



THE NARRATIVE OF DISENGAGEMENT

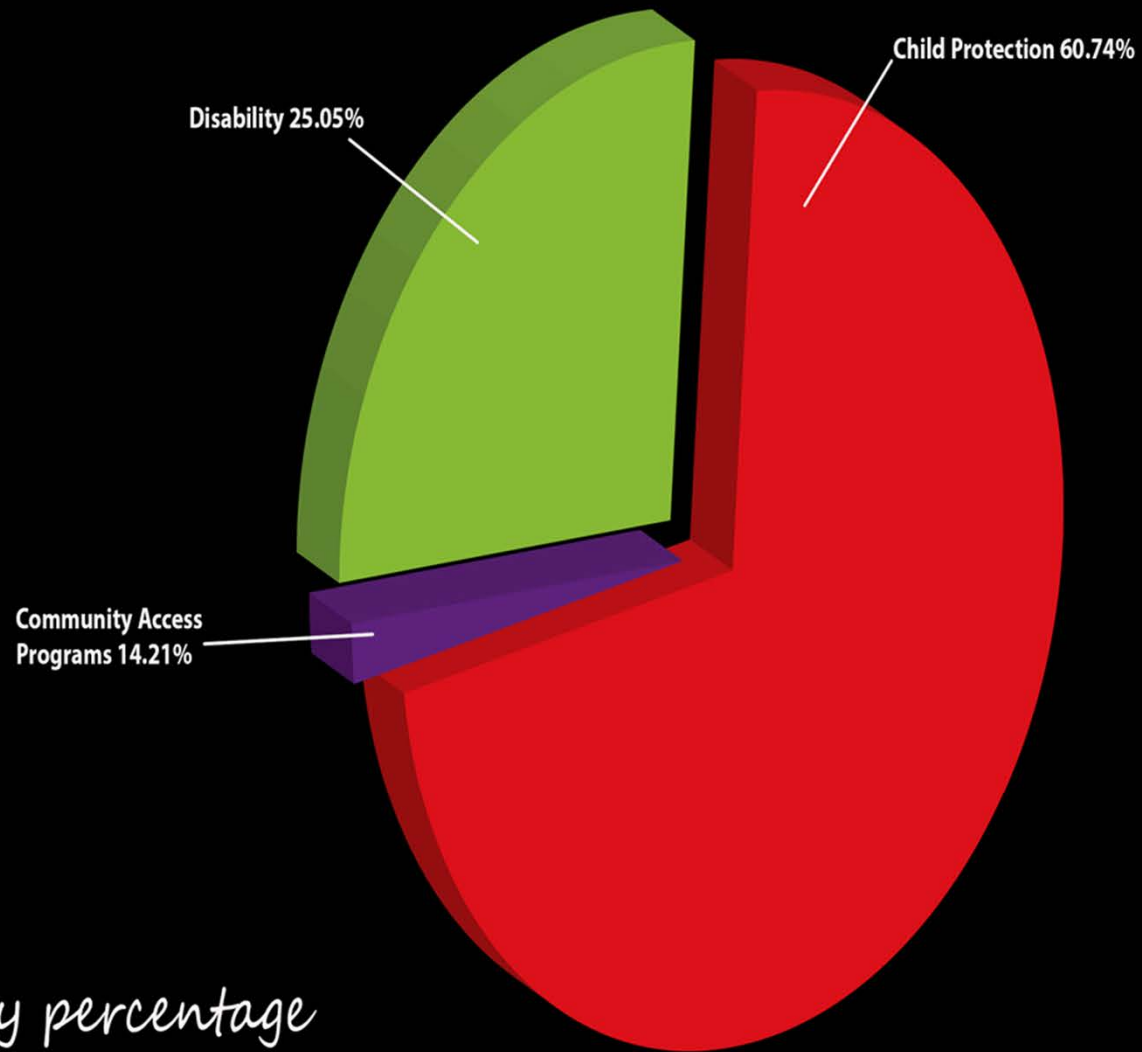
SOCIAL AND HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF HIGH YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

For almost 35 years IFYS Ltd has been
providing:

- Accommodation
- Counselling
- Support
- Relief from poverty via an Emergency Relief Program
- Child Protection and Social Inclusion Services
- Disability Support Services

Service by program





Service by percentage



Fact

Disengagement is not a linear process or a definitive destination. Young people who are well resourced have access to education, employment opportunities and better health, whilst those who experience marginalisation will have fewer opportunities to participate in community life and will experience disparities in access to health care, education and employment.





Fact

Some young people have no way of relieving their poverty, with no fall-back position at all.

They literally have no family, either through the death, imprisonment or institutionalisation of parents, abandonment and/or abuse by parents, or other family disruption which has left them with no support.



Fact

Young people who are disengaged - neither employed fulltime nor engaged in education or training - are at risk of long term exclusion from the labour market.

These disengaged young people are also more likely to be in the statistics of the homeless, the addicted, the mentally ill and those in juvenile detention.

Unemployment has profound effects at all ages, but the implications are particularly significant for young people, because they are at a point in their lives where issues of identity, differentiation from parents, sense of self and autonomy are paramount.

The long term consequences of unemployment on pathways to adulthood are not easy to predict, but it is clear that a significant proportion of young people are not in a position to make a positive transition to adulthood.

Unemployment



Long term studies have drawn a link between an increase in substance abuse and unemployment.

There are higher levels of substance abuse amongst unemployed young people than their peers. This puts an additional strain on emergency, mental health and policing services and attracts, gestates and often feeds organised, drug related crime.

Substance Abuse



Long term youth unemployment is linked to increased suicide and self-harming behaviours.

We know that unemployed young people experience higher rates of depression, anxiety and self-harming behaviours as they grapple with low self-esteem, poor self-image and a sense of hopelessness and despondency.

Mental Health



Fact

Disengagement now, has clear links to a future dependency (and increased strain) upon the public health system.

Disengaged young people will experience higher than average levels of type 2 diabetes and other health related issues which, if left unmanaged, will place a significant burden on our public health system as they age.

Health



Fact

Young unemployed people living independently of their parents live on \$29 per day. This is significantly below the poverty line.

This level of poverty inhibits young people's access to affordable housing and health care, recreation, food, transportation and education.

Poverty



Fact

There is a strong correlation between poverty and crime. The sense of desperation, injustice, frustration and anger that many unemployed young people say they experience often corresponds to an increase in such crimes as armed robbery, burglary, property damage, assault, family violence and shop-lifting.

The cost of incarceration of a young person in Queensland is around \$250 000 per year per child (\$680 per day per child).

Crime




Fact

There have now been a number of reports that have shown a clear correlation between increasing poverty and unemployment and young people using sex as a form of currency. Sex is often used to buy basic needs. It is known that this form of currency can have a long term psychological and emotional effect on an individual.

Not all young people will transition through this employment option unscathed.

Sex to Survive





For many young people disengagement leads to despondency, anger, frustration, loss of dignity, poor physical and mental health, poverty, broken relationships etc.

For our community youth disengagement leads to higher crime, loss of community wellbeing, increased pressure on health care, law and order, child protection services etc which all lead to...

... A significant cost to our community

What are some of the costs to the Australian Economy?

- The annual financial cost to Australia due to mental illness amongst 12-25 year olds is approx. \$10.6 billion.
- The cost of smoking related disease in Australia was \$31.5 billion this year.
- The cost of illicit drug abuse to the Australian economy is approx. \$8 billion annually.
- Prisons are costing Australians \$3.2 billion a year which equates to \$79,000 - \$100,000 per prisoner annually. Community corrections, where most young offenders end up, adds a further \$450 million.
- Graffiti costs Australians \$200 million in the cost of removal annually.
- Domestic Violence is costing Australia \$13.6 billion a year.
- Alcohol related assaults are costing Australians \$36 billion a year.