

Childrens Committee - Richmond Valley Council submission, C310.00

From: "John Hession" <john.hession@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au>

Hello Pru. With reference to the above please accept Council's submission, in summary point form below.

It is hard to retain young people in rural areas as they are unable to get jobs with a high unemployment rate in the general population and very few post-school educational facilities near by.

- Council is beginning to notice a trend for families to move to the more rural areas (out of the towns). Families who can afford it are making the "Tree Change" this then requires better school bus routes, bus shelters and roads in rural areas where there was not such a high demand before. This adds a financial burden to Council.
- Parents seem to want better entertainment options for young people (i.e. complex playgrounds) at a time when council is needing to remove playground equipment because it does not meet Australian standards, this places a high burden on
- Sporting groups and other organisations set up for young people are having trouble with insurance, public liability and other issues, which means that the adult volunteer base that maintains this organisation is falling (this is also due to changing work hours and conditions).
- As the population ages the push from Federal and State government is to plan for an aged population, often this is done at the expense of planning for children.
- There is a big demand for more flexible childcare arrangements in our area and this need is hard to meet, this put more pressure on grandparents etc to take primary responsibility in raising grandchildren.

Regards,

John Hession
A/Manager Development Assessment
Richmond Valley Council