

22 January 2021

Social Futures in school holiday program for young people at Acmena Youth Justice Centre.

Young people in custody at the Acmena Youth Justice Centre, South Grafton, have taken part in a two-week school holiday program with the support of Social Futures youth programs.

The program, a collaboration between the Department of Education, Communities and Justice, Youth Justice and Social Futures, saw the [Clubhouse](#) and [Elements](#) services of Social Futures deliver a range of art and technical-based activities to young people at the centre.

“These programs have a lot of experience in working with youth in therapeutic and education settings in the community,” explained Social Futures CEO Tony Davies. “We think it’s great that these young people get to experience new activities, have some fun and at the same time learn some of the skills that can help them manage their wellbeing.”

Social Futures teams worked alongside Acmena youth justice staff at the centre to guide participants in activities such as drawing and modelling clay as well as creating digital art, using music apps and other technology.

“We know that through activities like this, young people can build self-confidence and, in this context, we are also working to strengthen their connection to their culture and community,” said Davies.

The school holiday program ends this Friday.

ENDS

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Interviews: For interview please call:

Photo credit:

Note to editors:

1. Social Futures is a community service organisation based in Northern NSW. We have more than 40 years’ experience as a regional leader, advocating with the communities we work in; working in partnership with others; and providing services that promote inclusion, fairness and social justice. Our work encompasses homelessness and housing supports, youth and family services, programs that



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promote genuine participation for people with disability, community sector support, professional development, and systemic advocacy.

2. Acmena Youth Justice Centre is located in South Grafton, with a capacity for 45 young people. The centre was opened in September 1999, and accommodates male detainees, mainly from the far North Coast, Mid North Coast and New England areas, who are on control orders or remanded in custody. The centre offers a range of health, educational and spiritual services to the young people, including individual case management, specialised counselling, and training in job and living skills.



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