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Regional Social Development Coalition (RSDC) is pleased to introduce you to Kelly McGrath, the Research Project Officer for the Unmet Needs of Youth research project.

RSDC is an organisation that undertakes regional community and social development across the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday regions. The organisation addresses the concerns and needs of the region via collaborative planning, social infrastructure development and advocacy.

RSDC is undertaking a research project to understand the unmet needs of young people aged 12-25 in the Mackay region, particularly those who are at-risk of, or are currently experiencing, disadvantage, marginalisation and disengagement. RSDC has received funding from the Mackay Community Foundation, Kalyan Youth Services and Hail Creek Mine to conduct this research. The aim of this research is to collaboratively identify and analyse the regional needs of our young people. Service agencies and young people themselves will be contributors to the research.

The project will be a multidimensional view of the needs of young people, service availability and accessibility, and will include data from service organisations, official sources and from the disadvantaged young people themselves. When the findings of this research are anonymously collated, there will be opportunities for service providers and young people to guide the development of service capacity to fill any unmet needs identified in delivery of services to the young people of the Mackay region.

## **RESEARCH OUTCOMES**

It is intended that the findings of this research will contribute to service planning and delivery across the region, and to support collaboration.

There will be three sets of data collected in this project – statistical and demographic data, feedback from service agencies and feedback from youth discussions. Once the three sets of data have been collected and analysed, RSDC will invite service providers to discuss the data and collaborate on solutions to the identified issues and inform recommendations made in the report.

## **SERVICE PROVIDERS**

We would like to invite your organisation and workers to participate in this research. As service providers, you are well-positioned to understand what services youth are accessing and finding useful, as well as providing valuable insight into any potential gaps in service delivery in the region. Your organisation may participate by completing an anonymous survey regarding policies, service gaps and barriers to service delivery to young people. Your organisation may also participate by permitting the RSDC Youth Research Officer to engage with some of the young people who seek services from your organisation, either individually or in a small group forum to discuss their needs and current issues that affect them. If your organisation is happy for the RSDC



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Youth Research Officer to meet with some of the young people you work with, and the youth have consented to a meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding between RSDC and your organisation will be forward to facilitate this relationship.

All data from the survey, discussions with agencies and young people will be recorded and reported in a way as to protect anonymity.

Item	Proposed Start Date	Proposed End Date
Service Provider survey and data collection	Mid-March 2019	19 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
MOUs with Service providers to engage young people	Mid-March 2019	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
Consultation with Service Providers following data collation on potential solutions	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2019	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2019
Report finalisation and presentation	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2019

Kelly McGrath, the Youth Project Research Officer is available to answer any questions you may have on participation in this research.

Sincerely,

**Mackay Regional Council for Social Development Ltd trading as Regional Social Development Coalition**

*Peter Tait*

**Peter Tait – Company Secretary**

**17<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

The contact details for the Unmet Needs of Youth Project Research Officer are as follows:

**Kelly McGrath**

**Project Research Officer – Unmet Needs of Youth – RSDC**

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*Please Note: Participation in this research is entirely voluntary. All data collected will be anonymised and stored securely.*