

28 April 2005

Mr N Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 24 February 2005, forwarding a copy of Petition Number 424-05, concerning the lack of youth facilities in the Yeppoon and Emu Park areas on the Capricorn Coast.

The department provides funding on a recurrent triennial basis to the Livingstone Shire Council to provide a youth development service. This service operates out of the Community Development and Support Service located at 40 James Street, Yeppoon. The service coordinates and runs workshops and other youth activities, provides information, referral and advice to young people and facilitates the development of youth networks in the shire.

In addition, the department funds two Youth Support Coordinators who provide an outreach service to Livingstone shire. One, auspiced by the Capricorn Training Company provides support to young people at private schools, the other Coordinator is auspiced by the Darumbal Community Youth Service and provides services to students of the Yeppoon State High School.

Youth Support Coordinators work with young people at risk of disengaging or already disengaged from education, training or employment. They provide support and referrals for individual young people and their families. The program assists young people to develop social and personal skills for successful community living.

The department recurrently funds four Outside School Hours Care programs in Livingstone shire. Sacred Hearts Primary and Preschool in Yeppoon is funded to support the provision of outside school hours' care. Capcare Association located at the Yeppoon State School is funded to support the provision of outside school hours' care and vacation care. Emu Park Parents and Citizens association is funded to provide outside school hours' care, vacation care and pupil-free day care services from the Emu Park State School. The Caves After School Hours Care program is funded and operates an after school hours' care service from The Caves State School.

Officers from my department acknowledge the contribution of the Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association statewide and support the potential establishment of a Centre in the Yeppoon area.

Yours sincerely

Henry Palaszczuk MP
Acting Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors