A Vision for effective Youth Ministry:
Insights from Australian Research

Many young Australians are struggling with issues of mental health, anxiety about the future, and addictions to drugs. Behind these struggles are often questions of what life is all about. Youth ministry is more important today than at any time in recent history. Yet, many churches are finding it difficult to connect with youth beyond those whose families are involved in the church.

This book has arisen out of Australian research into youth ministry, from visiting youth groups and talking with youth leaders and the youth themselves. It offers a vision for the development of youth ministry, recognising the diversity of youth and the backgrounds from which they come.

It explores how to build a youth ministry team and the qualities needed in the team. It discusses issues of training, payment, and support for youth leaders and building bridges with parents, church and school.

What are the factors which will really make a difference in developing youth ministry? Based on research, our conclusions are:

- The vision for developing the spirit of young people
- The commitment of the whole church to youth ministry
- The youth ministry team with strong relationships with God, each other, the youth, parents, the church and the wider society;
- A diversity of activities: both age-specific and intergenerational for fun, friends, inquiry and developing the spirit.

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All three authors were involved in interviews with youth, youth leaders, clergy and parents for this study.