



YOUTH ADVOCATE PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

The Youth Advocate Program (YAP) originated in Pennsylvania, United States in 1975 as a family support initiative for juvenile offenders returning to their community after spending time in correctional institutions. Today YAP Inc. is one of the largest non-profit agencies in the United States working with high-risk youth and their families across the globe.

Life Without Barriers commenced YAP in Sydney in 2014, with a focus on assisting young people make a successful transition from Out of Home Care (OOHC) to leading successful lives in their communities.

BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Relationships are developed around the needs and aspirations of each young person. Advocates work intensively with the young person for six to nine months by applying a strengths-based approach to wrap around positive community relationships, increase connections with existing supports and enhance independent living skills.

Building and identifying family and community supports is a key factor in safe transitions and integration within the community. YAP's approach allows each young person to safely problem solve with their advocate whilst working towards their goals and aspirations. The result - increased selfregulation, self-efficacy and resiliency which will stay with the young person long after they graduate from the program.

PRINCIPLES OF YAP

- Individualised Service Planning
- Community Based Care
- Partnering with Families
- Strengths Based Work
- Wraparound Approach
- Cultural Competence
- Unconditional Caring
- Giving Back
- Team Work
- Corporate & Clinical Integrity
- Family Empowerment





YAP PROGRAM DETAILS

PROGRAM

The plan is tailored to each youth and family's unique needs, strengths, wants and interests in transitioning from OOHC, living with a disability and individuals that would benefit from YAP.

THE YOUTH ADVOCATE

The Youth Advocate will undertake 15 hours of face to face contact per week which is dedicated to the young person. The Youth Advocate will work with the young person for a period of 6-9 months or as negotiated through their NDIS plans. This may also include support for family members or significant people in their life.

LOCATION

The Youth Advocate Program is delivered across the Sydney Area. Regular face to face meetings will be held at a location determined by the needs of young person e.g. at home or in the community.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants will be young people aged between 12 – 25 who are transitioning into semi-independent/independent living or being restored to their natural family.

REFERRALS

There are three referral streams for participants:

1. Young people who are leaving care within 6 months who want to move into semi-independent or independent living;
2. Young people that are self-placed or being restored to their natural family
3. Young people referred to YAP by an external party

YAP VOICES



“YAP has been great in helping me achieve my goals by providing me with the extra support that I need, whenever I need it”

“Having a Youth advocate is that extra support I needed to stay on track, tick off my short term goals and achieve the bigger picture”