



YOUTH SERVICES INVOLVEMENT

Most graffiti management programs are managed by building services departments or local laws. When this is the case, these teams are open to models that work and change direction due to their contact with the senseless damage being created every night by the local youths.

These departments are the ones who are angry about the perception of safety, the cost to ratepayers and to the over all feel of the City.

The other side of the coin are those cities graffiti management team who are focussed on youth.

It has to be noted that of those who are operated this way, they are typically against Police involvement and are heavily focussed on removals only, youth initiatives and ideas and concepts such as graffiti mentoring programs, youth engagement activities such as skate competitions, mural programs and similar.

Cities such as this can still see change by using the GRIP program to identify all the local offenders by way of the program and then engaging those youth one on one through whatever counselling or other programs they wish to try. It would basically allow youth services to be 100% engaging if that's their preference.

It does need to be noted

- 1/ The offenders are typically in their mid to late teens and unknown to Council youth staff.
- 2/ Even if they are known or identified, they have no interest in any Council program or initiative.

A recent Council spending over \$500,000 of ratepayer funds each year suggested the following...

“We have no interest in saving money. We simply want to contain the problem”

For a City to really reverse the growing graffiti / anti social behaviour trend in their City they need to really look at the last 5 years costs and program options and make the decision of whether they are at peace spending the same money, or more, each year.

For Cities who are comfortable with simple containment at this type of level with no interest in reduction, aesthetic return or cost cutting for ratepayer benefit, we simply can't help in any way.

For a city to bring change, it has to be angry about the problem and want serious change.