

We The People
Program 27
Youth of Today



Over time our view of the world changes and in part it's because we acquire wisdom through the ebb and flow of life. I am a firm believer that we must also keep on learning and whether that's formal study, a hobby, gardening, art or simply expanding your vocabulary or learning about the youth of today it's good for the mind and the spirit. Looking back on earlier years we realise how carefree it must have been and just how dedicated our parents were when we were young. Today we see a very different angry world at every turn and I cannot fathom why today's youth seem so lost and devoid of direction on almost every front. Perhaps it's our fault in some way or is it that the values we claim as basic in Australia have been frittered away through lack of care and minority voices having too much say because we let them.

The youth of today live in a world of plenty on the Gold Coast with every conceivable leisure option available within easy reach. Cars are relatively cheap and mobile phones are a must have from an early age. Young people text each other constantly and the art of verbal communication as we knew it seems lost. Yet it's also a time where spiritual issues are largely forgotten and instant gratification is all important. Young people today have a hard time growing up in a difficult and ambiguous world beginning at school, where they emerge with sub standard numeracy and literacy and it's all uphill from there. It's my view that the school system also promotes an undercurrent of snobbery and this lessens the self worth of many fine and promising young people.

The youth of today are tomorrow's leaders, tomorrow's citizens and will inherit the world we've created. In a revealing submission to a federal parliamentary inquiry 12 months ago, the Council conceded young people on the Gold Coast face a rising tide of alcohol-fuelled violence. The inquiry goes on to identify Surfers Paradise as having the highest concentration of licensed premises in Queensland and that's where schoolies choose to break lose each year. Further findings identify inadequate social services and homelessness among young people under 25 as significant. Population growth here is squeezing more and more people into smaller spaces where noise, summer heat and a lack of privacy make for a closeted life of social servitude. Then of course there's finding a job which suits, while building a career is not as important as simple survival. It's a challenging picture for our youth and it's a lost generation at present in my view.

Having raised 4 children I know firsthand just how hard it can be let alone coming from a broken home as many do. First up let's acknowledge that the Godless society we live in lacks spiritual humility and a respect for creation and nature. There is a loss of reverence about many things and having lost so much means the younger generation are left rudderless and self indulgent. I think it's our fault to a degree as we set the tone for their upbringing and we tolerate the nightly blasphemy and excessive sexual overtones on our TV sets where the god of the gutter reigns supreme. Our own current Prime Minister is an atheist and apparently proud of it and that can't be a good role model if truth be known as it further entrenches the Godless selfish society by her very actions. There are many forces at play that are robbing this country of fine young adults who are limited in their outlook and future because of shallow leaders who play to the election cycle and the news headlines and little else. From Wall Street to Canberra we've lost the plot and it's our young people who are paying the price. Make a point of speaking with someone young every day if you can and you will both learn something valuable. As JK Rowling wrote in Harry Potter "Age is foolish and forgetful when it underestimates youth". So true.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley