

Case study

EDGE Southern Downs

Details

What:

During 2014, the EDGE (Encouragement, Development, Growth and Experience) Southern Downs facilitated a series of workshops for young people aged 13-30 who had an interest in exploring a career in the music industry.

Through workshops, participants gained skills in preparatory or prevocational training in sound recording, song writing, live studio production, audio production, band management, event management, and radio production.

Participants had the opportunity to showcase their talents/skills at EDGE and regional events providing practical skill and professional development experience including EDGE Fest, Rockin' EDGEFest, Club Life Disco, regional National Youth Week Concerts, Evolution Discos, and Southern Downs Young Leader Events.

When:

January to November 2014

Where:

Stanthorpe and Warwick, Queensland.



National Youth Week calendar of events

Key stats:

- 92 activities
- 2,765 attendees
- 74 participants

Arts Queensland contribution:

\$16,000 – Projects and Programs Fund

Contact for further information:

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Links:

[Facebook – Southern Downs Youth Service](#)

[Edge Fest 2014, filmed by CY Entertainment](#)

Outcomes

- Since the workshops, several participants have gone on to perform at regional festivals, record EPs and place in competitions. For example:
 - one participant has gone on to place second in a DJ competition
 - one of the bands that were showcased early on went on to win a 'battle of the bands' competition and supported a headline band at a biannual regional festival (now recording their own EP).
 - four artists have made demos and EP recordings.
- One participant is starting his own live production business, and up-skilling fellow students at his school.
- Facilitators and partners have built relationships with local youth, businesses, and the professional music industry.
- The program attracted a high percentage of new participants and attendees (70%) and was very well received by attendees/ participants (100%).

Learnings and reflections

Hailey Cosh, SDRC Youth Development Officer had the following reflections on the process and what changes they would consider to future programs:

- *Small groups for workshops allowed all young people to have in depth and personalised individual support. Building relationships and gaining the trust of the young participants has proved to be equally important to facilitating their learning.*
- *Partnerships with local businesses and youth services helped engage young people and community, and provided support and development for participants.*
- *If EDGE Southern Downs facilitated this program again they would consider extending the length of the program to give young people more opportunity to engage in practical skill development utilising their learning.*



Poster advertising EDGE workshops