

The last word



Left: The YouthStreet Libraries offer access to educational and training resources – and breakfast – for young people in HYPA's programs. Right: HYPA Ambassador Tom Wilson spreads the good word



Journalist and Fox Sports' reporter Tom Wilson is a young man on a mission. He's an ambassador for HYPA (Helping Young People Achieve), putting his profile and passion behind a range of initiatives and programs designed to help young people

"It's about access and connectivity."

access the assistance they need to realise their dreams.

HYPA is the youth

services division of Service to Youth Council (SYC), a community organisation helping young people to find somewhere to live, to access vocational and life skills training and to find jobs. The HYPA programs provide practical support on four fronts: home, wellbeing, learning and working – the key aspects of life that can impact hardest on young people who don't otherwise have much support. From crisis accommodation to a basic skill that can open the door to a new job – such as learning to drive – SYC assists around 40 000 people every year in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.

Being a sports news reporter takes Tom all around the country and gives him an opportunity to talk with community and business leaders about the important work HYPA does.

"Every young person deserves the chance to reach their potential and achieve their own dreams," SYC's CEO Paul Edginton says. "Tom and our other ambassadors help make that happen."

One initiative run by HYPA that exemplifies the practical approach is the YouthStreet Libraries project. With branches located in Adelaide, Murray Bridge and Mt Gambier in South Australia, YouthStreet Libraries provide everything from breakfast to technology for young people aged 13-25.

"In the library, young people who are using HYPA services have access to computers, books and learning resources to help them in their search for work and to self-care, life skills and

recreational programs designed to meet their needs," Mr Edginton says.

Adelaide-based Tom is one of four HYPA ambassadors, along with Darren Ng of Adelaide 36ers fame, journalist Katie Spain, and performer and writer Matt Gilbertson.

"Our ambassadors make a real difference, helping get the message out that young people are making successes of their lives with the help of HYPA programs and other SYC services."

"This is very much an example of the importance of access and connectivity to young people – both to support provided by HYPA and to knowledge and information that helps them get, and keep, their lives on track."

"Our ambassadors are great role models to young people and play a valuable role in helping us connect with a wider audience to promote young people and the work we do with them."



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