



# Port Augusta Community Outreach

## Information Update March 2024

*The Department of Human Services (DHS) have been leading a coordinated service response to address high risk behaviour in Port Augusta. Key responses include Return to Community, Assertive Outreach and a focused Youth Response.*

This update is an opportunity to share the initiatives taking place in community since the December 2003 communication to services.

### DHS vacancies advertised for Port Augusta

#### **Youth Outreach workers OPS3 (casual, multiple positions) Applications close 14 March 2024**

The Youth Outreach program is currently advertising for additional Youth Outreach workers to support the team and contribute to the work they are doing with young people in community.

To view the job description and apply, please visit the I Work for SA website via this link

[Youth Outreach Worker \(iworkfor.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.iworkfor.sa.gov.au).

For more information contact Kayleen Patterson on 0467 248 065 or via email at

[Kayleen.patterson2@sa.gov.au](mailto:Kayleen.patterson2@sa.gov.au)

#### **Executive Officer (ASO8), Port Augusta Community Leadership Group (Short term contract up to 20/09/2024):**

DHS is currently recruiting for an **Executive Officer** to support the establishment of the Community Governance to oversee the Port Augusta Safety and Wellbeing Plan. They will be responsible executive coordination, communication and professional support to the Port Augusta Community Leadership Group, including managing a diverse range of critical issues, services and projects relating to key strategic objectives as per the Safety and Wellbeing plan.

To view the job description and apply, please visit the I Work for SA website via this link

[Executive Officer, Port Augusta Community Leadership Group \(iworkfor.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.iworkfor.sa.gov.au)

For more information contact Jacky Costanzo on 0467 723 492 or via email at

[jacqueline.costanzo@sa.gov.au](mailto:jacqueline.costanzo@sa.gov.au)

**Port Augusta Outreach**

DHS is continuing to work with Pt Augusta City Council, State and Federal Governments, and local service providers to ensure plans are in place to support services beyond the initial summer month support surge.

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of community members in and around Port Augusta, the following strategies were put in place from December 2023 over the summer period.

They include:

1. An active Return to Community response to support people who are stuck in Port Augusta to get home to their communities, including Salvation Army providing a place where people can wait for the bus and support getting to the bus.
2. The Stepping Stones Day Centre remains open on Saturday and Sunday 7:30am-3:30pm, providing breakfast and lunch and a place for people to connect with each other and services. This is addition to their current opening hours Monday to Friday 7:30am-3:30pm
3. The Mobile Assistance Program (MAP) will continue to operate from 12:00 pm – 12:00 am, to provide transport for people at risk to safe places.
4. The newly established youth outreach in Port Augusta and Davenport operates from Tuesday to Friday 4:00 pm to 8 :00 pm and Sat 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm. (*More information on service below*).
5. The Port Augusta Youth Centre hours is open as follows
  - a. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm,
  - b. Friday and Saturday 6:00 pm to 10:30 pm, and
6. An increase in the Salvation Army Youth Bus hours during the school term as follows
  - a. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 7pm-10pm
  - b. Friday and Saturday: 7pm - 3am
7. The assertive outreach operates for an extra four hours to 8:00 am - 7:30 pm and Saturday and Sunday 9:00 am -5:00 pm.
8. Service providers continue to meet twice a week around coordination of services and monitoring high risk individual and areas.

These services will continue in this capacity through to June 2024 to ensure support is provided to strengthening existing services to be flexible and responsive

### **Return to Community**

An assertive Return to Community (RTC) response has supported 367 people (including minors) from October 2023 to 8 March 2024, to return to their home community from Port Augusta when they otherwise would not have been able to.

The Port Augusta Day Centre has played a significant role in supporting the community to access this service and continues to work closely with DHS to distribute tickets and collect information. DHS has moved to a Centre-pay arrangement which will require travellers to make a financial contribution of 30% towards their bus ticket.

The Salvation Army are now supporting RTC travellers between 3pm and 11pm to safely make their way to the bus in the evenings, to avoid the risk of people missing their bus, and provide a culturally safe place for people to wait rather than overcrowd a tenancy.

To create a sustainable service that DHS can continue to resource, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday have been designated RTC days. Only in exceptional circumstances can tickets be booked outside of these times.

For more information on the RTC program, contact **0418 104 845**.

### **Youth Response**

DHS has provided additional funding to youth programs to increase their operation and support for young people in the community, this funding includes:

- Increasing the Port Augusta Youth Centre Hours, as noted above.
- Increasing the Youth Bus hours, as noted above.

**The Youth Outreach Service** continues to operate from Tuesday to Friday, 4pm to 8pm and Saturday, 4pm to 10pm. The program aims to divert young people from high-risk behaviours through increased recreation activities, ongoing outreach service at the Port Augusta Youth Centre, and a Youth Outreach Service – a roving team dedicated to providing support for young people who may be at risk.

Since the Program's introduction, a range of recreation activities has been supported, including skateboarding workshops, parkour workshops, barbeque events, family days and the continued access to the outreach service at the Youth Centre.

Recently the Youth Outreach team visited the Ceduna Youth Centre to discuss challenges and opportunities shared across the two regions. They joined staff from the Port Augusta Youth Centre, as an opportunity to collaborate with services and strengthen capacity through learning.

For more information on the Port Augusta Youth Outreach program, phone 0467 248 065 or email Kayleen Patterson, Youth Outreach Coordinator at [Kayleen.patterson2@sa.gov.au](mailto:Kayleen.patterson2@sa.gov.au).

**The Supporting Youth Collective** was established in early 2023 and is made up of youth service providers dedicated to strengthening their approach of working together and create innovative opportunities for young people in Port Augusta. The Supporting Youth Collective members aim to see young people in Port Augusta thrive, by being positively engaged in community, culture and self.

Over 12 agencies meet fortnightly to discuss events and services delivery in Port Augusta. The meetings are a space share events and significant activities run by individual organisations and to evaluate learnings and insights from individual organisations. The group aims to break down service delivery silos by building collaborative relationships across organisations to deliver better programs for young people. A recent focus of the group has been to deliver a program of activities for Youth Week, 15-24 March 2024.

**Community Leadership Group and Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan**

Following community workshops in May, June and August, a high-level Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan, and a community governance model are in the process of being finalised.

This Plan was drawn from business and community leaders, Aboriginal leaders, young people and service providers, supported by DHS, SAPOL and the Commonwealth Government through the NIAA. It sets out the community's vision for the region, as well as broad safety and wellbeing focus areas. The three key areas for action are Community Caring, Community Safety and Partnership.

The proposed plan will include a governance model, with representatives from community, young people, service providers and businesses , as well as Local, State government (DHS and SAPOL) and Commonwealth governments. The governance Group will work closely with the State Government's Safety and Wellbeing Taskforce to progress the community's Plan.

**Contacts**

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Youth Outreach	0467 248 065
Return to Country	0418 104 845