

Submission

No 63

INQUIRY INTO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 9-14 YEARS IN NSW

Organisation: Lachlan Shire Council
Name: Ms Kylie Brennan
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Dear Committee Manager

Kids Bizz After School Care and Vacation Care is an accredited service through the NCAC. We are sponsored by Lachlan Shire Council and operate in a rural community in NSW. Our service cater for children aged 5 to 12 years of age. We currently have 25 children enrolled in our service who are 9 – 12 years of age.

One big concern for our service is that once children are turning 12 years of age there are no services available to these children. Parents comment that their children are too young to be left at home and too young to attend youth services. Our service has been accepting children age 12 years or children who have not attended high school but we are finding that the mixture of children 10 to 12 and 5-9 years is very difficult to manage as these age group are at different stages of development.

We are also finding that once the children turn 10 their attendance decreases as the children feel they are too old for Kids Bizz. Parents comment that their children are too old as there is such a mixture of age groups. Once they turn 11 or 12 they stop attending all together.

We will accept children after they attend high school but it is in exceptional circumstances such as children at risk. I feel the issue of no services available in our community for these children age 11 -13 years needs to be reviewed and the committee should consider funding a new service for these children.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns for these children and if you require any further information please don't hesitate to contact me on the details below.

Regards

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