

**Submission
No 48**

COMMUNITY SAFETY IN REGIONAL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

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What would work best is a combination of care, discipline, educational and employment measures. We have to do more than simply set limits by imposing penalties on young people who have committed a crime. It is also important to offer young people the prospect of work or alternative education programs.

The Community Development Employment Project scheme (CDEP) provided an alternative to unemployment and social security benefits. The CDEP scheme allowed many Aboriginal people to work on projects within their communities rather than passively receive social security benefits. It wasn't a perfect scheme, but the benefits were many and provided at least two days doing something they felt valued for and if they were users of alcohol or drugs, they were free of those substances for at least those days they were working.

- Perhaps a program like CDEP for disengaged youth.

What do we need?

- sport & Recreation program young people driven sports eg. basketball courts,
- youth lounge (coffee house) drop-in centres.

Which provides young people with real life activities: -

including centralised real-life skills eg. community courses in resume writing, interview techniques, public speaking, art & craft, barrister courses, music and theatre classes, sexual health programs, social media education, crisis support and healthy relationships etc.

Programs in community to help prevent and/or support young people while engaging in dangerous or risky behaviours.

- Motocross track and training program – to counteract unlicensed, dangerous motor bike riding by youths in Armidale.
- State violence coordinators – to coordinate anti-violence programs and to assist with youth ADVO's & AVO's – school-based violence coordinators.
- Community based programs – by asking youth what they want!
- Sentenced to intervention centres based in community not youth detention centres.
- Stricter supervision of young offenders - by youth services, youth justice., etc.
- Firmer sentences that come from a community based alternative sentencing program – that offers discipline (in place of punishment) and encourages young people to speak about why they do what they do or what contributes to their offending.