

**Submission
No 12**

COMMUNITY SAFETY IN REGIONAL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

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Well-funded wrap-around services play a crucial role in addressing the drivers of youth crime in rural New South Wales (NSW).

1. **Comprehensive Support:** Wrap-around services provide holistic support to young people by addressing multiple aspects of their lives, including education, employment, housing, mental health, substance abuse, family dynamics, and community connections. This comprehensive approach acknowledges that youth crime often stems from complex and interconnected factors.
2. **Early Intervention:** By identifying at-risk youth and providing support early on, wrap-around services can intervene before minor issues escalate into criminal behaviour. Early intervention is key to preventing youth from becoming involved in the criminal justice system and breaking the cycle of offending.
3. **Addressing Root Causes:** Wrap-around services aim to address the underlying root causes of youth crime, such as poverty, unemployment, family dysfunction, trauma, substance abuse, and lack of education or opportunities. By tackling these root causes, they help address the conditions that contribute to criminal behaviour in the first place.
4. **Tailored Support:** Wrap-around services are tailored to meet the unique needs of each young person, considering their individual circumstances, strengths, and challenges. This personalised approach ensures that interventions are effective and relevant to the specific needs of the individual, increasing the likelihood of success.
5. **Building Resilience and Protective Factors:** Wrap-around services help build resilience and strengthen protective factors that buffer against involvement in crime. This includes fostering positive relationships, promoting social skills, enhancing coping mechanisms, and providing opportunities for positive engagement and skill development.
6. **Promoting Positive Pathways:** Well-funded wrap-around services offer young people opportunities to engage in positive activities, education, training, employment, and community involvement. By providing alternative pathways and positive outlets for their energy and aspirations, they steer youth away from criminal behaviour and towards constructive futures.
7. **Collaborative Approach:** Wrap-around services involve collaboration among various stakeholders, including government agencies, community organisations, schools, law enforcement, health services, and families. This collaborative approach ensures that young people receive coordinated support and that resources are effectively leveraged to address their needs.
8. **Preventing Recidivism:** Wrap-around services aim to reduce the likelihood of reoffending by addressing the underlying issues that contribute to criminal behaviour. By providing ongoing support and follow-up services, they help young people successfully reintegrate into their communities and avoid further involvement in the justice system.
9. **Community Safety:** Investing in wrap-around services contributes to community safety by addressing the factors that drive youth crime. By supporting young people to lead productive, law-abiding lives, these services contribute to the overall well-being and cohesion of rural communities in NSW.

In summary, well-funded wrap-around services are essential for addressing the drivers of youth crime in rural NSW by providing comprehensive support, early intervention, addressing root causes, tailored interventions, building resilience, promoting positive pathways, adopting a collaborative approach, preventing recidivism, and enhancing community safety. Ensuring services are adequately resourced and population benchmarks should be in place to allow for the increase in series as the populations grows as a part of funding and resource delivery criteria.