

YES!BE!

Young people enhancing Brisbane's economy through new & innovative enterprises!

YOUTH ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Youth Enterprise In Australia

In Australia 1.7 million small businesses are currently operating; of these 170 000 are operated by young people aged 15 – 30 years (the YES!BE! target group).

Young entrepreneurs, the Australian government, community based agencies and the business sector have started collaborating with the aim of increasing the success of youth business. There is also a growing acknowledgement that triple bottom line business practices (economic, social and environmental) within youth business are vital in the drive for a 'new' business culture that is giving to the community as much as it is receiving.

Several programs are run by the above agencies that provide:

- Some funds towards business start-up
- Some advice on business planning
- Mentoring
- Small business incubation

Currently in Australia there are no programs focusing specifically on Youth Enterprise Development with Triple Bottom Line business practices or programs focusing on matching personal achievement goals with business achievement goals.

Young People with Enterprise Ideas

Many young people across Australia have a passion for enhancing their social, environmental and economic community. Young people are wanting to turn their passions into sustainable businesses that support their livelihood.

There are two groups of young people requiring support for their new enterprise ideas – connected, supported young people and disconnected marginalized young people. Both of these groups require similar support and infrastructure but the disconnected group requires added financial support and often personal development support.

Feedback received from these young people indicates that four areas of support and infrastructure are required to assist them in being successful social, environmental and business entrepreneurs:

- Increasing opportunities to develop business skills, access information and connect with business partners/mentors
- Training and support in the principles of triple bottom line business practices
- Developing a peer network for support and mentoring
- Access to venture finance

YES!BE!

YES!BE! is a new Brisbane youth-focused and youth-led social enterprise that started in 2003. It works with young people to provide training, skills, support, money and inspiration to initiate new enterprises and to help them become enterprising individuals in their communities.

Membership to YES!BE! is entry to a vibrant learning community of young people all working to turn their ideas in to successful ventures. It provides access to a range of supports over a two year period to help young people create a successful venture – including peer and business mentors, training workshops and materials, and micro loans.

Members

YES!BE! members are young people aged between 15 and 30 who have business, social or environmental ideas and believe they can be more successful in making those ideas in to self-sufficient youth-led enterprises through the services and community YES!BE! provides. It costs \$2200 for a young person to become a member of YES!BE! for two years and this fee entitles each individual to receive all services and products offered by YES!BE!

Opportunities

If you are interested in assisting the creation of a positive business culture, youth enterprise with social and environmental outcomes, and inspired, motivated young people you can:

- Join YES!BE!
- Become an investor
- Become a Community Backer or Mentor
- Become a referral partner

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