



VITAL COMMUNITY SERVICE FACES UNCERTAIN FUTURE

April 2015



It was a big night for the youth of South Hedland with YIC's Mingle Mob monthly Rave coinciding with the opening of Australia's largest skate park in South Hedland.

Local kids were treated to a DJ, professional bike and skate demos, burgers and soft drinks.

The Mingle Mob's monthly Rave nights have been hugely successful, but due to lack of funding, face an uncertain future.

"The Mingle Mob has been funded by Atlas to do a monthly Rave for our youth and we have another three months until the funding runs out. Mingle Mob is pretty hard on funding at the moment," says Kristal-Kareen Wyllie, Outreach Supervisor.

The monthly raves offer an opportunity for Mingle Mob staff to engage with Hedland's youth, offer advice and information, safe transport home by a reasonable hour, and if required, referral for case management.

"We bring music and a DJ, we come and engage with the youth and try to get the young ones on the bus by 8pm. We give them a good feed too. They love us – they act like they don't, but they do!"

Funded by IBN, Rio Tinto, Hedland Home Hardware, Town of Port Hedland and Atlas, Mingle Mob has the broader aim of reducing antisocial and criminal behaviour.

Mingle Mob workers patrol youth hot spots such as the shopping centre and skate park. By building a good rapport with Hedland's youth, young people may feel confident enough to approach workers to help with various problems. Valuable information can be gathered during shifts.

Mingle Mob operates between the hours of 6pm and 10pm and work closely with local police.

"For the police, we are a great asset", says Wyllie. "When Mingle Mob is operating, we have evidence that the antisocial and criminal behaviour is lessened.

“The worst time for police is usually between 10pm and 2am – if we could secure more funding, we could stay out on the streets longer.”

The creation of the Hedland Youth Space has provided enormous benefit for Hedland’s youth with the area being positively utilised from after-school until lights out at 10pm.

“With the Youth Space opening, it’s almost been like the coolest thing! The space is doing what it’s intended for, and we are really impressed with it.

“I see most of these kids here on a regular basis and can see they are just loving it! I’m enjoying watching them and I want them to enjoy it as much as they can.”

Mingle Mob provides a vital service for Hedland families and children but without being able to secure more funding for its programs and staff, the Mingle Mob’s future position within the community is unclear.







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