



Youth Moves

A news-sheet for people interested in Youth Issues in Australia

Iss. 1 Oct- Dec 99

Written and Produced by Kirrilie Smout, Psychologist & Speaker

welcome!

Welcome to the first issue of "Youth Moves". As a Psychologist and Speaker specialising in Australian youth issues I often search for youth related news and information. I decided that others may well have the same need, and hence I designed this newsletter to give very brief 'snatches' of youth news, information, and facts relevant to busy people working with or relating to young people. I hope this newsletter is of assistance to you in your work. If you have any feedback or questions, or if I can assist your work with young people in any way, please feel free to contact me on 8410 0388.

Regards,

Kirrilie Smout

- October 18 - 22 National Youth Week
- December 10 - Start Christmas School Holidays
- October 27 - Applications Open for Youth Ambassador role Sydney 2000 Olympics (Contact Adelaide Advertiser for details)
- February 2000 - Start of Study Smarter programs in schools (Contact K.Smout for details)
- November 15 - Applications Close for 2000 Youth Roundtable (held in March 2000)
- See www.thesource.gov.au/ for details

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resource news

[Youth Studies Australia](http://www.youthstudies.com.au/) - academic journal covering youth issues in Australia published by the Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies

www.teen-net.com - site for youth by youth, opportunity for young people to discuss issues that concern them.

www.thesource.gov.au/ - site covering government and non-government youth services in Australia. Good overview of opportunities/awards/ services for young people

WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT?

Question:What is it Australian young people most value?

Answer:Relationships.

Research consistently shows youth in Australia value relationships with friends, and relationships with family above all else.

The large majority of young people do want to be close to their family, to avoid or decrease conflict with their parents and say family relationships are important to them. This doesn't mean of course that young people don't find their parents frustrating at times, and vice-versa. In fact, young people typically say they desire more independence, autonomy and consultation when it comes to their family. However, this doesn't negate the fact that by and large, young people do value their family relationships very highly.

Young people also value peer relationships. Having good friends, boyfriends and girlfriends, and being accepted and liked is generally of the upmost importance to young people. We often hear about the negative influence of "peer pressure". However, peer groups play an important function in the life of youth. They provide them with information, a sense of self-esteem and a place to act out adult roles. Young people are wise to value their peers as they do.

Although young people value many different things, depending on their own personality, they value their peer and family relationships most of all.

Kirrilie Smout

*Society's greatest
useful research on young people's values can be obtained from
responsibility is to encourage
optimism in its youth.*

Produced by Kirrilie Smout, Psychologist and Professional Speaker specialising in Australian Youth Issues.

Kirrilie is available for keynote presentations, training, counselling and writing articles for publications, either for an audience of young people, or for those working with young people. For information on her services or to inquire about the "How to Study Smarter" program, please contact her at: Darryl Cross & Associates, Ph. 8410 0388, Email dcaoff2@senet.com.au