young people aged 10-17 years had contact with the criminal justice system. This figure is higher in males (30%) and Indigenous youth (71%).
- The peak age for first contact with the criminal justice system is 15 years in the case of non-Indigenous children, and much earlier in non-indigenous youth. It can be that at age 10 indigenous participation in offending is high. One in ten Indigenous boys will have contact with the criminal justice system at age 10. Indigenous children in the 10-14 year age group had the highest recidivism rates of any age-race group.
- Indigenous adolescents aged 10-12 are 10.5 times more likely than non-Indigenous adolescents to enter the justice system.

Summary of youth specific programs/initiatives in Armadale

Initiatives & agencies involved	Description
CBD Reconnect (City of Armadale, Police and local business)	Address anti-social behaviour in CBD
Armadale Community Safety Plan (City of Armadale)	Community Safety and Crime prevention plan
Armadale Youth Resources	Variety of programs community and school based programs targeting at-risk young people aged between 10-17 years
Youth Focus	Services to at risk youth

Youth on the Rails (City of Armadale, OCP, ECU, Public Transport Authority)	Improve safety around train stations
Drug Arm	Workshops for disengaged youth
Armadale PCYC	Sport and recreation programs for at risk youth
YFEW's (DCD)	DCD program targeting young people at risk of involvement in anti-social and offending behaviour
Killara (Corrective Services)	Program for youth in contact with juvenile justice
Armadale Domestic Violence Intervention Project	Domestic violence programs
Armadale Community Safety Plan 2005-2010	Plan of community safety initiatives in Armadale

3.2.2 Schooling and Education

Issues

The school environment has a significant impact on the health outcomes of young people. A sense of connectedness and attachment to the school system can be a precursor for school success, retention in the education system and protection against risk taking behaviours.

In contrast, poor education performance can lead to a feeling of disconnectedness and a young person dropping out of school. Other factors that may contribute include:

- Living in a disadvantaged community
- Receiving little support and encouragement from family/parents
- Belonging to a peer group who are at risk of dropping out (Rew et al 2003).

Young people with lower levels of school attainment have greatest difficulty in the transitions from school to work, facing higher risk of unemployment and socioeconomic disadvantage. Students from poorer and disadvantaged communities typically attain lower achievement rates at every level of schooling and are far less likely to go onto post secondary and tertiary education (Brotherhood of St Laurence 2006).

When compared to their inner city counterparts young people living on the urban fringe are:

- more likely to disengage from secondary school early
- less likely to engage with post secondary education (Youth Affairs Council of Victoria 2005).

Australian studies have found poorer retention rates and higher truancy rates among Indigenous youth. This decrease in educational participation correlates with an increase in juvenile crime, particularly among 14-16 year old Indigenous young people (Gardner 1996 quoted in Lamb, Walstab, Teese, Vickers & Rumberger 2004).

Disengagement and early school leaving is a significant factor for involvement in anti-social and offending behaviour (Clifford 2002). School dropout is associated with the development of antisocial behaviour, higher rates of substance abuse, tobacco use and emotional. Failure to complete high school can also have an impact on the type of employment and earnings a young person can attain, which can also affect their financial capacity in adulthood (Toumbourou et al 2000).

The early adolescent years are a critical transition point in pathways to adolescent anti-social and offending behaviour. The ages 10-15 years are recognized as an important threshold point where powerful and widespread differences begin to appear in adolescents in terms of their risk of involvement in anti-social and offending behaviour. (Smart, Vassallo, Sanson and Dussuyer 2004: Smart et al 2004 a: Smart

et al 2003; Richardson, N., Smart, D., Vassallo, S & Sanson, A, 2006; Vassallo et al. 2002).

WA and Armadale statistics

- In 2004 Year 12 retention rates in Armadale were 60% for females and 55% for males, compared to 67% for WA as a whole. Rates varied from school to school.
- Cecil Andrews has the highest number of indigenous students.
- Attendance by Aboriginal students at selected schools is lower than non-Indigenous students (As overall numbers are low the absence of 1-2 students has a large impact).
- In 2001 33% of Armadale residents aged 15 years and over completed schooling to Year 10 as their highest educational level, which is higher than the metropolitan average.
- Armadale has the lowest proportion of people holding a qualification beyond a high school education in the metropolitan area.
- Compared to the 5 metropolitan districts the Armadale region has the lowest proportion of people holding post-graduate degrees.
- The proportion of Armadale residents aged 15 years and over who completed Year 12 was 30%, which is considerably lower than the Perth metropolitan area (42%).

Summary of youth specific programs/initiatives in Armadale

Initiatives & agencies involved	Description
Armadale SHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Dole program • School Homework Program (after school program for Indigenous students to assist with study/education) • Industry Training Program • School Chaplin Service (RESPECT and Live Wire Programs) • School based programs provided by Armadale Youth Resources
Cecil Andrews SHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range of programs for students at educational risk (art based, breakfast programs, homework clubs) • School Chaplin Service (counselling and support)
Kelmscott SHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jull Centre (support and counselling for students, range of intervention programs) • School Chaplin Service – Counselling, support and tailored programs for students at risk of disengaging from school system
John Wollaston Anglican Community College	Programs for students at risk

3.2.3 Training and Employment

During and following secondary schooling young people need opportunities to develop appropriate skills and knowledge to be equipped for entering the workforce. The opportunity to be trained in a skill or trade at school not only increases a young person's confidence but also increases their chances of obtaining and retaining a job once they leave school.

For young people living on the fringe of the metropolitan area post secondary options are located long distances away and access is limited by the costs and time involved in travel (YAC Victoria 2005.). Access to further education and training in Armadale is limited. Lack of full time engagement in either education or employment is a risk factor for young people (Brotherhood of St Laurence 2006).

When compared to their inner city counterparts young people living on the urban fringe face a number of problems to do with employment (Marston, Morgan & Murphy 2003). This includes:

- Limited employment opportunities within their local community
- Need to travel long distances to access work
- Increased travel costs associated with employment
- Longer term consequences resulting from living on the urban fringe in areas of higher unemployment rates and lower school completion rates.

Being unable to find employment has important implications for young people, including economic consequences, psychological distress and longer term poverty and disadvantage (Brotherhood of St Laurence 2006).

Armadale Statistics

- In 2001 the unemployment rate in Armadale for youth aged 15-24 years was 17.2 %, which was higher than both Perth metropolitan and WA.
- Unemployment among indigenous people is high. In 2001 285 of the Indigenous population in Armadale was unemployed compared to 9% of non-Indigenous people.
- The Armadale region has the lowest participation rate of person aged over 15 year olds in tertiary education (2.8%) of all metropolitan regions.
- A lower proportion of Armadale residents attend TAFE or University (5% of total population) compared to the Perth metropolitan average (7.7%).

Summary of programs/initiatives in Armadale

Initiative and agencies involved	Description
PSP Program(Mission Australia, Mercy, Jobs West)	Peer support program for 16-18 year olds with significant barriers to employment
No Dole program (Armadale SHS)	Year 10 students make a pledge to avoid going on the Dole by committing to further education and training or employment
Jobswest Youth Pathways	Service, advice and support for young people in transition through school and to further education, training or employment
SEMYA	Employment and training programs and activities to assist youth towards an independent and sustainable future (inc JPET)
Finding My Place Project (DETTWA, City of Armadale & Cecil Andrews SHS)	Pilot program for at-risk students who can benefit from an alternative learning experience
Employment Directions	Not youth focused but some programs for youth eg youth enterprise, school programs
Youth Careers Expo	Expo planned by City of Armadale

3.2.7 Aboriginal Disadvantage

Issues

The economic and social disadvantage of Aboriginal Western Australians is well documented. Aboriginal Western Australians experience higher death rates, lower incomes, higher rates of unemployment, poorer educational outcomes, poorer

health, inadequate housing and violence, all of which impact on children's health, wellbeing and quality of life (DIA 2005).

Aboriginal children and young people are at a substantial disadvantage compared to their non-Aboriginal counterparts (DIA 2005, Zubrick et al 2005). For example, Aboriginal young people experience far worse physical health, higher rates of conduct disorder and suicide attempts and higher risk of significant emotional and behavioural difficulties than non-Aboriginal youth. Compared to non-Aboriginal children, Aboriginal children and young people experience a cycle of disadvantage in which poor health and fewer family and community resources contribute to poor lifestyle choices (Blair, Zubrick and Cox 2005; (Zubrick et al 2005).

Many Aboriginal children and young people are exposed to multiple risk factors including child abuse and maltreatment, social and economic disadvantage, domestic and family violence, the impact of incarceration of family members, poverty, alcohol and drug abuse, inter-generational trauma, poor quality housing, health compromising environments and racism. These risk factors are compounded by a history of state intervention in family life, by living in locations and neighbourhoods with poor access to infrastructure and services, higher crime and arrest rates and low employment prospects (Daly & Smith 2005).

Various Australian studies have found poorer retention rates and higher truancy rates among Indigenous youth. This decrease in educational participation correlates with an increase in juvenile crime, particularly among 14-16 year old Indigenous young people (Gardner 1996, quoted in Lamb, Walstab, Teese, Vickers & Rumberger 2004).

There is often earlier onset of problems among Aboriginal children and young people, with the result that harm resulting from those behaviours is magnified and negative patterns of behaviour, such as offending behaviour, become established and entrenched earlier and become a part of the normal rites of passage of growing up.

- Disengagement from school and education begins earlier for Aboriginal youth, often starting around Years 4 and 5.
- Involvement in lower level anti-social behaviour and offending behaviour often begins earlier than for non-Aboriginal children and youth
- Aboriginal children and youth have earlier contact with the criminal justice system.

Armadale Statistics

- Attendance by Aboriginal students at selected schools is lower than non-Indigenous students (As overall numbers are low the absence of 1-2 students has a large impact).
- Unemployment among indigenous people is high. In 2001 28% of the Indigenous population in Armadale was unemployed compared to 9% of non-Indigenous people.
- Birth rates in Aboriginal women aged 18-24 are three times higher than non-Aboriginal women when data are adjusted for age, sex and indigenous status. In the 18-24 year age group the birth rate for Aboriginal women living in Armadale was 152.3 births per 1,000 females

Summary of programs/initiatives in Armadale

Agency and initiatives	Description
Armadale Aboriginal Family Program	

NAIDOC Week	
Mungart Yirra Boorn (City of Armadale, City of Gosnells, Armadale Nyoongar Corporation)	Community education and awareness programs to promote positive images of aboriginal people

3.2.8 Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use

Issues

Alcohol is commonly consumed by young people as a recreational drug from the age of 15 upwards. Binge drinking is connected with an increasing range of health and social problems. These include serious injury, particularly vehicle accidents, unplanned and unsafe sex, assault and aggressive behaviours and a variety of other drinking related social and physiological problems.

Heavy adolescent alcohol consumption may also lead to alcohol abuse and dependence in early adulthood. There is also increasing evidence that early adolescent substance abuse increases the risk of substance abuse later in life, including the use of heroin.

Young people may be more likely to misuse alcohol if they have depression and other mental health problems; low self esteem; easy family access to alcohol; are working outside school and have difficulty talking with parents; (Toumbourou et al 2000).

Tobacco use is preventable health issue that commonly begins during adolescence (Patton 1999). The earlier a person begins smoking, the higher the chance of serious nicotine addiction (Burt 2002) Risk factors for tobacco use include depression and other mental health problems; alcohol use; disconnectedness from school or family; difficulty talking with parents; low school achievement and peer smoking (Toumbourou et al 2000).

Alcohol and drug use are significant factors in early school leaving and early involvement in anti-social and offending behaviour. Substance abuse is associated with adolescents' early school leaving and there is a clear connection between alcohol and drug use and involvement in anti-social and offending behaviour (Tresidder 2003).

The association between substance use and involvement in anti-social and offending behaviour (and other difficulties) highlights the need for integrated programs that assist young people in a number areas of their lives (Smart, Richardson, Sanson, et al (2005).

Armadale statistics⁴

- The prevalence of smoking in Armadale among youth aged 16-24 years (22.3%) was higher than the State (18.2%)
- Higher proportions of Armadale males and females aged 16 years and over (33.4%) were current smokers compared with those from the State (20.9%).
- Youth in Armadale aged 16-24 years reported lower levels of alcohol consumption compared to the state, although the results were not statistically significant.

⁴ Data is from the WA Health and Wellbeing Surveillance system

- Higher proportions of Armadale males aged 16 years and over did not drink alcohol, or consumed alcohol at low short-term and long-term risk levels compared to their state counterparts.
- Slightly higher proportions of Armadale youth aged 16-24 years used marijuana (15.4%) than their WA counterparts (14.2%)
- Seven percent (7%) of Armadale youth aged 16-24 years reported using amphetamines compared to 7.2% of their WA counterparts.
- 1.1 % of Armadale youth aged 16-24 years reported using hallucinogens compared to 1.4 of their WA counterparts.
- Seven percent (7%) of Armadale youth aged 16-24 years reported using amphetamines compared to 7.2% of their WA counterparts.

Alcohol, tobacco and drug use – protective factors

Behaviour	Protective Factors
Substance misuse/tobacco use	Self esteem, self control, decision making skills, connectedness with school and family, academic achievement religious affiliation, Family connectedness; perceived healthiness; higher parental expectations;

(Fergus et al 2005)

Programs/initiatives in Armadale

Agency and initiatives	Description
Drug Arm	Offers a range of programs and activities
Armadale Youth Resources (Counselling and advocacy for teens)	Seminars and education programs for youth
GURD (Armadale Police)	School based education programs
Community Drug Services Team	Community based drug and alcohol services and programs provide across the Region incl counselling and detox programs
Local Drug Action Group	

3.2.9 Sexual and Reproductive health

Issues

Early onset of sexual activity can lead to a higher risk of sexually transmitted infections and teen pregnancy. Risk factors that can impact on the likelihood of early sexual activity include:

- living in low income families, with parents who are not supportive
- non-involvement in schools activities
- poor academic achievements/ low educational expectations
- lack of access to sexual health services
- easily influenced by friends in similar situations

Events leading to young people being at high risk of *pregnancy* may begin with early intercourse, non-use of protection at first intercourse, a long delay before use of contraception and subsequently a higher risk of unplanned pregnancy (Burt 2002).

Armadale Statistics

Teenage births

- Teenage pregnancy rates are higher in the Armadale region than other parts of the metropolitan area, particularly among Aboriginal women aged 18-24 years.

- In 2003-2005 the birth rate for Armadale young mothers was 6.9 births per 1,000 females aged 17 years and under. This rate is higher than the South Metropolitan rate (5.8 per 1000) but similar to the State rate (6.6 per 1000) for this age group.
- The birth rate for Armadale mothers aged 18-24 was higher than both the South Metropolitan and WA rates.
- Birth rates in Aboriginal women aged 18-24 are three times higher than non-Aboriginal women when data are adjusted for age, sex and indigenous status. In the 18-24 year age group the birth rate for Aboriginal women living in Armadale was 152.3 births per 1,000 females

STI

- The incidence of chlamydia is higher in Armadale females compared to males. In 2005 there were 881.7 notifications per 100,000 females in Armadale aged 12-24 years compared to 575.6 chlamydia notifications per 100,000 Armadale males of the same age group.
- Chlamydia rates are 4 times higher in the Armadale 12-24 year age group (combined males and females) than for all age groups in Armadale.
- Armadale incidence rates are comparable to the State rate for 12-24 year olds (727.1 per 100,000 in Armadale compared to 758.6 per 100,000 for WA). Incidence rates have increased by around 1.9 times over the 3 year period 2003-2005 for both males and females in the 12-24 years age group.
- The incidence of gonorrhoea is higher in Armadale males. In 2005 there were 115.1 notifications per 100,000 Armadale males aged 12-24 years compared to 98 per 100,000 Armadale females of the same age group.
- Incidence rates of gonorrhoea have shown an increase in Armadale females aged 12-24 years over the 3 year period to 2005 (98 per 100,000 in 2005 compared with 19.7 per 100,000 in 2003).
- 2005 incidence rates for males aged 12-24 show a slight increase compared to previous years.
- Combined incidence rates (males and females) for the 12-24 year age group are 1.2 times higher in 2005 compared to 2003.

Sexual Behaviour Protective Factors (Fergus et al 2005)

Behaviour	Protective Factors
Sexual behaviour – early initiation of sex, level of sexual activity and risky sexual behaviour	School achievement, religiosity, HIV reproductive knowledge, self esteem, positive attitudes towards condoms

Summary of programs/initiatives in Armadale

Initiatives and agencies involved	Description
School Sexuality Education	Health and sexuality programs provided in schools
PASH	
Diva Program Stairways Cottage (Armadale Youth resources)	School based program for 12-14 year olds at risk
School and Community nurses	School and community based services on sexual and reproductive health

3.2.10 Supportive local environments and institutions (Infrastructure, services and community participation and engagement)

Issues

Young people need supportive local environments. Families, friends, schools, neighbourhoods, local community facilities and services, service delivery systems,

local community attitudes and structures and socio-economic status all influence youth health and wellbeing.

The health and wellbeing of young people is significantly influenced by local determinants such as access to services, social supports, physical environment, physical and social infrastructure, housing, schools, educational systems, community attitudes and community participation.

The extent to which social institutions, such as schools, work, public facilities, services, government agencies, and commercial enterprises are accessible and appropriate to young people is an important factor impacting on health and wellbeing. These social institutions constitute important social supports for young people and they contribute in major way to positive mental as well as physical wellbeing.

The combination of a lack of community services at important transitions and a lack of culturally appropriate resources and programs within schools and the wider community can all contribute to Aboriginal young people beginning to be involved in risk taking behaviour.

Young people are active participants in their communities through activities such as volunteering, participation in sport and recreational activities, involvement in arts and cultural activities, and as users of public infrastructure and services (schools, parks, ovals, public transport). ABS data suggests that in WA around 30% of young people in the 18-24 years age group have undertaken voluntary work in the last 12 months.

Overwhelmingly, young people want to have a say in decisions that are made for and about them. However, there are significant gaps between what adults see as key issues for young people and what young people themselves see as important.

Armadale Statistics

- Armadale lacks the full range of entertainment, recreational and community functions and infrastructure commensurate with its status as a regional centre (Armadale Redevelopment Authority).
- Access to further education is limited (Armadale Redevelopment Authority).

Summary of programs/initiatives in Armadale

Initiatives and agencies involved	Description
Development of a Youth precinct in the CBD	Project currently in development by City of Armadale and Armadale Redevelopment Authority
Armadale Redevelopment Authority Community Development Strategy	The plan outlines a number of strategies to improve social environment and infrastructure
City of Armadale Youth Plan 2004-2007	The plan outlines a number of strategies to improve social environment and infrastructure
City of Armadale Community Development Plan	The plan outlines a number of strategies to improve social environment and infrastructure
Commonwealth Communities for Children Program (Communicare and Children's services)	Regional project involving consultation and program development. By local NGO's involved in service provision for 0-8 year olds. Programs focus on healthy families, early learning and development, creating child friendly communities, supporting families and parenting.
Southside Community Church	Church based agency providing programs, services and infrastructure for young people in a faith based context
Armadale Community Conference	Conference organised for to build capacity of local community and non-government groups

3.2.11 Family, community and social supports

Issues

Relationships and social networks are at the core of health and wellbeing. Social relationships are central to young people's health and wellbeing. For young people health, particularly mental and emotional health and wellbeing relies heavily on their social networks. Supportive family relationships and levels of family and community support act as protective factors to reduce the impact young people's involvement in risk taking behaviours.

Overwhelmingly young people value their families and friends and these are the first people they turn to when they need advice and support (Mission Australia 2005). Family and friends are critical to young people's social networks and wellbeing.

Social participation benefits young people whilst helping to make communities safer and stronger. Social activities, including involvement in sport, recreation and exercise are an important source of enjoyment for young people, enhance cultural identity and also build stronger communities (ABS 2006).

The families of Aboriginal youth are routinely exposed to a far greater frequency of life stressors than non-Aboriginal families. WA research found that high levels of family stress are reported by nearly 70% of Aboriginal children, compared to 13.8% of Aboriginal children (Blair, Zubrick and Cox 2005).

Increased risk behaviour of Aboriginal children and youth are more likely the consequence of deep seated family and community problems (Blair, Zubrick and Cox 2005: Zubrick et al 2005).

Armada Statistics

- The Armada Region has a higher marriage rate, divorce rate and higher proportion of separated persons compared to Perth metropolitan average.
- One parent families comprise 18% of private dwellings in the Armada region and this figure increases to 21% in the suburb of Armada, which is significantly higher than the Perth metropolitan average of 16%.
- In 2001 Armada had the highest proportion of males (44%) and females (29%) aged 15-24 years still living a home as a non-dependent child, compared to Perth metropolitan area and WA (males 33% and females 23%).
- Armada had higher proportion of both married females and sole parent families aged 15-24 years compared to their metropolitan and WA counterparts.

Summary of programs/initiatives in Armada

Initiative and agencies involved	Description
Aboriginal Family Support Program	
Strong Families (DCD)	Regional project (worker based in Armada) to bring together all agencies working with at risk families to find new ways to support and assist families
Responsible Parenting Initiative (Office of Crime Prevention)	Regional project to assist parents of children up to 15 years who are in trouble at home at school or in the community
Armada Community Family Centre Parents Empowering Parents program (PEP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs for families and parents (including drop in, kids clubs, Playgroups, Neighbourhood house, holiday programs, support activities for parents not currently

	engaging with services • 'Mums matter' for socially isolated parents
Minnawarra House	Services on family separation.
Triple P Parenting Program	Group based program run by community health nurses for parents to develop parenting skills and strengthen parenting capacity
YFEWs program (DCD)	Works with families of at risk Aboriginal young people
Armada Volunteer Resources Service	Provide opportunities for volunteering and support volunteers

3.3 Conclusion

This Chapter has discussed risk and protective factors that impact on young people in Armadale. Many "protective factors" exist in the City and many young people are doing well. However, as the data on risk factors shows there are many factors in Armadale that place young people at greater risk and many young people are involved in behaviour that places their health and wellbeing at risk.

Risk factors can be compounded due to location. Young people living on the fringe of the metropolitan area in areas such as Armadale are disadvantaged in ways that can increase the impact of risk factors. This is because urban fringe areas are often characterised by:

- Shortfall in infrastructure and services
- Fewer service options in key areas such as education, mental health, alcohol and drug services
- Inadequate funding for youth services and programs
- Problems with the accessibility, frequency and cost of transport
- Fewer local education employment and training opportunities.

There is a considerable range of agencies, services and programs for youth across the Region. These services are doing an excellent job. However, their capacity to impact on young people's health and wellbeing is limited by a number of factors including:

- Most agencies are regional service providers and may have limited presence in Armadale. As a result they have less capacity to provide services to young people in Armadale.
- There are service gaps and lack of adequate services in a number of key areas.
- Funding for youth service provision is spread thinly across outer metropolitan areas like Armadale and agencies have difficulty meet the demands being placed upon them.
- Young people's needs are becoming more complex and challenging.

4. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS OF CONSULTATIONS

This section summarises the main findings of consultations undertaken a part of the project. This included a series of focus groups and discussions with young people and interviews and consultations with people who work with young people.

4.1 Issues raised by Young people

Consultation with young people was not the major strategy used. The original intention was to undertake a survey of young people in schools and the community.

However, problems arose in relation to obtaining informed consent of young people to participate in the survey. Due to the difficulties and delays that resulted, and the limited budget for the project, it was decided that consultation with young people will be part of the next stage of the Project to be implemented in 2007.

Informal focus group discussions and scoping interviews were undertaken with a small number of young people (N=12??) and the findings, albeit gathered only to scope issues, are described below. Due to the small sample the limitations of the finding must be recognised.

4.1.1 Positive things about Armadale

Young people identified many positive aspects of living in Armadale including:

- Train station, train and public transport are well connected to shops and CBD
- Closeness and proximity of shops to the train station and public transport
- Sporting facilities
- Cinema
- Festivals and concerts for young people
- Youth centre
- Natural environment and bushland
- Redevelopment will make Armadale a better place in the future

4.1.2 Things that are not so good about Armadale

When asked to identify things about Armadale that were not so good young people raised a number of issues including:

Community attitudes: Young people spoke about negative attitudes to young people and the lack of respect shown them by adults. Comments include:

"If you are young the adults just want to bitch about you"

"We don't mind respecting them but they don't give us respect"

"Yeah K mart. If you don't spend money they get pissed"

Shop staff, security guards, rangers and business were singled out for special criticism. Young people consulted describe situations where they were treated poorly by shop workers and business or where they were accused or suspected of shoplifting.

Lack of Entertainment, activities and things to do: Young people spoke about a lack of night time entertainment and social activities for young people, particularly on Thursday nights and weekends. Comments include:

"There is nowhere for me and my friends to go to chat at night. No cafes, no food places nothing"

"No night life except the pub"

"Most Fridays we go to Vic Park. There's nothing here for under agers who can't go to the pub".

Young people consulted report that they have to go elsewhere, to Fremantle, Northbridge, Cannington and Victoria Park, for social and entertainment options.

Lack of Employment: Young people consulted are concerned about the limited amount of employment in Armadale, particularly for school leavers. Available jobs are seen to be for younger people and in areas such as fast food. Comments include:

"Most jobs are in fast food and not if you are over 18"

No one here wants to employ us. They will employ people still in school but not us. And if you get a job you have to take it even if its not something you want to do".

Distance from work was another issue raised. One young person said:

"It's really hard if you live a long way from the job. I look for jobs near where I live because otherwise it is too hard or too expensive".

Safety: There are mixed views about safety and security. Some young people consulted don't feel safe at the train station, particularly after 6pm, although others feel safe on public transport. A number described incidents that had occurred on trains or at stations. Some feel safe on public transport during the day but less safe, particularly on the train after 6pm. They also recognise that other young people might not feel as safe as they do.

A number feel unsafe at times in certain parts of the CBD, for example Minnowara Park.

Transport: Young people rely heavily on public transport. The availability of public transport, particularly trains is seen as a strength of Armadale. The main concerns are lack of buses in certain places, the unreliability of bus timetables and a dependence on parents to provide transport if they need to go somewhere. Other young people spoke about the large distances involved in travelling to get to education or work. One said:

"It takes me 1.5 hours each day to get to Central TAFE because the course I want to do is there".

Poor public transport in outlying suburbs and areas is a major concern for young people who live some distance from the Armadale CBD.

Alcohol and Drug Use: Concern about alcohol and drug use by adults and other young people in public places such as parks, and at parties is an issue for some of the young people consulted. Young people consulted spoke about patterns of heavy alcohol use and underage alcohol use, particularly on weekends. Comments include:

"I don't know one kid aged 15 or 16 who would not have had a drink. Under age kids get wasted on weekends".

Underage alcohol use occurs at home, at parties and in public parks

Young people interviewed spoke about what they see as parental attitudes that are accepting of alcohol use by 15 and 16 year olds. They suggested that alcohol was supplied by older siblings, parents and older friends.

Poor shopping: Shopping in Armadale for young people is seen as limited. There are seen to be lack of youth related shopping. Carousel is a more attractive option for some young people. One young person said:

"We have to go to Carousel to shop. Don't have shops here that appeal to us".

Two young people spoke about the high costs of things in Armadale and said that it was cheaper to go to Carousel.

Racism:

4.1.3 What would make Armadale a better place for young people?

Young people identify a range of things that would make Armadale a better place for young people. In general these fall into a number of areas:

- Better infrastructure and amenities such as youth precinct, better youth centre, youth space where youth can hang out more skate facilities, more regular buses, more places for bikes, more half courts, better youth recreational facilities in the CBD (half court, skate parks, other recreational facilities), better public toilets (cleaner and more of them), legal services for young people.
- More local employment for young people who have left school
- More entertainment and social activities, particularly for over 16's
- Better shopping such as skate and surf stores, bicycle stores, interesting cafes, clothing, music and stores that cater for young people
- Better services eg Centrelink and Job Network
- More respect from adults

4.1.4 Community involvement and participation

Involvement and participation in community life and community activities is a significant activity for some of the young people interviewed. Activities that young people were involved in included:

- Involved in voluntary activity through their school
- Play sport and participate in recreation
- Umpire, coach and organise sport
- Voluntary work for sporting clubs
- Help at Seniors centres
- Assist neighbours and friends eg walk dogs, babysit, care for children

4.1.5 Seeking support and assistance

Young people were asked who they (and other young people) would turn to for help if they had a problem or if something was worrying them. Mention was made of the following.

Friends and Family

Friends were mentioned most commonly, followed by families.

Lack of information

A lack of information was seen as problem for many young people. One young person said:

“The problem is people don't know where to go”.

Service providers

Service providers mentioned most often were school or TAFE counsellors, youth centre workers, school nurses and Doctors who bulk bill. The most common concern was to with lack of confidentiality. Lack of bulk billing and concerns about confidentiality are mentioned as reasons why young people do not talk to GP's.

4.1.6 Other issues

Other issues raised by young people were:

- Family stress resulting from parents long working hours, absences and levels of stress when they are at home

4.2 Issues raised by those who work with young people

Key stakeholders and youth agencies in Armadale were consulted through face to face and telephone interviews and informal discussion and face to face discussion in

established network meetings. The findings of these consultations are presented in Appendix 2 and a summary of the information is presented below. Representatives from 50 agencies were consulted⁵. A list of stakeholder agencies consulted is in Appendix 1.

Young people (and families) have more complex needs and problems

Stakeholders report that youth (and their family needs) needs are far more complex and severe and that workers and agencies have limited time and resources to build relationships and work with young people in an in-depth way.

The sort of complex problems mentioned include aggression, mental health, substance abuse, child abuse, behavioural problems, learning disorders and disabilities, disengagement from school, family dysfunction and disadvantage and poverty. Agencies report they don't have the resources and capacity to respond to these complex problems.

Agencies report that it is difficult to assist some young people because of the severity of these problems. Youth service providers also report that the agencies whose mandate it is to deal with these young people are themselves under-resourced and overwhelmed and are unable to provide the level of service required.

The experiences reported by stakeholders is supported by Australian and Western Australian research that demonstrates that the circumstances of many children and young people are worsening despite increasing economic and material prosperity (Stanley, Richardson and Prior 2005).

The level of problems affecting children and young people are increasing, problems are more severe and complex and are occurring at a younger age, with girls involved and affected as frequently as boys (Stanley, Richardson and Prior 2005). Problem behaviours occurring at a younger age, include:

- Increases in behaviour problems (attention deficit disorder, hyperactivity), mental health concerns and dangerous activities such as substance abuse
- Increases in aggressive behaviour and crime
- Increased difficulties with behaviour and learning in school.

There is growing evidence that young people face interrelated problems (poor housing, education, ill health, maltreatment, mental health, alcohol and drug problems, disabilities) that are underpinned by the same underlying risk and protective factors across multiple domains. This highlights the need for what are called "joined up" or integrated solutions, which address multiple risk and protective factors, especially for the most disadvantaged and resource depleted contexts (Homel 2006, Stanley, Richardson and Prior 2005)

Youth services and programs tend to focus on single issues

In Armadale there are a range of local programs and initiatives to address the separate parts of young people's lives; however they tend to focus on single rather than multiple risk factors and are not always well integrated and coordinated. Young people require services that are better integrated. Many of young people (and their families) require a level of intensive and ongoing support that is not available. A

⁵ In some cases a number of staff from individual agencies were interviewed, whereas in other agencies only one staff member may have been interviewed.

broad range of external agencies need to work with young people, however such integrated and collaborative responses are rare.

Many programs and services are geared to young people in crisis or with severe problems. Many young people may not display problems that are "serious enough" or be in crisis that would result in them being referred to agencies who have a responsibility to respond.

There is a range of services for young people in Armadale. However, these agencies struggle to meet demand. This is partly a funding issue. Agencies lack the funding to meet the demand on them. Many are small agencies with limited resources and capacity. Many are regional service providers and their capacity to provide services to young people in Armadale is limited. Others target young people as one of a number of population groups. Few services have an outreach capacity- rather young people are expected to go to them.

Agencies working together

Service providers describe examples of agency partnerships and innovative strategies being developed by local agencies to address complex youth needs. One example is the efforts of secondary schools, such as Armadale SHS, to work with community agencies such as Armadale Youth Resources to develop on site programs for at risk youth.

Family risk and protective factors

Stakeholders point to the significant impact of family risk and protective factors on young people in Armadale. Stakeholders believe that many families in Armadale are experiencing stressors that impact on young people. Stressors might be financial pressures, parental conflict, work related demands, excessive working hours family conflict, violence and aggression, drugs and alcohol and child abuse and maltreatment.

The impact of family dynamics, family separation and break up is seen to be significant. Feelings of loss and grief that result from family break-ups and the family crises that can result all affect young people. Issues raised by stakeholders included assisting families to stay together, need for anger and aggression programs, youth behavioural problems that result from family break ups and the need to develop parenting skills and capacities.

Youth service providers feel the need to work more closely with families, however they lack the mandate, resources, time and expertise. There is increasing investment by governments in family support programs and family services, however these are not well integrated with youth services.

Youth Infrastructure

Stakeholders believe there is a lack of social infrastructure for young people in Armadale. Issues raised include:

- Lack of a dedicated youth space. The Armadale Youth Resources Centre Drop in Centre is located in a temporary venue and a more permanent space/place for young people in the CBD area is needed. A dedicated youth centre providing facilities, spaces, activities, programs and information is seen as a high priority.

- There is an urgent need for a youth precinct close to the train station, shops, cinemas and food.
- There are limited youth specific entertainment options in Armadale where young people can gather, meet and hang out with other young people and participate in arrange of constructive activities.
- There is a lack of post secondary education options

Other issues raised were the need for of more youth friendly places and spaces, lack of youth specific community facilities such as skate-parks, climbing walls, lack of affordable accommodation for young people and the lack of tertiary education opportunities in Armadale.

The need for a central youth hub or precinct of youth amenities, services and facilities in the CBD is identified by service providers.

The Armadale Redevelopment is seen as providing a real opportunity to improve social infrastructure and infrastructure for youth, however agency stakeholders feel that low priority is being given to social infrastructure and community and human services.

Entertainment, Recreation, and Constructive activity

Stakeholders report that the level of current recreational, entertainment and cultural opportunities, whilst it has improved in recent years, is inadequate and needs to be expanded. Issues mentioned include the lack of an-after hours youth drop in centre, the lack of youth entertainment opportunities available after hours, transport difficulties and a lack of activities in the suburbs nearer where young people live

The existence of serious disadvantage and hardship in Armadale

Stakeholders identify areas of significant financial, social and economic hardship in Armadale. Issues raised were;

- Poverty, lack of income and financial hardship
- Intergenerational disadvantage
- Financial stress and strain.

Financial disadvantage places a heavy burden on families and young people. One consequence is that many young people cannot afford to participate in social and recreational activities. Lack of money affects young people's motivation to participate.

Drug and Alcohol issues

The use of drugs and alcohol was seen as an ongoing problem affecting many young people. Underage drinking is mentioned a major concern.

A number of agency stakeholders expressed concern about the level of prescribed medication use among young people, particularly ADD and ADHD medication.

Social and community attitudes towards young people

Stakeholders were concerned about the existence of negative community attitudes towards young people. Specific issues mentioned were

- Racism towards Aboriginal youth
- Attitudes of shop owners and commercial businesses
- Attitudes of security guards at shopping centres and commercial businesses
- Lack of respect by some segments of the community for older people

- Tendency to blame young people for things

Locational issues

Stakeholders spoke about the advantages and disadvantages for young people of living in Armadale. Disadvantages were seen to be

- Distance from city
- Limited local employment opportunities
- Isolation
- Lack of infrastructure
- Lack of entertainment and recreational opportunities for young people
- Need to move away from Armadale once they have turned 18.
- Lack of bus transport from suburbs and outlying areas

Advantages of living in Armadale were seen to be:

- Environment- access to bushland
- Rail transport.

4.3 Conclusions

5. KEY DIRECTIONS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS

In this section major directions arising from the Project are identified and possible action proposed to create a more effective, inclusive and united approach and positive environment for youth development and wellbeing in Armadale.⁶ Some possible directions and actions can be implemented directly by the City of Armadale and the South Metropolitan Health Unit and its associated programs. Others might be implemented by other stakeholders, however the City of Armadale and South Metropolitan Unit could play a major role in advocating for and providing leadership, support and assistance. However, no-one agency or level of government is responsible to implement these Directions. A coordinated and unified approach is required.

⁶ The proposed Directions and action have been designed to compliment existing youth related Plans and strategies such as the City of Armadale Youth Plan 2004-2007, The City of Armadale Community Development Plan, the Armadale Redevelopment Authority's Community Development Plan. The actions proposed include current or planned strategies, as well as possible new action.

KEY DIRECTIONS

Five major Directions are proposed. The rationale for each is presented under each Direction.

DIRECTION 1: Improve social Infrastructure and services for young people

DIRECTION 2: Increase entertainment, social and recreational options for young people.

DIRECTION 3: Strengthen partnerships and service collaboration between all agencies serving youth (and their families)

DIRECTION 4: Improve youth health and wellbeing

DIRECTION 5: Increase engagement and participation of young people, particularly Aboriginal young people in community life and community institutions

DIRECTION 1: Improve social infrastructure and services for young people

Rationale: Social infrastructure (such as amenities, facilities, places, spaces and services and programs) for young people are important community assets and resources for youth development. However, there is a lack of some infrastructure for young people in the Armadale region. Specific issues highlighted in this study are;

- Lack of a dedicated youth space/centre
- Need for more youth friendly public places and spaces where young people can gather, hang out with other young people, socialise and engage in constructive activities
- Lack of youth specific community facilities such as skate-parks, climbing walls, half courts
- Need for a youth precinct close to the train station, shops, cinemas and food
- Lack of youth specific entertainment options in Armadale. With the exception of the cinema not much else is available
- Lack of affordable accommodation for young people
- Lack of post-secondary and tertiary education opportunities in Armadale.

The lack of social, community and public infrastructure in some areas and the ageing of infrastructure create difficulties in meeting youth needs.

Public space is important to young people. They use it to meet friends, socialise, interact with others and engage in constructive leisure activities. Young people often feel unwelcome, alienated and hassled in public spaces.

Many young people either choose to or find themselves having to live away from their family home. Young people often have considerable difficulty finding affordable housing. Lack of stable, affordable and appropriate housing places young people at much greater risk negative consequences.

The current affordable housing crisis in Perth hits young people hard. There is seen to be a lack of affordable housing options available for young people in the Armadale region in a number of areas including crises housing, public and social housing and the private rental market.

Young people value the public rail transport infrastructure in Armadale and future efforts to improve public transport infrastructure should ensure that young people's needs are met.

Possible Action:

- Develop a youth precinct that connects the public transport precinct with the CBD
- Lobby and advocate to the State and local government planning authorities such as the Armadale Redevelopment Authority, City of Armadale and other government and commercial agencies to plan for and provide a high level of infrastructure for young people.
- Ensure that a permanent, central, well resourced and high quality youth drop in centre is available in the CBD area where young people can hang out with other young people and participate in a variety of free and low cost social, recreational and entertainment activities. The Centre should be available after school hours, some weeknights and on weekends.
- Provide more recreational opportunities, activities and facilities to enable young people to engage in constructive activities eg. skate parks, improved parks, half courts.
- Lobby Department of Housing and Works and DCD for an increase in affordable housing stock for young people.
- Ensure the availability of high quality skateboarding facility(ies) in locations across the region that are accessible to young people
- Continue to improve facilities and venues in the region that serve young people.

DIRECTION 2: Increase entertainment, social and recreational options for young people

Rationale: Recreational, social and entertainment opportunities for young people are important because they provide the opportunity for build confidence and self esteem and socialise with other young people. Such opportunities are an important community asset through which young people learn new skills, take risks, make choices, experiment with behaviours and challenge norms.

Issues such as boredom, social isolation, lack of things to do and a lack of constructive activities can lead young people into involvement in anti-social behaviour and other risk taking behaviour.

Overall the level of social, cultural and entertainment opportunities for young people in Armadale are perceived as inadequate.

Possible Action:

- Develop programs such as the City of Swan *Access All Areas* to enable more young people to participate in constructive leisure, recreational, social and entertainment activities across Armadale.
- Increase availability of low cost entertainment, recreational, cultural, and sporting activities for young people in Armadale.
- Continue to support and promote local community groups and non-government organisations that provide low cost recreational, cultural, arts, social, educational and entertainment activities for young people.
- Develop low cost and free youth culture and arts projects across Armadale for young people eg urban art, graffiti walls, youth artwork, music and drama, concerts, entertainment.
- Continue to support and conduct major youth concerts, festivals and events and ensure that all community events in Armadale cater for and meet youth needs.
- Continue to increase the availability of low cost recreational and sporting activities, venues and facilities for youth.

DIRECTION 3: Strengthen partnerships and service collaboration between all agencies serving youth (and their families)

Rationale: For various reasons programs and services for young people tend to separate out issues and problems into compartment parts (such as education, employment, training, housing, health, income support, mental health etc), rather than deal with issues and problems in a coordinated and integrated way. Programs tend to focus on single rather than multiple risk factors

Young people require services that are better integrated to address their variety of needs. Whilst a broad range of agencies currently work with young people, integrated and collaborative responses are rare.

Many young people (and their families) require intensive and ongoing support that is not available, or is unable to be provided due to limited resources.

Support services to young people need to be integrated with family support and family assistance programs, of which there is a considerable number in Armadale. For many young people their family circumstances are often a major source or cause of their difficulties, or an important resource and asset to assist them to cope.

Possible Action:

- Facilitate a united and collaborative approach to youth development in Armadale by actively engaging key government, non-government and community stakeholders to work in a unified way to address youth issues and to ensure service gaps are addressed and young people's access to services is improved.
- Develop and distribute a Youth Directory of Services and Programs targeting young people.
- Promote and enhance existing youth networks and groups/forums to move beyond information sharing and adopt a more strategic role in youth service provision in Armadale. This would include identifying and filling gaps, building capacity and strengthening resources, developing integrated and coordinated responses to youth needs and advocating for young people to government.

- Continue to expand and support family support programs and skills development programs for parents and families and ensure they are better linked with existing youth programs and services to strengthen the capacity of families to support and assist young people.

DIRECTION 4: Improve Youth Health and Wellbeing

Rationale: For many young people poor physical, emotional and mental health is all too frequent. Young people have unique and special health needs due to their particular developmental needs, their vulnerability to life transitions and family pressures and experimentation with health compromising behaviours including sexual behaviour, experimentation with alcohol and drugs and risk taking behaviour.

Young people's health problems tend to relate to risk factors such as consumption of alcohol and drugs, poor nutrition, unsafe sexual behaviour, risk taking behaviour and issues such as mental health, family life and relationships.

Issues raised during the project were better access to youth friendly health and medical services, access to sexual health and mental health services, drug and alcohol abuse, suicide and self harm, teenage pregnancy and the needs of young mothers.

Young people want better access to youth specific health and medical services that guarantee confidentiality and are geared to their needs. However, no such service exists in the Region. Services are located in the Perth or Fremantle CBD far away from the young people who need them. The need for more youth friendly health and medical services was identified in a previous youth study completed in the Region⁷ and is consistently identified in other youth studies as a major issue for young people.

Possible Action:

- Locate health service providers, such as community health nurses in youth agencies, youth settings and schools so they can have more direct contact with young people.
- Investigate ways that health and medical service providers, such as GP's, nurses and mental health workers could be co located in or provide services at existing youth services and youth venues such as the Armadale Youth Resources Youth Drop in Centre.
- Continue to promote, support and resource school based health programs.
- Sponsor and support peer related health programs in Armadale such as PASH, alcohol and drug related programs and mental health programs.
- Lobby government and health and medical service providers for the establishment of a specialist youth health and medical service in the region, or the provision of an outreach service by an established youth health service provider such as the Quarry Health Service in Fremantle.

⁷ See the Talking Health Report

DIRECTION 5: Increase engagement and participation of young people, particularly Aboriginal young people in community life and community institutions

Rationale: Young people want to be involved in community life. Active involvement by young people in social institutions and community life improves their health and wellbeing and delivers benefit to the wider community

Overwhelmingly young people want to have a say in decisions that are made for and about them. However, there are significant gaps between what others see as key issues for young people, and what young people themselves see as important. The perspective of young people needs to be included in decision making. This requires that adults

- Value and respect young people and their opinions
- Support them in developing knowledge and decision making skills
- Create possible futures
- Ensure that their ideas are acted upon and implemented

One barrier to young people's participation and engagement is the negative attitudes of some adults, community leaders and key community authority figures. Whilst these attitudes apply to all young people, they are particularly significant in their impact on Aboriginal young people. Attitudes that reflect racism and discriminatory beliefs and attitudes are real and need to be addressed before young people will participate.

Attitudes to young people gathering in public space and public places, such as shopping centres, shops, streets and parks are often negative.

Possible Action:

- Lobby City of Armadale, Armadale Redevelopment Authority and developers to be more proactive in engaging with and listening to young people and to incorporate their views in all City and CBD planning and development.
- Actively encourage more young people, including Aboriginal young people, to participate in Council activities, such as the YAC and/or run for election to Council.
- Explore strategies and opportunities for the City of Armadale and other key agencies to engage and respond to Aboriginal young people.
- Continue to promote and strengthen the role of the Youth Advisory Council in the decision making and core business of the City of Armadale.
- Identify opportunities and community events that could benefit from more active engagement and participation by young people eg Armadale Community conference, PIAF, Minnowarra Festival Art Awards.
- Involve Aboriginal youth in NAIDOC Week celebrations.
- Develop programs and locate resources for youth engagement and participation projects and strategies. A possible example is the Photo-voice for Aboriginal youth project currently being planned by the South Metropolitan Public Health Unit.
- Continue to provide opportunities for young people to be involved in leadership, mentoring and peer support programs.
- Continue to work with DETWA, government and private schools to develop and support school based community service programs to enable young people to be more actively involved in their communities. An example is the

r.u. MAD? Project currently being planned by the by the South Metropolitan Public Health Unit.

6. CONCLUSION

Young people deserve a central place in the community and opportunities to develop all aspects of their lives. The whole community benefits when young people are involved and active participants in the communities in which they live.

This Study is the first phase of a staged approach to assist young people in Armadale to optimise their potential and wellbeing against a backdrop of adverse trends in young people's physical and psychosocial health and wellbeing. The first phase proposes a number of Directions to create a more effective, inclusive and united approach and positive environment for youth development and wellbeing in Armadale. The second phase of the Project, to be implemented in 2007, will include a number of specific youth engagement and participation projects and more detailed consultation with young people.

Participation increases with access to material resources, infrastructure, services, education and information. To increase young people's participation and engagement requires that they have access to the same level of opportunities, resources, infrastructure and amenities that are enjoyed by adults and the community as a whole. This Report has shown that additional investment in resources, infrastructure and services for young people in Armadale is required if meaningful participation and engagement is to be achieved,

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: List of Agencies, Groups and Individuals who assisted with the Project

Appendix 2: Detailed findings of Consultations with service providers

Appendix 3: Literature Review

Appendix 1: List of Agencies and Groups consulted

Representatives from the following agencies provided advice, assistance and information and/or were consulted during the Project.

Aboriginal Family Support Centre
Armadale Noongar Corporation
Armadale SHS
Armadale CAMHS (Armadale Mental Health Service)
Armadale Community Family Centre
Armadale Redevelopment Agency
Armadale Safer Communities Forum
Armadale Youth Resources
Armadale Police and Citizens Youth Club
Anglicare
Canning Division of General Practice
Cecil Andrews SHS
Centrelink
Centrecare
City of Armadale
City of Armadale Youth Advisory Council
Communicare
Communities for Children Project
Community Drug Services Team, South East Metropolitan
Corrective Services Department
Department for Community Development
Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service
Drug Arm
Employment Directions
Extra Edge Employment Services
Great Mates Youth Accommodation
Gwynne Park Primary School
Health Department of WA
John Wollaston Anglican Community School
Kelmscott SHS
Kelmscott Sporting Club
Killara Youth Service
Minnawarra House
Mercy Care Reconnect
Maamba Aboriginal Corporation
Next Step
Office of Crime Prevention
Seven Oaks College
South Metropolitan Public Health Unit
South Metropolitan Community Health
Southern River College
Southside Christian Centre
Strong Families
SEMYA
Swan TAFE
WA Department of Education & Training
WA Police Service
Waminda
Uniting Church
World Vision
Youthlink
Youth Focus
Youth Reach (South)

Appendix 2: Findings of Consultations with service providers

In this section the findings of consultations with agency stakeholders are presented. Individuals representing 50 agencies were consulted.

Agency	Number consulted
City of Armadale	2
Health Department	3
Armadale SHS	2
Cecil Andrews SHS	2
Kelmscott SHS	1
Southern Metropolitan Public Health Unit	2
John Wollaston Anglican Community School	1
Armadale Redevelopment Authority	1
Armadale Youth Resources	4
Corridors School Midland	1
Youthlink	1
Armadale Youth Advisory Council	2
Mercycare Reconnect	1
Southern River College	2
DOJ Killara Youth Service	1
CAMHS	1
Job West Youth Pathways	2
Department of Community Development	1
Armadale Safer Communities Forum	1
Youth Focus	1
Extra Edge Employment Services	1
Employment Directions	1
	1
Great Mates Youth Accommodation	1
Aboriginal Family Support Service	1
SEMYA	1
PCYC	1
Communicare	1
Maamaba Corporation	1
Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service	2
Canning Division of General Practice	1
Armadale Noongar Corporation	1
Community Drug Service team	1
Swan TAFE	1
Strong Families	1
Kelmscott Sporting Club	1
Southside Christian Centre	1
Youth Reach (south)	
Drug Arm	1
World Vision	1
WAPS (Armadale Police)	1
	1
Centrelink	1
Minnawarra House	1

The information in each table is a summary of the issues raised by stakeholders

Agency Role and Summary of Programs targeting youth

City of Armadale	<p>Support role. No service delivery.</p> <p>The City works alongside and builds relationships with local community groups and young people to develop sustainable initiatives which aim to support young people in reaching their full potential.</p> <p>The City is dedicated to providing young people with a range of opportunities to enable them to contribute to and participate more fully within their community.</p> <p>(please see City's Youth Plan for further information including a range of projects and strategies relating to Youth Development)</p>
------------------	---

Schools - Armadale SHS	No Dole program (in partnership with the Beacon Foundation) – year 10 students make a pledge to avoid going on the Dole by committing to further education and training or employment. To achieve this, students are mentored by local businesses and provided with opportunities to develop their skills and interests (more info available if need be – either Megan Farr or Rachel Richards from ASHS can assist) School Homework Program – after school program for Indigenous students to assist with study/education Industry Training Program – school based trade development School Chaplin Service – RESPECT and Live Wire Programs (contact Garry Butcher)
Cecil Andrews SHS	Range of programs for SAER (students at Educational Risk) – art based, breakfast programs, homework clubs (contact Vanessa Schneider) School Chaplin Service – Counselling and support (contact Liz Way)
Kelmscott SHS	Jull Centre – support and counselling for students – conducts a range of intervention programs School Chaplin Service – Counselling, support and tailored programs for students at risk of disengaging from school system (contact Cameron Buchannon)
John Wollaston Anglican Community School	Program for students at risk of disengaging – alternative to traditional classroom teaching style. Duke of Edinburgh Award (contact Mark Anderson)
Armadale Christian College	School Cadet Program – conduct a variety of community activities – assistance to the elderly, tree planting, volunteer First Aid (community events). Contact Ron Withnell
Armadale Youth Resources	DOJ funded, FaCS funded, National Community Crime Prevention, City of Armadale funding Activity based programs/activities Has significant relationship with Armadale SHS. High school have been very supportive Deals with 12-17 years but can respond to younger kids Primary school program- referrals through primary school for anger and aggression, in-school programs, some counselling Secondary programs- Armadale SHS cottage runs programs on site (music, protective behaviours, young women Stairways, for 12-16 at risk of truanting, based at school, youth may have contact with JJ team, may offer family counselling and mediation Outdoor Adventures/Bushcraft (city funded, transition to high schools, exercise programs, kids picked up from school in bus Music program based at school
PCYC	Police and Citizens Youth Club. Based at Armadale Arena Offers a range of sport and recreation services and activities for young people (weight lifting, basketball, netball, trampolining etc). Including Junior Rangers. Provides school holiday activities. Also conducts Bike Workshop Program (joint initiative of PCYC, City of Armadale and Armadale Youth Resources) – young people restore old bicycles under the guidance of youth workers. Contact Kaylene (Manager PCYC) for more information
Drug Arm	Non-profit organisation, funds from drug and alcohol office Offers a range of programs : -'Sobering Up' Centre - by referral, safe place to sober up Counselling service - face to face -Youth Options Program - by referral, 'workshop' for disengaged youth (truants, drug and alcohol issues, offenders. Skills based - wood work, metal work, helps create work experience, develop self esteem and motivation -'Fun without drugs' initiative - 'Dribble on the bridge day' disseminates education materials - Mobile Outreach Van – provides information, referrals and support for young people (homeless, under the influence of drugs, in need of support etc)
Southside Church	<i>Still waiting on more info</i>

	<p>Offers a range of programs for young people - broken up into different age groups, just received lotteries funding for a youth centre (Brant Ave Kelmscott)</p> <p>-Stampede Youth is a pumpin youth program for 11-14 year olds 6:30pm Wednesdays.</p> <p>-Southside Young Adults runs every Friday night from 7.45pm - 10pm</p> <p>Annual 'SlingShot' festival at the Armadale Aquatic Centre as well as a variety of concerts and events throughout the year. Contact Dave Reardon for more information 9390 7688</p>
Great Mates	<p>Short term Crisis accommodation - for homeless young people 15-20 years</p> <p>Runs activities with youth to re-engage youth into community</p>
Minnawarra house	<p>Has offered some services on family separation. Issues to do with agency accommodation</p>
Jobs West Youth Pathways	<p>Offer services, advice and supports for young people in transition through school and to further education, training or employment. Deals with personal and educational issues</p>
Mercy Reconnect	<p>12-18 year olds. Funder dictates the length of time service can be provided</p>
Youthlink	<p>Deal with at risk young people and mental health issues, has links with city based service, has 2 Indigenous workers</p>
Youth Reach South	<p>Works through youth link, with youth at risk of homelessness, self harming, transient, 13-25 years, ' mental health risk'</p>
Killara	<p>Works with youth who have had contact with JJ system, issues of violence, more and more demand on service; referral to other agencies</p>
Next Step	<p>- not sure if they directly service Armadale youth ?</p>
PSP service	<p>Peer support program funded by DEWR (Mission Australia, Mercy, Jobs West) focused on 16-18 year olds with significant barriers to employment</p>
Communicare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not really youth centered <p>Broker for Commonwealth Communities for Children Program- consultation and program development. local NGO's involved in service provision for 0-8 year olds. Program focus on healthy families, early learning and development, creating child friendly communities, supporting families and parenting. Contact Jo Lane</p>
Stronger Families and Communities strategy	<p>see Communicare above</p>
SEMYA	<p>Assist youth towards an independent and sustainable future</p> <p>Youth Initiatives Program - (3-weeks) 15-25 years, unemployed or considering not returning to school</p> <p>Job Placement Education and Training - removes barriers to obtaining employment and training for young people who are homeless,</p> <p>First Clicks - basis computer skills to young people</p>
Seven Oaks College	<p>Fast Track program</p>
JPET	<p>Working with homeless youth</p>
DCD YFEWS	<p>3 Officers in DCD Armadale office who work with young people who frequent Northbridge and their families, particularly Aboriginal youth</p> <p>YFEW's develop programs and activities for youth, including, after hours initiatives</p>
DCD Hype	<p>Don't have a program in Armadale but there is a program in Thornlie.</p> <p>HYPE tends to follow consumer complaints and so far there has not been a major problem in Armadale</p>
DCD programs	<p>Capacity Builder, Aboriginal support workers work with aboriginal youth</p>
DCD Education Officers	<p>Joy Cohen</p>
Children of people with mental illness project	<p>Armadale pilot is being developed by Armadale Mental Health service (Janice Glasson)</p>
ADVIV	<p>Domestic violence programs based at Gosnells Lottery House (Kerry Wag)</p>
CBD Connect	<p>Armadale CBD Connect has been developed by the Community Development department in response to a number of residents and business owners expressing their</p>

	<p>concern about anti-social behaviour occurring on a regular basis in the Armadale CBD.</p> <p>The project will comprise a Police Officer and Community Support Worker who will work together to build a rapport with community members accessing the Armadale CBD area. This includes identifying issues behind anti social behaviour, addressing such behaviour by referring individuals to the appropriate services and working with the community to develop projects and activities. It is not a patrol service, rather a community liaison service with community development, community safety and crime prevention objectives. The project will be culturally inclusive in terms of having a focus on both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the community. This supports the appointment of an Aboriginal person to serve in either role of Police Officer or Community Support Worker.</p> <p>Not yet implemented. Pending funding and appointment of a Police Officer to the program (please don't include in report until approved)</p>
Armadale Safer Communities Forum	ICCWA (Injury Control Council WA). Conducted a safety audit on Armadale – consulted with various members of the community for their perceptions of risk and safety in Armadale. Contact from ICCWA – Sophie Rowell. Contact from City of Armadale – Rebekah Milnes
Triple P Early Intervention program	Group based program run by community health nurses for parents to develop parenting skills and strengthen parenting capacity
Youth on the Rails Program	<p>Collaborative research project involving the Planning and Transport Research Centre (PATREC), Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, the Public Transport Authority, the Office of Crime Prevention and representatives from the City of Armadale and various local community organisations.</p> <p>The purpose of the 'Youth on the Rails' project is to design, develop and evaluate more constructive responses when young people gather in and around rail stations and their environs. Kelmscott Station has been selected as one of the stations where there is a relatively high rate of incidents involving young people</p>
Stronger Families	Interagency program based in Armadale and Cannington to bring agencies together to work with at risk families and young people. Coordinator recently appointed to serve Armadale
Youth Focus	Provides services and support youth 12-18 years, early signs of suicide or self harm' prevention and early intervention eg bullying; provides counselling, outreach service, workshops, training
Employment Directions - Armadale	Not all youth focused 2006 - focus on 'youth enterprise' Conducts workshops at schools, advises on career directions, resumes Indigenous focus
Responsible Parenting Initiative	Office of Crime Prevention initiative
Rainbows Program	Community health nurses and school based nurses working with children and young people experiencing grief and loss
CREATE	DCD is working to get the Armadale agency re children in care Aim to empower young people and take them 'out of risk'
Armadale Libraries Finding My Place project	<p>Pilot program for at-risk students from Cecil Andrews SHS (Westfield Library). Series of workshops for secondary school students who can benefit from an alternative learning experience. Aims to retain students in education by showing them how exciting learning can be. Explore careers in art, music, sports, fitness, make up and apprenticeships. Also focuses on health and wellbeing. Contact Westfield/Kelmscott library.</p> <p>Dept of Education initiative (funded and developed by DET)</p>
DIMIA	DIMIA are dropping refugees in Gosnells and Armadale
Waminda	Primarily a HAC service. Also accommodates the City of Armadale's Koorlanga Mia (mother child) program (federally funded) and provides a venue for the Program Coordinator

Armadale Community Family Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not really youth focused <p>Referral service, part funding from DCD, drop in, kids clubs Neighbourhood house - activities, holiday programs</p>
Parents Empowering Parents program (PEP)	<p>Support activities for local parents who aren't currently engaging with services Provides Info sessions Hard to access services, issues that arise, encouraging access, info early child Support playgroup, info sessions, fun interactive services 'Peer support inclusion model' 'Mums matter' - socially isolated, dev probs, ethnicity - referrals from agencies, publicly advertising</p>
Communities for Children	<p>eilleen hand - forrest rd 'the gowrie', data information services family and children (part of the Communities for Children funded programs)</p>
SAAP providers	<p>Parkerville, Centrecare, Anglicare are providers for youth who live in Armadale. Discussions are beginning to take place re the establishment of a facility in Armadale. SAAP services are expensive, as they are individually designed beds</p>
Swan Tafe - Armadale	<p>Range of courses offered to people in the community - business, children's services, community services work, certificate in teacher assistant. Contact Joe Kilbane</p>
Armadale Noongar Corporation/World Vision	<p>Conducts a number of programs for Indigenous youth (young women's and young men's groups). Property in Bedforddale. School holiday activities, training programs (links with DCD – Leon Harp)</p>

Key issues facing/impacting on young people in Armadale

Financial hardship and structural disadvantage	<p>Considerable financial pressure on families, Families have little spare money to spend of activities/programs, fitness and recreation not high on agenda, lack of money affects the motivation to participate, demands of children make it difficult for families with few financial resources, entrenched poverty and disadvantage, many families doing it tough</p>
Complexity and severity of youth problems and needs	<p>Youth needs are far more complex and severe Many workers have limited time to build a relationship with young people Interconnected issues difficult to respond to Mental health and substance abuse, abuse, learning disorders and disabilities Anger, aggression and violence on the increase Agencies don't have the resources and capacity to respond These require joined up approaches but agencies are not good at that "schools are drowning"</p>
Families with complex and high needs	<p>Families face multiple disadvantage- poverty, violence, poor housing, health problems, education</p>
Lack of activities, amenities and facilities for young people	<p>Still alack of amenities, facilities and spaces for young people</p>
Family separation	<p>Feeling of loss and grief that result, family break-ups, families in crises compounds financial hardships, need to assist families to stay together, anger and aggression and behavioural problems that result from family break ups, parenting g skills and capacities</p>
Public space issues	<p>Need youth precinct, older kids more of a problem, closure of youth centre, lack of concern of business for youth, loss of space at the shopping centre,</p>
Alcohol and drug problems	<p>Easy availability of alcohol, binge drinking, use of illegal drugs Parents perception of alcohol use - less of a problem than drugs, unaware of dangers, restrictions, underage drinking Indigenous youth - solvent sniffing</p>

Racism	Attitudes towards Aboriginal youth in shops and shopping centre, security staff over vigilant towards Aboriginal youth
Medicated young people	ADHD medication
Consumer pressures	" we are such a consumer society they are driven by everyone having consumer preferences but they don't have the money out here"
Unemployment	"They were born here, went to school here, left school and are now unemployed here"
Geographical Location	"We are at the end of the train line" Problems of Urban/rural fringe- lack of services, lack of infrastructure, transport, distances from places
Crime and anti-social behaviour	Perceptions of crime, perceptions about indigenous youth, perceptions about train line, things that happen here are often a consequence of conflict further down the train line, aggression and violence, very young children involved in alarming behaviours, increasing risk factors
Lack of services/service gaps	Services may not be where young people are, lack of services in some areas Few alternative education programs for young people not coping in mainstream schools. Armadale kids attend Midland (Corridors),Lack of access to mental health services
Housing and homelessness	Young people figure prominently in short term and long term SAAP accommodation, not enough beds. Still a lack of affordable quality accommodation in both private rental and public rental market
Intergenerational problems	Many problems are inter-generational- poverty, disadvantage, violence, unemployment
Young mothers	There is some concern about young mothers in Armadale, lack of education for pregnant teenagers and young mums
Young people in care	DCD responsibility, youth may be in DCD care, family, foster care, residential care

Action to improve youth health and wellbeing

Youth facilities and spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need one stop shop/place for young people- facilities, centre, spaces, programs and information and services (Centrelink, YLS, JPET) to cater for school aged and non school aged youth Develop Youth precinct
Employment	More local employment for young people in Armadale
Free low cost activities	More low cost and free youth activities, entertainment and things to do in Armadale
Armadale Redevelopment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is an opportunity to involve young people more, expand cultural development and activities, redevelopment needs to have a stronger social focus. Redevelopment is giving lower priority to community centres and community agencies
Education/schools	Continue to expand and improve alternative education programs for students Programs in school and external to school for students who are at educational risk "Full service" schools concept Programs for young parents and pregnant teengaes
Involvement of community agencies and resources and facilities for community agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many community agencies lack appropriate accommodation or have lost accommodation and venues eg Orchard House, Minnowara House, Drug Arm, Communities for Children: Lack of engagement and consultation of community agencies by City and Redevelopment authority and business
Post secondary Education and Training	Young people have to go elsewhere for post secondary education eg Universities, Thornlie TAFE
Transport	Buses not great
Shopping centre protocol	Make new shopping centre more youth friendly and welcoming for all young people
Youth health services	Need to improve youth medical and health services eg programs/services for mental health and wellbeing as distinct from mental illness, alcohol and drugs,

	GP's, sexual health. See report by Division of General Practice
Parent education	Alcohol education - on harm reduction, consumption targeted at parents, Accessibility of alcohol,
Prevention programs	Focusing on attitudes towards teen pregnancies, access to services once pregnant.
Attitudes towards young people	Community attitudes towards aboriginal young people Negative attitudes from some traders and businesses

Strategies to involve youth

Regular youth speak out forums	Hold and convene regular (annual) forums on specific issues involving youth So as to provide with formal opportunities to speak out on issues affecting young people
Arts and culture programs	Provide more opportunities for youth artistic and cultural expression eg music, dance, photo-voice
YAC	Strengthen and support Armadale YAC to involve more young people
Redevelopment Authority	Ensure that the Redevelopment authority has adequate structures in place to involve youth in the redevelopment process and decisions
Youth Parliament	Encourage and support youth to participate in such initiatives
Youth Leadership programs	Develop and support youth leadership programs eg Office of Children and Youth
Youth mentor and peer type programs	Look at setting up youth mentoring and youth led and run peer programs eg PASH
Community Participation	Provide further opportunities to encourage young people to engage with their community eg community service programs in schools
Involvement in local government activities	More effort by LGA to involve young people in local planning and decision making
Involvement in decision making	Involvement in planning by government, non-government and business agencies
Opportunities for Aboriginal youth	Provide opportunities to involve and engage Aboriginal young people

What would assist your agency?

Resources and Funding	Need to be increased resources need to be invested in community agencies serving youth- by Developers, City of Armadale, Armadale Redevelopment Authority, DCD funding in adequate
Agency workloads	All agencies working with young people are overloaded
Interagency, joined up working	Agencies working better together
Service Coordination and Integration	Need for more coordinated planning and policy to do with young people's needs in Armadale Better integration and coordination of existing services. There are many services in Armadale but often agencies and young people are not aware of these
Support and resources to deal with complexity of young people's needs	More resources and specialist agencies able to assist agencies deal with the complexity of young people's needs
Consultation and recognition	Major players in the City including City of Armadale, developers, chambers of commerce and business, Armadale Redevelopment Authority and State government agencies to recognise the critical role played by 'civil society' agencies and ensure they are adequately consulted and involved.

Appendix 3: Literature Review

References :

- Armadale Redevelopment Authority, 2005. *Community Development Strategy 2005*.
- Armadale Redevelopment Authority, 2005. *Demographic Profile Report Paper 2, Community Development Strategy 2005*.
- Blair, E.M, Zubrick, S, R & Cox, A, H, 2005. The Western Australian Aboriginal Child Health survey: Findings to date on adolescents, *Medical Journal of Australia*, 2005, 183(8): 433-435 ww.mja.com.au accessed 25/3/06.
- Brotherhood of St Laurence, 2006. *The Brotherhood's Social Barometer: Challenges facing Australian Youth*.
- Burt, M. 2002. Reasons to invest in Adolescents. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 2002, vol 31.
- City of Armadale, 2004. *Youth Plan 2004-2007: The City's Commitment to Youth*.
- City of Armadale, 2005. *Armadale Community Safety Plan 2005-2010*.
- Department of Health, 2006. *Estimates of lifestyle and behavioural factors for Armadale, WA Health & Wellbeing Surveillance System*, Epidemiology Branch, Department of Health, Perth.
- Department of Indigenous Affairs, 2005. *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage in Western Australia*, Department of Indigenous Affairs, Perth WA.
- Fergus, S., Zimmerman, M. 2005. Adolescent Resilience : A framework for understanding healthy development in the face of risk. *Annual Review Public Health*.
- Ferrante, A., 2005. *The Extent of the Challenge: Youth Offending and Re-Offending in Western Australia*, Presentation to the Youth at Risk Forum, Balga High School, November 2005.
- Ferrante.,A, Loh, N, & Maller, M (2004). *Pathways through Justice: A Statistical Analysis of Offender Contact with the WA Juvenile Justice System*, Final Report, Crime Research Centre, University of Western Australia, Perth.
- Gray, J & Beresford, Q, 2001 *Alienation from School among Aboriginal Students*, Edith Cowan University and Swan Education District, Department of Education, Perth.
- Goddard, D, 2005. *Pathways to Engagement: The Strategic Action Framework: Systemic Change to achieve Collaboration*, unpublished paper, Simpson Norris International.
- Homel, P. 2006. As if children mattered... *Lecture to Brisbane Ideas Festival*, Sunday April 2, 2006, Griffith University
- Homel, P. 2006. Open Doors or Prison Walls. *Griffith Review*, Edition 11, Getting Smart: the battle for Ideas in Education.

Lamb, C, Homel, R, Freiberg, K, 2005. *Crime Prevention Begins with Children and Families: Establishing the Family Support Component of the Pathways to Prevention Project in Brisbane*, Conference Paper presented at Delivering Crime Prevention: Making the Evidence Work, Australian Institute of Criminology.

Lamb, S., Walstab, A., Teese, R., Vickers, M., Rumberger, R., 2004 *Staying on at School: Improving Student Retention in Australia*. Report prepared for the Queensland Department of Education and the Arts.

Patterson, J. 2001. The concept of youth development: A review of literature from the United States of America. *Aus Youth*, Adelaide.

Patton, G. 1999. *The scope for youth health development - A briefing paper for the national public health partnership*. Centre for Adolescent Health.

Rayment, C, (date unknown), Pathways to Prevention: An Examination of Risk Factors, School of Justice Studies, Queensland University of Technology.

Rew, L., Horner, S., 2003. Youth resilience framework for reducing health-risk behaviours in adolescents. *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, Vol 18.

Richardson, N., Smart, D., Vassallo, S & Sanson, A, 2006 The role of environmental characteristics in changing the pathways to adolescent anti-social behaviour of high and low risk children, powerpoint presentation www.aifs.gov.au/atp

Simons, R, & Elderfield, J, 2005. *The Swan Nyungar Sports Education Program: Best Practice Strategies used by Staff in Building Respectful Relationships*, Paper presented to the Australian Social Policy Conference, 2005

Smart, D., Richardson, N, Sanson, A et al 2005. *Patterns and Precursors of Adolescent Anti-Social Behaviour*, Australian Institute of Family Studies, Australian Temperament project and Crime Prevention Victoria.

Smart, D., Vassallo, S, Sanson, A, and Dussuyer, I, 2004. *Patterns of Antisocial Behaviour from Early to Late Adolescence, Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*, Australian Institute of Criminology.

Strelein, A, 2005. *Engagement to develop Programs vs Programs to develop Engagement: Community Development with Young people*, Unpublished paper provided by the Author, City of Swan.

Toumbourou, J., Patton, G., Sawyer, S. 2000. *Evidence-based interventions for promoting adolescent health*. Centre for Adolescent Health. Victoria, Australia.

Tresidder, J., 2003. *Binge Drinking and related risk factors amongst out of school 16 year olds in NSW*, PhD Thesis, School of Public Health, University Sydney

Youth Affairs Council of Victoria, 2005. *Snapshots from the Edge: Young people and Service providers on the urban fringe of Melbourne*

Vassallo, S., Smart, D., Sanson, A., Dussuyer, D., McKendry, B., Toumbourou, J., Prior, M., & Oberklaid, F., 2002 *Patterns and Precursors of Adolescent Antisocial Behaviour*, Report prepared for Crime Prevention Victoria and Australian Institute of Family Studies

Zubrick, Sr, Silburn, SR et al 2006. *The Western Australian Aboriginal Child Health Survey: Improving the Educational experiences of Aboriginal Children and Youth*,

Perth, Curtin University of Technology and Telethon Institute for Child Health Research.

Glossary & Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
CALD	Culturally and linguistically diverse
CBD	Central Business District
LGA	Local Government Authority
OSIV	Office for Seniors Interests and Volunteering
STI	Sexually Transmissible Infection
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
WHO	World Health Organisation