

## ***Meeting Notes: Review of Campaign for a Youth Disability Advocacy Service in QLD***

**Held at the Brisbane Square Library, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010.**

### **Present:**

Eden, Claire, Peter, Andrew, Felicity, Brian, Georgina, James, Siyavash, Caroline, David

### ***Brief review of progress on the campaign so far:***

- What has worked:
  - Growth in number of supporters and people connected to the campaign via Facebook (approximately 900 at last count).
  - Completing the detail submission and discussion paper.
  - Guest presentations at universities helped build some support.
  - Keeping the momentum and energy going despite lack of support from government and potential funding bodies.
- What hasn't worked so well
  - No significant support from government ministers or public servants.
  - Not enough direct engagement with young people, except sporadically via the Internet and one-off BBQ organised by Deaf Services QLD. When we have done this it's been excellent.
  - The campaign has not been adequately driven by young people – need to involve them much more (see below for ideas).

### ***Some suggestions for addressing the challenges faced so far included:***

- Having meetings on weekends at times that young people can attend them. Also, make these social events, not formal 'planning' meetings as such – work the planning into the informal social event.
- Tap into disability service interagencies to spread more information about the campaign and to seek help. These interagencies exist across the state.

### ***YANQ's Ongoing Role***

Siyavash gave an update on YANQ's capacity to keep coordinating the campaign. Due to a range of factors YANQ will no longer be able to dedicate as much time to the campaign. What YANQ can still offer is:

- **For the longer term:** Using the detailed, costed submission to raise the issue as often as possible at our regular meetings with various levels of the public service and politicians.
- **In the short term:** developing a YANQ policy position on the need for advocacy support for young people with disabilities.

YANQ will be happy to contribute where possible to any other activities (e.g. publicity campaigns, specific issue campaigns) outside of this, but will not be able to take a lead role or initiate them.

## ***Brainstorm: Ideas to Keep the Campaign Moving***

During a brainstorming session, a number of ideas to help keep the campaign going were raised. These are as follows (ideas in bold were most supported by those at the meeting).

- Organise guest speakers to attend the Annual Shared Visions Forum.
- Run activities/events during Disability Action Week
- **Organise fun, social activities for young people. Engage them in the campaign 'informally' through these events.** Events could be regular (e.g. monthly/quarterly) and in addition separate '**showcase' events could be held during National Youth Week.** These events could be organised and managed by volunteers.
- **Make employment, and transitions from school to employment a particular campaign focus.** Could run a forum or series of events, or co-opt someone (uni) to write a discussion paper on the issue.
- Because the barriers that young people with disabilities face are so many and varied, it's hard to pick a single issue to campaign on – so first run a brief survey to help us identify the common themes/issues most likely to attract support. Could use survey monkey.
- Encourage students undertaking courses relevant to people with disabilities (e.g. medical courses, human service courses) to spend part of their practical placements doing needs analysis projects for groups of people with disabilities. This will help to make sure they understand the issues better from the perspective of people with disabilities.
- Organise more school visits for guest speakers. An 'official' organisation that has some standing with schools could liaise with Youth Support Coordinators to arrange visits.
- Make sure that we target campaign materials at the right level for the audience we are trying to reach – i.e. don't use jargon or technical language when writing an article for the general public.
- Regular monthly updates (newsletter) with success stories.
- Make more use of the internet – a valuable medium. E.g. twitter.
- Fund-raising via facebook. E.g. \$12.50 a week for 4 weeks.
- Seek out other partners – who can help? Other orgs, universities (UQ?)
- **Whatever strategies/tasks we choose, make them achievable with realistic outcomes.**
- Get information on and support from other advocacy groups on Facebook.
- Encourage workers to talk to and engage the young people they work with,
- Set up a separate website – designed by young people 4 young people.
- Community radio – e.g. Springfield University Campus, friday afternoon program.
- Get an article into the magazine, Disability Connect.