

NETWORK NOISE

Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

Quarterly Newsletter **October 2008**

YANQ to Set-up Queensland Youth Disability Advocacy

The Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ) has been talking to our colleagues in the disability services area about establishing an advocacy service for young people with a disability. Below is our initial proposal for the service, which for now we are calling 'Queensland Youth Disability Advocacy'. YANQ is in the process of seeking support for this proposed service and would welcome your advice and support.

According to a 2005 report from Queensland Disability, there were 102,200 young people (age 0-25) in Queensland who were restricted as a result of a disability. Of this number, 55% (56,700) had "profound/severe restrictions of core activities".

Despite the fact that there were 1,434 services funded by the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) that responded to the Queensland component of the CSTDA National Minimum Data Set (NMDS), only 7% of young people age 0-25 (7067) accessed a CSTDA funded service.

Over 70% of persons with disabilities in Queensland aged 15-64 did not complete Year 12 of school. 29% did not complete Year 10 or equivalent.

When young people with disabilities are not provided an appropriate education and are not effectively taught transition skills, society is impacted on several levels. Lack of education and training leads to unemployment and underemployment, and economic deprivation can lead to homelessness and crime. Young people with disabilities who do not receive the services and supports to "level the playing field" cannot achieve the independent, meaningful adult lives they deserve.

Young people with disabilities should have full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including self-determination, as articulated in Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CROC). When persons with disabilities are marginalised the entire society suffers. We need to support, embrace, include and celebrate all Queenslanders regardless of disabilities.

YANQ's Director, Siyavash Doostkhah, and Dr Bob Jacobs (who some may recall from our 'Celebrate, Don't Medicate' campaign) will be working on this project.

For details phone Siyavash **3844 7713** or e-mail Bob via **qyda@yanq.org.au**

Queensland Youth Disability Advocacy (QYDA) will be a comprehensive state wide service providing advocacy for youth with disabilities.

The service will provide individual advocacy as well as systemic advocacy on policy issues impacting youth with disabilities, and will focus on, but not be limited to, equal opportunities in education, employment, housing, and access to the community.

The service will also monitor facilities providing services to youth with disabilities to ensure that youth are treated in a manner that is safe, nurturing and manifests their right to human dignity and self determination.

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What's Driving You Nuts?

Issues the Youth Sector is Raising with YANQ

One of YANQ's main roles in Queensland is to bring to the communities attention some of the more pressing challenges facing young people. A great way that youth services across the State help us to fulfill this role is by participating in the Youth Consultative Network (YCN). The YCN is a tool YANQ has developed to help youth services to share information about the challenges facing young people and to find support to respond to them.

Staff and volunteers of youth services participate in the YCN by attending their local interagency and encouraging their colleagues to raise high priority issues with YANQ. More information is available at <http://www.yanq.org.au/speakout>.

Between January & June 2008, seven interagencies in Queensland participated in the Youth Consultative Network. The interagencies that participated were as follows:

- Brisbane Inner Urban Youth Interagency
- Zillmere Youth Organisations Network (ZYON)
- Service Providers Action Group for Youth (North West Brisbane)
- Gold Coast Youth Network
- Goodna & Ipswich Youth Interagencies
- The Youth Network NQ Inc (North Queensland)
- Laidley Youth Interagency

Challenges facing Young People

The issues raised by more than one interagency between January and June are as follows.

- Housing/Accommodation (6 mentions)
- "Youth Homelessness now extreme crisis."
- "Greater need for emergency, short and long term accommodation."
- "The conditions that young people are resorting to living in are the biggest concern."
- Service Availability (4 mentions)
- "Service capacity/limitations and access to resources"
- "... the lack of a funded youth service in our region (there is nothing really for the entire ... area)."
- Education: P-12 (2 mentions)
- "Gap in education and accommodation services for 14 year olds disengaged from school."
- "The low levels of literacy & numeracy ... is the major concern."
- Drug/Alcohol (2 mentions)
- "Volatile Substance Misuse re-emerging as an issue."

Challenges facing Youth Services

The issues raised by more than one interagency, particularly relating to services, are as follows.

- Funding/Resources (5 mentions)
- "The lack of continued funding for programs makes it hard for organisations to ensure stable employment."
- "There is an unreal expectation on youth workers and programs in terms of case loads."
- Staff/Volunteers (4 mentions)
- "High staff turnover and lack of support for staff."
- "Award levels do not reflect the changing duties and responsibilities of workers."
- Accountability (2 mentions)
- "Workers are taking on more and more roles that extend beyond their job description."
- "Funding bodies continue to ask for more from service providers but are not offering additional resources."

YANQ will continue to raise these issues with government and the community at every opportunity. We have also begun trialling 'Solutions' workshops where we invite youth service providers to come together and discuss in more detail what needs to be done to address these challenges. Phone David or Siyavash on **3844 7713** for more details.

Is your service helping YANQ to work with the sector to identify and respond to these and other challenges? For information on how to work with us, please phone David or visit www.yanq.org.au/speakout

The Good Work - Decent Wages Campaign

We need urgent funding now!

At the same time as the wages campaign, the Australian Services Union has made application to create a State Award called the Community Services and Crisis Assistance Award – State 2008 to cover non trading corporations.

At the last QIRC conciliation conference employer groups raised concern about agreeing to wage increases in the absence of a commitment to fund them being made by government. This has led to a new strategy for the making of the award by the union. The award will now be made in two sections.

Initially, an interim award will be made which reflects current conditions and includes a small adjustment in wages to reflect State Wage Case decisions since 2006. There will then be a separate set of hearings to determine wage rates based on pay equity. There is strong argument that wage increases will be granted in this way.

If your organisation is a member of an employers association (i.e. the Community Services Employers Association, Jobs Australia and Commerce) we urge you to also encourage them to support the increase in Award wages.

We need to continue putting the pressure on government to ensure wage increases are funded.

For more information about the wages campaign check the campaign page on the QCOSS website
www.qcoss.org.au
or
contact Project Worker Michelle Robertson on
07 3004 6924 or
micheller@qcoss.org.au



NETWORK NOISE

Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc (YANQ) newsletter, published every 3 month.

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Contributions Welcome

Ring, write, email or fax your latest news on...

- Workshops & events
- Youth programs
- Training events
- Projects
- Change of address
- Latest resources
- Research news
- Innovations

Copy Deadline

November copy deadline is
Mid October



youth affairs network qld

The views and opinions contained in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of YANQ.

YANQ also does not necessarily endorse training and resources advertised in this publication.

'Medical' Guidelines

to be used as Justification for Chemical Restraint

The Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ) expressed concern on 8 August 2008 over the Commonwealth Government's endorsement of a "medical model" that tells us that children with challenging behaviours have a mysterious "mental illness" and should be restrained with powerful and dangerous drugs.

The Commonwealth Government has commissioned the Royal Australasian College of Physicians to draft guidelines for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) that will "improve the assessment, treatment and care of people with ADHD in Australia".

YANQ is concerned these guidelines will result in even more children being diagnosed and drugged than the already alarming rate. Neither the College, nor any other respected scientific body, has been able to tell us with certainty what "ADHD" is.

Thousands of medical professionals around the world have rejected the "ADHD" diagnosis and believe it is harmful to label children in this way.

The pharmaceutical companies make billions of dollars annually selling drugs for this phantom "disorder" all over the world.

Australian children are learning that they are not responsible for their own behaviour, and that drugs are the answer when you have a problem. They are suffering serious short and long term side effects, including the "zombie" effect that can compromise the joy and spontaneity of childhood.

The inquiry serves to legitimise diagnostic criteria for the so-called disorder that includes such vague statements as "Is often "on the go".

YANQ calls on parents and anyone concerned about our young people to take a look for themselves at the criteria for "ADHD" and decide for themselves if things like "reluctance to do homework" or "fidgeting" really mean that a child has a "mental illness".

Drug companies profit if we believe in "ADHD", and children with challenging behaviours are stifled by these powerful and dangerous drugs.

But common sense tells us that we must protect our children from the physical and psychological dangers of this highly questionable diagnosis and the drugs used to "treat" it.

In light of the lack of solid scientific evidence about this "disorder" and the disagreement among professionals about its validity, YANQ renews its call for a moratorium on the use of "ADHD" drugs on our children.



The Minister's Awards

for Excellence in Workforce Development are on again in 2008!

The Awards are part of the Queensland Government's Strengthening Non-Government Organisations strategy.

Several of the initiatives in this strategy focus on workforce development – on helping community and disability organisations attract, develop and retain a highly skilled workforce. The awards program supports these initiatives and the efforts that organisations are making to build workforce capacity.

The Awards are for non-government Organisations in the community and disability services sectors.

They were established to develop a broader understanding of the importance of workforce planning, management and development across the community and disability service sectors and to recognise value and celebrate good practice by showcasing the strategies used by organisations to build the capacity of their workers and enhance services to their clients.



YANQ's Director, Siyavash Doostkhah with former Minister for Communities, Warren Pitt at the Workforce Development Awards

For further information in relation to the Minister's Awards for Excellence in Workforce Development please visit the Awards website at www.communities.qld.gov.au or you can call the Awards Support Line on **07 32441678** or email Seamus Mee at smee@workforce.org.au

We look forward to receiving your nominations for these significant workforce awards.

Welcome to Caroline Woods

I have recently joined the YANQ team as the new Re-engagement Project Officer. I am currently completing a dual degree in Arts and Law at the University of Queensland.

I am really excited about being involved with YANQ's Re-engagement Project (www.yanq.org.au/reengage) and helping to organise the Re-engagement Forums in Townsville and Moreton Bay.

I am particularly looking forward to the discussions that will be generated from these forums.

I will be in the office on Mondays and Thursdays so if you have any questions or ideas in relation to the project please just email me at reengage@yanq.org.au.

Best Wishes,

Caroline

challenging the stereotype

Underage drinking has received a great deal of publicity lately. The topic is often framed as a 'youth binge-drinking crisis' or 'epidemic', with articles on risky alcohol consumption by young people featuring frequently in national and regional newspapers. Media coverage suggests that 'everyone is doing it'.

Resistance to health messages

Young people are not unquestioningly accepting of health promotion messages. They may be annoyed by the perceived hypocrisy of adults who 'preach' to them about the dangers of alcohol. They may regard prevention programs as 'boring' and 'unrealistic' (Farringdon et al. 2000). Warnings about catastrophic and long-term harm may be viewed with scepticism, or dismissed as irrelevant.

Risk education is essential, but it will not necessarily translate into behavioural change. The development of a 'sociology of drinking' which acknowledges the many ways in which 'drinking is a social as well as an individual act' (d'Abbs 2002), can potentially enhance harm minimisation efforts involving young people (Hughes et al 2008). Arguably, much is to be gained from a better understanding of the creation (and perpetuation) of 'local cultures' that are supportive of risky alcohol consumption (Cook 2005).

Changing the norm

One prevention approach which aims for cultural change is 'social norms'. Rather than focusing on risk, social norms interventions investigate the way young people are influenced by their perceptions of what others think and do. Research indicates that young people consistently overestimate the alcohol consumption of their peers, and may therefore feel pressure to conform to an (albeit false) image of 'normal' alcohol-related behaviour (Hughes 2006).

Social norms interventions involve four key phases:

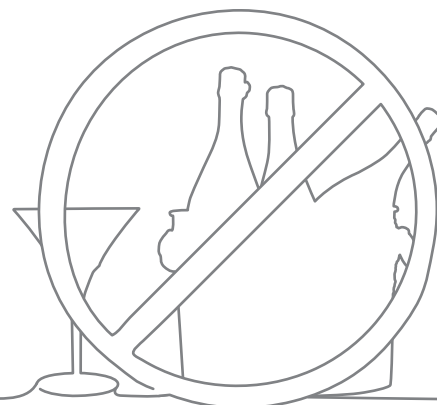
- collection of data about alcohol use and attitudes
- generation of positive, data-based 'key messages'
- dissemination of the 'key messages' via a media campaign
- evaluation of the impact of the campaign.

A team of researchers at the University of Tasmania is conducting Australia's first 'trial' of the social norms model. The Social Norms Analysis Project (SNAP) is a two-year, collaborative project funded by the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation. The main SNAP target groups are students in Years 7 to 10 at four rural public high schools.

Student data was collected at the trial schools using a self-administered anonymous survey in mid-2006 and twice in 2007 (in first term and again in third term). On the basis of the survey results, school-specific positive 'key messages' (such as 'seven out of ten Lakeside High Students rarely or never drink alcohol') were generated, and disseminated via school-based media campaigns. These campaigns utilised colourful merchandise including posters, mouse-mats, drink bottles, wrist bands, rulers, badges and fridge magnets.

Although final evaluation results are not yet available, SNAP has had a measurable impact to date. Changes between the first and second rounds of data collection include a statistically significant decline in the mean perceived frequency of the students' friends consuming alcohol and getting drunk. Such attitudinal change is a vital first step. If students realise that risky drinking is not as prevalent as they thought, there will be less 'pressure' for them to conform to the image of a 'bingeing teen'.

... Continued to page 7



challenging the stereotype

Sharing the model

SNAP has generated enormous interest in the social norms approach, and many schools and communities are now keen to undertake their own interventions. The Tasmanian team is developing '4Real' – a social norms guide for Australian high schools, as part of its commitment to strengthening community capacity through the provision of information, support and training. It is also investigating alternative data-collection methods (including online surveys and electronic 'clickers') and application of the approach to different target groups and other issues (such as alcohol-related parenting and illicit drug use).

The social norms approach is a refreshingly positive addition to the health promotion toolkit. It encourages young people to question their taken-for-granted assumptions about what is 'normal'. Rather than focusing on risk and perpetuating the stereotype of the 'bingeing teen', it supports and affirms young people by focusing on the healthy choices about alcohol that most of them make, most of the time.

For more information, email
tiles@utas.edu.au

Dr Clarissa Hughes is a Research Fellow at the University Department of Rural Health at the University of Tasmania.

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Youth Listening to Youth

Peer research into youth transitions

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The transition between school and work is often daunting. A recent joint research project, Youth Voice, explored the difficulties of this transition stage through the eyes and voices of young people. The aim was to gain feedback from young people which might inform and improve youth transition services.

Youth Voice was resourced through the Youth Collaboration, a broad coalition of not-for-profit youth agencies,

government departments and philanthropic organisations. This enabled a cross-sector approach. The project was run in 2007 in three Victorian locations: Frankston (by the Brotherhood of St Laurence), Braybrook/Maidstone (Melbourne City Mission) and Shepparton (Cutting Edge Youth Services).

In each location, three young people (aged 16 to 19, from diverse cultural backgrounds) were employed and trained as researchers. The advantage of Youth Voice's research approach is that young people can obtain the personal views of their peers, which might not be disclosed to adults. Young people are also able to engage difficult-to-

reach groups, both in and out of school. Involving the youth researchers in designing research tools strengthened the process. Data was collected through surveys, pathway mapping, and video case studies.

... Continued to page 8

Youth Listening to Youth cont.

Peer research into youth transitions

Findings

The young researchers found:

- The complexity of young people's lives affects their pathways.
- They face difficulties in juggling work and school.
- Their knowledge of support services available is very limited; and parents and family members are important sources of support.
- Transition support is also needed earlier in school.

Reasons for completing or leaving school

School students were asked whether they intended to complete Year 12, since other research points to a powerful link between intention and actual school completion. Students at Braybrook indicated a high level of intention to complete Year 12 (90.5%, above the current overall Victorian completion rate) while a quarter of Frankston students said they did not intend to complete Year 12. Shepparton students reported a mid-range intention to complete Year 12 (82.5%).

Students who did not intend to complete Year 12 were asked the main reason. Responses were categorised as positive (e.g. going to TAFE, getting work, starting an apprenticeship) or negative (e.g. 'don't like school', 'can't be bothered', 'don't like teachers'). Most Frankston students not proposing to complete Year 12 had a positive reason based on securing a job. By contrast, most Shepparton students had a negative reason linked to their school experience.

Those young people who had left school early were asked why. In all three locations, young people indicated that 'problems with teachers' was a leading reason.

The Frankston and Shepparton surveys highlighted 'boredom', 'falling behind' and 'don't see the point' as other prominent issues.

In Braybrook, 'problems at home' were another significant reason.

Sources of support

Young people who had left school reported receiving help through a number of avenues in that transition. Parents and family were consistently reported as a major source of help, and friends were also important, though somewhat less so.

However, there were differences between locations. While young people in Braybrook were very positive about help from teachers and school, this was reported much less frequently in Frankston, and even less in Shepparton.

The majority surveyed were unaware of other options such as local services and funded transition support.

Students in Shepparton and Braybrook felt both relatively confident and well supported in making decisions about their career pathways.

Students in Frankston felt much less confident and supported. The young people in Frankston also felt that their voices were less heard than in the other two regions.

Different responses from the three locations suggested that strategies designed to support young people need to take a place-based approach.

Peer research approach

Peer research has the potential to shape the way information about employment, education and training is provided and how services are delivered, so that more young people can complete their secondary education and make a successful transition to economic independence.

One learning about the approach was that the level of support offered to the youth researchers also affected the outcomes: the highly connected researchers met their research targets and accessed a high percentage of disadvantaged school leavers.

On reflection, research training could have been more detailed and formally accredited.

Note: The Youth Collaboration report, Youth voice: peer research into youth transitions, can be accessed on the BSL website.

The preceding article was originally published in the April 2008 edition of Brotherhood comment a regular update from the Research and Policy Centre of the Brotherhood of St Laurence (www.bsl.org.au) and is reproduced with permission.

YANQ's Multicultural Development Officer is on the committee for the Pacific Youth Association of Queensland, an organisation focused on strengthening the cultural heritage and leadership capacity of young Pacific Islanders. Currently, PYAQ is working on the design and implementation of a series of workshops for young people that will build on their skills and knowledge of aspects of traditional island cultures such as weaving, carving, dancing and sports. There are also plans for a Pacific Island Festival in November this year, with aims of making it an annual event.

The ERACISM (erasing racism) advisory committee met in early July and the project is progressing well, with the release of a call for abstracts/papers and a youth multimedia competition (more

information about which can be found on YANQ's website www.yanq.org.au. The project maintains last year's theme of 'racism in public space' and continues the preliminary work done in 2007, which included the mini forum held in November.

Farewell Kirsten

Dear MYNQ members and interested parties,

It is with some regret that I have finished up with my role as Multicultural Development Officer at the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland.. I have enjoyed working with the team at YANQ, and with others in the sector. The networks and connections I have made through

MYNQ, the CAMS (Coordinated Advocacy in the Multicultural Sector) Network and with other project work have made me simultaneously proud and humbled to be working alongside so many people who are passionate about empowering others and their own communities.

I hope to continue my career in anthropology and research, and look forward to continued communication with the sector.

With the best of luck to you all, and kindest regards,

Kirsten McGavin.

Cross Cultural Youth Work Practice (Brisbane)

Feedback from the Cross Cultural Youth Work Practice Training sessions has frequently been the request that this training should be held over a two day period. Peter Westoby will again deliver Cross Cultural Youth Work Practice Training for working with Young People from Refugee and Migrant Backgrounds in Brisbane in November.

Peter Westoby is currently a Lecturer in Community Development within the School of Social Work, a Research Associate with the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (University of Queensland). He is also a director/ community development practitioner with Community Praxis Co-op. During the last 15 years Peter has also worked in cross-cultural youth work practice in South

Africa, Ghana, PNG, the Philippines and Australia. From 1999-2003 Peter practiced and managed the youth work program at the Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma.

Places in this training session are limited. Registrations cannot be accepted at the door. Registration bookings with payment MUST be received by the due date prior to training.

Registration form is enclosed as a loose-leaf form.

For further information or any enquiries, please contact Marilyn Ph. **3844 7713** or email admin@yanq.org.au

Cross Cultural Youth Work Practice (Brisbane)

When:

Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th November

Day 1 - 9.00am to 4.30pm and

Day 2 - 9am to 2:30pm

Where:

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)(parking available)

Cost:

\$240.00 (GST incl.)

includes morning & afternoon teas and lunches for both days

Launch of Young Muslim Women's Project Report



YANQ President, Trish Ferrier, Faiza El-Hegzi, Kareema Benjamin, Homa Fortan and Nick Earls

YANQ's report into Young Muslim Women's Participation in Sports and Physical Recreation was officially launched on Wednesday, 16th July 2008 by Young Queenslander of the Year, Ms Homa Fortan as part of the Muslim Women's Conference, "Towards Common Ground" at Government House.

Research for this report was completed in 2007 with funding support for the project obtained from both Multicultural Affairs Queensland and UNESCO.

During the following months, an action group was formed to begin implementing the strategies of the report and to date, this group has organised and staged several successful sporting activities which not only served to benefit younger Muslim women, but Muslim women in general, with attendee numbers far surpassing that which was initially expected.

Indeed, a number of the strategies from the report have the potential to benefit all women, regardless of their age, religious affiliation or cultural background.

YANQ would like to express thanks to the enormous amount of effort and support given to the project by Ms Faiza El-Higzi, who made the launch at the conference possible.

And, of course, YANQ would also like to thank Al-Nisa Youth Group Inc for the research partnership we share and the leadership Al-Nisa have shown in establishing the sports action group, and we look forward to a continued relationship in the future.

Many thanks to all those who participated in the research and throughout the project and beyond.

The report into Young Muslim Women's Participation in Sports and Recreation is also available on YANQ's website: www.yanq.org.au.



The Death Of Mandatory Detention Welcomed By YANQ



Youth Affairs Network of Queensland welcomes the changes to the Immigration policy announced by Immigration Minister Chris Evans on 29th July. From now on, detention will be a last resort and the Immigration department would review each case every three months.

Over the past several years YANQ has objected strongly to the Federal Government policy of Mandatory Detention and campaigned hard to see this inhumane approach revoked.

Australia's response to vulnerable people seeking refuge here was nothing short of shameful and the Rudd Government deserves accolade for not only acting to bring us in line with our obligations under various human rights conventions but also lifting the moral fabric of our society.

YANQ now calls on the Federal Government to amend the Migration Act to enshrine the changes in legislation.

The changes to the legislation must reflect Australia's International obligations under the Refugee Convention and other relevant human right conventions.

YANQ believes that the Rudd Government must also instigate a policy shift moving away from the emphasis on "strong border security and firm deterrence of unauthorised arrivals". There are many people from around the world whose lives are at risk and have no choice but to seek refuge in another country.

Australia will fail to fulfil its international obligations if it retains a policy of deterring people legitimately fleeing prosecution.

YANQ further calls for an end to the practice of excising offshore territories and for immediate and permanent closure of Christmas Islands and other offshore refugee prisons.



Access to Social Security for Young New Zealanders

If you or your youth service has recently assisted independent young people from New Zealand (arrived after February 26, 2001) to access social security payments then YANQ and the Welfare Rights Centre QLD would like to hear from you.

It has come to our attention that young people who have arrived in Australia from New Zealand (after 26.2.2001) with their parents/carers and subsequently become separated can have difficulties accessing social security.

Young people in this situation are then being denied opportunities to secure a

place to live, find work, study, participate in community activities and so on.

If your service is seeking assistance (or has recently sought assistance) for young people in this situation (i.e. originally from New Zealand, independent and seeking social security) then please call David at YANQ.

David can assist you to prepare information that will help the Welfare Rights Centre to advocate for the young person (should the young person agree to seek their assistance).

Phone YANQ on
07 3844 7713 or **1800 177 899**
(free call outside Brisbane metro area).

You can find more information at the following links:

Department of Immigration:
<http://tinyurl.com/5rosdh>

Welfare Rights Centre
(MSWord Document):
<http://tinyurl.com/5agt8e>

BudgetLink....Discount Available for YANQ Members!!

BudgetLink has been developed by Jeff Stephenson at Accounting Addons specifically for the community sector.

It links with MYOB using the Standard Chart of Accounts (SCOA) and does all the budget analysis reports for each program (or job code), as well as the acquittals for HACC, DSQ, Dept of Communities with others in the pipeline.

This means that once the data has been entered into MYOB you just bring that into BudgetLink and go from there.

Imagine having the reports, acquittals etc at the push of a button!

Anything that reduces the amount of time spent producing reports is a good thing.

If you want to have a chat to see how it will work for your organisation, feel free to contact Kathryn Harrison B Com (Acct) Financial Consultant for the Community Sector me on **0403 199 351** or send your questions to jeff@accountingaddons.com.au.

Jeff is keen to see BudgetLink be accessible to YANQ members and is appreciative of the smaller agencies financial constraints.



**Discount
for YANQ
Members!**

Regional Queensland

Bundaberg and District Youth Forum

Contact: Bundaberg Community Development Inc
PO Box 2252, Bundaberg Q 4670
Ph: 07 4153 3066 Fax 4151 1813
Email: info@bcd.org.au

Meets the second Tuesday bi-monthly (first meeting for the year is February) from 9.30-11.30am at Impact Make Your Mark, 106-108 Bargara Road Bundaberg.

Cairns Youth Service Network

Contact: Tanya Simpson, Youth Development Officer
PO Box 359, Cairns Q 4870
Ph: 07 4044 3016 Fax: 07 4044 3830
Email: t.simpson@cairns.qld.gov.au

Meets last Thursday of every 2nd month at Cairns City Library, Abbott Street, Cairns.
Contact Tanya for times for meetings as they alternate.

Cairns Drug & Alcohol Interagency Network

Convener: Diane Forsyth
Contact: Margaret Bradley, Addiction Help Agency Cairns Inc
211 Lyons Street, Westcourt Q 4870
Ph: 07 4051 6262 Fax: 07 4051 6890
Email: admin@addictionhelpagency.org.au
Contact Margaret for meeting times and venue.

Central and North Burnett Community Services Network

Contact (1): Lauren Pattie, Community Development Officer,
Monto Neighbourhood Centre
Ph: 07 4166 1733 Fax: 07 4166 1061
Email: cdomonto@bigpond.com
Contact (2): John Sharp
Mundubbera Community Development
Ph: 07 4165 4690 Fax: 07 4165 3143
Email: mcda@burnett.net.au

Meets first Monday of the month 10am-3pm (venue changes).

Central West Youth Network

Contact: Peter Clark
Anglicare Central Qld Barcaldine, PO Box 47, Barcaldine Q 4725
Ph: 07 4651 2161 Fax: 07 4651 2352 Mobile: 0409 053 304
Email: pclark@anglicarecc.org.au
Contact Peter for further details.

Charleville Youth Interagency

Contact: Sally Vetter
South West Healthy Communities Program PO Box 689,
Charleville Q 4470
Ph: 07 4654 3055 Fax: 07 4654 3022
Email: ahpo@shwcp.org

Meets 10.30am the third Thursday of each month at Charleville Neighbourhood Centre.

Emerald Shire Youth Rep

Contact: Pamela White, Youth Development Officer
Emerald Shire Council PO Box 21, Emerald Q 4720
Ph/Fax: 07 4982 8393 Mobile 0427 820 540
Email: youthofficer@emerald.qld.gov.au

Contact Pamela for details of local youth networks.

Gladstone Youth Interagency

Contact: Andrea Hughes
Gladstone Regional Council PO Box 29, Gladstone Q 4680
Ph: 07 4976 6300 Fax: 07 4972 6557
Email: andreah@gcc.qld.gov.au

Meets first Wednesday of the month (excepting school holidays) 12 noon at the Community Advisory Service, 142 Goondoon Street, Gladstone

Hervey Bay Youth Sector Workers Network

Contact: Sue Lawler, Fraser Coast Regional Council
PO Box 5045, Hervey Bay Q 4655
Ph: 07 4197 4330 Fax: 07 4197 4303
Email: suel@frasercoast.qld.gov.au

Meets last Tuesday of each month 10.30 am.
Contact Sue for venue.

Innisfail Community Sector Network

Contact: Kath Barnett, Community Development Officer
Ph: 07 4030 2255 Fax: 07 4061 6005
Email: barnettk@jsc.qld.gov.au

Meets fourth Thursday of every second month 1pm at Parish Centre, Rankin Street, Innisfail

Mackay Youth Connections Network Inc

Contact: Nikki Hughes, Secretary
Ph: (07) 4968 4436 Mobile: 0431 289 009.
Email: ydo@mackay.qld.gov.au

Meets third Tuesday of the month 10.30am Mackay PCYC

Maryborough Interagency Network

Contact: Debra Moore
Fraser Coast Regional Council
Ph: 07 4190 5822
Email: debra.moore@frasercoast.qld.gov.au

Meets last Thursday of the month from 9am at the Maryborough Neighbourhood Centre

MICAT (Mt Isa Combined Action Team)

Contact: Sheryle Burns, Secretary – MICAT
YSC isaSKILLS Youth Services
Ph: 07 4747 3100 Fax 07 4743 1756
Email: ysc@isaskills.org

Meets twice per school term.
Contact Sheryle for meeting details.

Rockhampton Youth Interagency Network

Contact: Sara McCartney (Chairperson)
Mobile 0403 028 986
Email: rfdservices@gmail.com
Meets third Friday of the month 9.00-10.30 am at CQ Youth Justice Service Centre 155 Alma Street, Rockhampton.

Roma Community Services Interagency

Contact: Roma Neighbourhood Centre
PO Box 1028, Roma
Ph: 07 4620 1000 Fax: 07 4622 1448
Email: romanc@romanc.org
Meets every six weeks on a Monday from 11.30am. Contact the Neighbourhood Centre for details

Sarina Interagency Meeting

Contact: Margie Ward
Sarina Youth Centre PO Box 219, Sarina Q 4737
Ph: 07 4943 2962 Fax: 07 4956 1508
Email: youthcentre@mcs.net.au
Meets first Wednesday of every second month. For additional information, please contact Margie on the above details.

South Burnett Community Network

Contact: South Burnett Community Development Worker
PO Box 300, Kingaroy Q 4610
Ph: 07 4162 5711 Fax: 07 4162 5121
Email: sbcdp@bigpond.net.au
Meets first Tuesday of the month 10am-12 noon
Wondai Council Supper Room.

South West Youth Network

Contact: Tim Wilson, Manager – Community Capacity & Service Quality, Department of Communities
PO Box 2427, Toowoomba Q 4350
Ph: 07 4699 4222
Email: tim.wilson@communities.qld.gov.au
The group meets quarterly and covers the Darling Downs and South West Qld Region from Toowoomba south to the NSW border, west to the Northern Territory border and north to Taroom and Crow's Nest. It is made up of youth workers from non-governmental organisations, local councils and a small number of government departments. Meetings are held at a different location each time.
Contact Tim for details.

The Youth Network NQ Inc

Contact: Clea Alcorn
Ph: 07 4728 1702
Email: clea.alcorn@thesmithfamily.com.au

Meets third Thursday of the month 9-11am at Youth Justice Service, Bamford Lane, Kirwan.
Contact Clea for details.

Toowoomba Youth Organisations Network (TYON)

Contact: Ed Bradbury
Education Qld PO Box 38, Toowoomba Q 4350
Ph: 07 4616 9105 Fax: 07 4616 9100
Email: Edward.Bradbury@deta.qld.gov.au

Meets occasionally. Main activity through email discussion (TYON@discussions.eq.edu.au).
Contact Ed Bradbury to join discussion list or for details.

Warwick Youth Network

Contact: Pam Burley, Community Youth Worker
PO Box 26, Warwick Q 4370
Ph/Fax: 07 4661 7166
Email: pburley@warwick.qld.gov.au

Meets quarterly. Contact Warwick Youth Service for meeting details as dates & venue vary.

Whitsunday Youth Focus Network

Contact: Wendy Olsen, Youth Services Officer
Whitsunday Regional Council
Ph: 07 4945 0216 Fax 07 4945 0222
Email: wendyolsen@whitsundayrd.qld.gov.au

Contact Wendy for Network details.

South-East Queensland

Beaudesert Shire Youth Network

Contact: Youth Support & Development Officer,
BeauCare, 44 Tina Street, Beaudesert
Ph: 07 5541 4391 Mobile 0439 787 723 Fax: 07 5541 3654
Email: youth@beaucare.org.au
Contact Youth Development Officer for meeting details as venue, days & times vary.

Brisbane Inner Urban Youth Interagency

Contact: Gerard Dowling
Ph: 07 3407 0208
Email: gerard.dowling@brisbane.qld.gov.au
Meets 10-12 noon first Wednesday of the month. Contact Gerard for details.

Brisbane South Youth Interagency

Contact: Suzanne Perry
Brisbane South Youth Justice Service, 306 Ipswich Road, Buranda
Ph: 07 3406 2801
Email: Suzanne.Perry@communities.qld.gov.au
Meets quarterly, contact Suzanne for details.

Brisbane Southside Indigenous Youth Interagency

Contact: Suzanne Perry or Robert Cooper
Brisbane South Youth Justice Service
Ph: 07 3406 2802
Email: Suzanne.Perry@communities.qld.gov.au or Robert.Cooper@communities.qld.gov.au
Contact Suzanne or Robert for meeting times and venue details.

Caloundra City Youth Services Network AND Sunshine Coast Youth Partnership

Contact: Jody Tunnicliffe
Sunshine Coast Youth Partnerships, 6/131 Sugar Road,
Alexandra Headland
Ph: 07 5479 0070 Fax 07 5479 2575 Mobile 0435 101 687
Email info@sunshinecoastyouth.com
Contact Jody for meeting times and venues.

Youth Caboolture Area Network (YCAN)

Contact: Francis Mills, Youth Planner
Moreton Bay Regional Council – Caboolture District
Ph: 07 5420 0225 Fax: 07 5420 0350
Email: Francis.Mills@moretonbay.qld.gov.au

Meets third Wednesday of every month 12.30-2.30pm at Level 3, 33 King Street, Caboolture

Gold Coast Family Connections

Contact: Tracey Wood (Reconnect Gold Coast)
PO Box 364, Nerang Q 4211
Ph: 07 5500 4211
Email: gcfc@bigpond.net.au
Web: www.reconnect.org.au

Meets 9am-11am every first Thursday of the month. Contact Tracey as venues vary. This network is open to any service provider or individual that works with youth and families in the Gold Coast Region.

Gold Coast Youth Network

Contact: Sylvia Roylance
Gold Coast Youth Services, PO Box 740, Burleigh Heads Q 4220
Ph: 07 5572 0400 Fax: 07 5575 2607
Email: gcyouth@bigpond.net.au

Meets last Wednesday of the month 10.30am-12.30pm at Dept. of Communities Youth Justice Service Centre at Mermaid Beach.

Goodna Youth Interagency

Contact: Byron Mulligan, Project Coordinator
Ipswich Community Youth Service, PO Box 1034, Ipswich Q 4305
Ph 07 3812 1050 Mobile 0438 549 942 Fax: 07 3812 2971
Email: projects@icys.net

Meets third Tuesday of the month from 1.30pm at the Goodna Neighbourhood House, 33 Queen Street Goodna. All youth & community service providers welcome.

Inala Youth Interagency (LARGEFLY)

Contact: John Rigsby-Jones
Inala Youth Service PO Box 141, Inala Q 4077
Ph: 07 3372 2655 Fax: 07 3372 2710
Email: largefly@iys.org.au or admin@iys.org.au

Meets 12 noon second Thursday of the month at Inala community House Hall, Sittella Street, Inala.

Ipswich Youth Interagency Group

Contact: Nicole Turner, Youth Community Development Officer
Ipswich City Council PO Box 191, Ipswich Q 4305
Ph: 07 3810 6658 Fax: 07 3810 6741
Email: NTurner@ipswich.qld.gov.au

Meets first Tuesday of the month 12.30pm at alternate venues throughout Ipswich region.

Lockyer Service Providers Interagency

Contact(1): Neil Williamson, Laidley Community/Youth Development Worker
Laidley Shire Community Care Assoc. Inc
Ph: 07 5465 1889
Email: neil@lscqa.org.au
Contact(2): Anne James, CDW/Coordinator
Lockyer Information & Neighbourhood Centre Inc (LINC)
Ph 07 5462 3355 Fax: 07 5462 4437
Email: lincgattton@bigpond.com

All meetings commence at 1.00pm.
Laidley meetings held 27 May, 19 August and 11 November at Laidley Community Centre, 13 Mary Street (opp The Bus Stop).
Gatton meetings held 8 July, 30 September at Gatton Baptist Church, 12 William Street (opp Police Station)

Logan Youth Networks

Contact: Courtney Gillot (Youth Planner)
Logan City Council PO Box 3226, Logan City DC 4114
Ph: 07 3412 5029 Fax: 07 3412 3444
Email: courtneygillot@logan.qld.gov.au

There are quarterly Youth Manager Meetings and quarterly Youth Info Exchange Meetings - Contact Courtney for details.

Maroochydore Youth Interagency Meeting

Contact: Jody Tunnicliffe
Sunshine Coast Youth Partnerships, Locked Bag 5010 Caloundra
Ph: 07 5413 9218 Fax: 07 5413 9299 Mobile 0407 733 298
Email info@sunshinecoastyouth.com

Contact Jody for meeting times and venues.

Nambour Youth Interagency

Contact: Lyn Harris, Youth Support Coordinator
United Synergies
Ph: 07 5442 4277
Email: nambouryouthinteragency@yahoo.com.au

Meets once each school term; dates for meetings & venues are advised prior to meetings.

Northern Sunshine Coast Interagency Network

Contact: Deb Purdon, United Synergies
Ph: 07 5442 4277
Email dpurdon@unitedsynergies.com.au

Meets once per term in Noosa Shire.

Northern Gold Coast Interagency

Contact: Veronica Cox (Studio Village)
Ph: 07 5529 8253
Email: svcc@cirruscomms.com.au

Meets last Tuesday of every month 11am-1pm at Studio Village Community Centre, 87 Village Way, Studio Village

Pine Rivers Youth Service Providers Network

Contact: Jodie Hampson, Community Development Officer,
Moreton Bay Regional Council, Pine Rivers District
Ph: 07 3480 6469 Fax: 07 3480 6755
Email: jodie.hampson@moretonbay.qld.gov.au

Meets second Monday bi-monthly 1-4pm (lunch provided) at Unit 4A, 199 Gympie Road, Strathpine. (Moreton Bay Regional Council, Pine Rivers District, Community Development office)

Redcliffe Youth Service Providers Network

Contact: Jacqui Pedersen, Moreton Bay Regional Council - Redcliffe District
Ph: 07 3283 0285 Fax: 3883 1723
Email: jacqueline.pedersen@moretonbay.qld.gov.au

Meets second Wednesday of every second month 3pm at Redcliffe Area Youth Space.

Redlands Youth Network

Contact: Kara Mansley or Janet Camilleri, Redland City Council
Ph: 07 3829 8233 or 07 3829 8489 Fax: 07 3829 8891
Email: kara.mansley@redland.qld.gov.au or Janet.Camilleri@redland.qld.gov.au

Meets third Monday of the month 3-4.30pm at Redland Community Centre, Loraine Street, Capalaba. Venue to be advised for April, July and October meetings. Contact Janet for meeting calendar.

Service Providers Action Group for Youth (SPAGY)

Contact: Jillian Warren, Youth Information and Referrals Officer
Picabeen Community Assn Inc, 22 Hoben Street, Mitchelton
Ph: 07 3354 2555 Mobile 0408 001 299 Fax: 07 3355 4222
Email: yiro@picabeen.org.au

Meet last Monday of each month from 2.00-4.00 pm at Picabeen but venue does rotate occasionally. Contact Jillian for meeting details.

The Hinterland Youth Services Network

Contact: Anna Heriot, Community development Coordinator
Hinterland Community Development Assn of Caloundra
PO Box 1213, Maleny Mobile 0418 720 515
Email: hcdaworker.anna@gmail.com

Contact Anna for meeting times and venues

Tweed Shire Youth Network

Contact: Margaret Strong
Ph: 02 6670 2262
Email: MStrong@tweed.nsw.gov.au

Meets bi-monthly on 2nd Wednesday of the month 10am-2pm. Venue rotated throughout shire. Contact Margaret for details.

North East Youth Organisations Network (NEYON)

Contact: Kelly Nelson, Acting Coordinator
Visible Ink Zillmere Youth Team Brisbane City Council
Ph: 07 3407 8102
Fax: 07 3407 8100
Email: Kelly.Nelson@brisbane.qld.gov.au
Contact Kelly for meeting details.v

Issue Based Networks

Youth Justice Coalition (YJC)

Contact: Siyavash Doostkhal, Director
Youth Affairs Network QLD
Ph: 07 3844 7713
Fax: 07 3844 7731
Email: director@yanq.org.au

The Youth Justice Coalition meets quarterly to discuss and take action on youth justice matters and in the hour prior to the State Government's Youth Justice Reference Group. Contact Siyavash for details.

Multicultural Youth Network Queensland

Contact: Multicultural Development Officer
Youth Affairs Network QLD
Ph: 07 3844 7713
Fax: 07 3844 7731
Email: cald@yanq.org.au

MYNQ is a community driven state-wide network which identifies and develops actions on issues and policy affecting CALD young people. The network is composed of organisations, services and service providers committed to multiculturalism and improving the opportunities and outcomes for CALD young people in Queensland. Contact the MDO for meeting dates and sign up to the MYNQ mailing list at <http://lists.yanq.org.au/mailman/listinfo/mynq>.

WAYWARD – Women Alongside Young Women for Action Research and Development

Contact: Jill McKay
Brisbane Youth Service
Ph: 07 3252 3750
Email: JMckay@bris youth.org

The Purpose of WAYWARD is to: build greater relationships within the women's/youth sector; strengthen the sector's response to the needs of young women; create social action, influence policy and advocate on behalf of young women; and collectively organize and participate in professional development and training that will support our work with young women. For meeting details contact Jill.

SAYF – Supporters and Advocates of Young Families

Contact: Kate Ellis
Young Mothers for Young Women, Micah Projects Inc
Ph: 07 3013 6000
Email: kate.ellis@merivale.org.au

SAYF has a strong focus on young parents and families – women, men and children. The network will allow for: sharing project information, resources and building collaborative relationships; and advocating for Young Parents and examining best practice. For meeting details contact Kate.

Membership / Subscription Application Form



30 Thomas Street, West End QLD 4101 Ph **07 3844 7713** Regional **1800 177 899**
 Fax **07 3844 7731** Email **admin@yanq.org.au** Web: **www.yanq.org.au**

y o u t h a f f a i r s n e t w o r k q l d

TAX INVOICE (on payment)

ABN 28 205 281 339 **All fees are 10% GST inclusive.** **No income or funding—contact YANQ for special consideration.**

Title _____ First Name _____ Last Name _____
 Organisation / Department _____ Position Title _____
 Postal Address _____ Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____ Mobile/s _____
 Email _____ Additional Email address/s for YANQ Email Bulletin _____

Additional Email address/s for Multicultural Youth Network of Qld (MYNQ) _____

Do you identify as being from / Does the organisation work with — ATSI, Anglo-Celtic or other Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background.
 Please specify. _____

MEMBERSHIP	Individuals
	(Year of Birth _____)
Receive Centrelink.....	\$5.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Young Person (aged 12-25).....	\$10.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Income <\$25,000.....	\$15.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Income \$26,000—\$50,000.....	\$40.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Income >\$51,000.....	\$50.00 <input type="checkbox"/>

MEMBERSHIP	Organisation
	Community Not-for-profit
Funding <\$100,000.....	\$55.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Funding \$101,000-\$250,000.....	\$80.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Funding \$251,000-\$400,000... ..	\$120.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Funding >\$401,000.....	\$150.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Organisation For Profit.....
	\$165.00 <input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSCRIPTIONS	
Individual (Year of Birth _____).....	\$ 60.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Not for Profit.....	\$160.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Organisation For Profit.....	\$200.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Government Department / Service (Federal State or Local).....	\$185.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Reciprocal (Peak Body).....	NIL <input type="checkbox"/>

I _____ have read and support the objects and values summary of Youth Affairs Network Qld Inc and hereby request to become a member of the Network.

Signature _____ Date _____

If for some reason you are unable to sign the Values and Vision Statement of YANQ you are entitled to become a subscriber after submitting the relevant fee.

I enclose \$ _____ the prescribed Membership / Subscription fee (please delete whichever is not applicable).

Payment Methods

Cheque payable to Youth Affairs Network of Qld and mail to 30 Thomas Street, West End Qld 4101

Electronic funds transfer Deposit to **BSB 633-000 Account # 123043259 Youth Affairs Network of Qld** and email remittance advice to **finance@yanq.org.au** or fax to 07 3844 7731

Credit Card Master Card Visa (please indicate)

Card No _____ Amount \$ _____ Expiry Date _____

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Do you require a receipt Yes / No

Do you attend / are you a member of a youth interagency? If yes, advise Interagency Name _____

OFFICE USE ONLY: MEMBERSHIP ID _____	RECEIPT NO _____	WEB USER ID _____	WEB PASSWORD _____
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Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

Who are we?

The Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ) Inc is the peak community youth affairs organisation in Queensland. Representing individuals and organisations from Queensland's youth sector, we promote the interests and well-being of young people across the state by:

- disseminating information to members, the youth sector, and the broader community
- undertaking campaigns and lobbying
- making representations to government and other influential bodies
- resourcing regional and issues-based networks
- consulting and liaising with members and the field
- linking with key state and national bodies
- initiating projects
- hosting forums and conferences.

We advocate on behalf of young people in Queensland, especially disadvantaged young people, to government and the community.

We promote and support cultural diversity. We encourage the development of policies and programs responsive to the needs of young people.

Your membership and support is vital in providing a voice for young people's issues in Queensland.

Who can join?

Full Membership

Membership of the network may be granted to youth organisations, Youth Workers and young people in the non-government youth sector who have agreed to support the objects and values summary of the network and paid the prescribed fee and completed the relevant application form.

Subscriber

Any other individual or organisation interested in the work of the network is entitled to become a subscriber after submitting the relevant fee.

Become a member... and make a difference!

Keep up to date

- Free newsletter quarterly, Network Noise
- Free In fact sheets distributed regularly
- Discount on other YANQ publications, such as new Transitions
- Information on-line at our website
- Access to library resources
- Free-call 1-800 line for regional members.

Make valuable contacts

- Participate in youth policy development
- Join YANQ's working parties

- Receive support and information for your regional and issues-based networks
- Contribute to our newsletter.

Access professional development

- Discounts at YANQ forums and training events
- Discount at YANQ's Biennial State
- Youth Affairs Conference

YANQ Aims

Working together to improve the quality of life of young people in Queensland and thereby improve the quality of life of society.

YANQ Objectives

- To promote the interests of the youth sector particularly the interests of disadvantaged and marginalised young people, throughout Queensland.
- To enable the participation of young people, particularly disadvantaged and marginalised young people, in the Network and wider community.
- To advocate with and for young people, particularly disadvantaged and marginalised young people.
- To lobby to achieve long term social change in the interests of young people particularly disadvantaged and marginalised young people.
- To support and encourage the development of new means of meeting the rights and needs of young people, particularly disadvantaged and marginalised young people.
- To contribute to the development of the youth sector through networking, research and information provision.
- To develop policies on issues affecting the youth sector.
- To ensure that the Network has adequate resources to properly address issues affecting the youth sector.
- To function in a manner consistent with the Values and Vision of the Network.

Join today!

Simply fill out the application form, detach and return



y o u t h a f f a i r s n e t w o r k q l d

it to YANQ with your membership / subscription fee payment.

For more information please call us on:

(07) 3844 7713 or 1800 177 899

(available for regional Queensland)

or email admin@yanq.org.au

or check out our website at www.yanq.org.au

Summary of our Values

At YANQ, we believe that everyone is unique. At the same time, human beings share a lot in common, and are essentially social. We envisage a society where everyone lives in harmony. For this to happen, society must both value every individual and seek the best outcome for the community as a whole. There is the same diversity amongst young people as the rest of the community; like everyone else, young people need to feel respected and valued. When young women and young men are treated as important, the rest of society will gain from their insights and experiences.

We aim to contribute to developing a society that genuinely includes all its members. That's why we are committed to promoting multiculturalism (in its widest sense), and supporting and respecting the wide range of cultures that are part of Australian society. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people always have been, and always will be, the first people of this land. Because of their special relationship with the land, indigenous culture will always have a particular significance in Australian society. Focussing on reconciliation with indigenous people is an important starting point toward creating a more inclusive society. It also provides a model for other areas of action, including strategies toward improving the situation of young people.

We believe that the most effective way to achieve constructive social change is for people to work together. Economic, social and political change is happening all the time, and it is critical that we constantly assess and reassess our strategies if we are to influence change. Both the process and outcomes of change must be fair if sustained, constructive social change is to occur.

We believe that everybody is entitled to have their basic emotional and material rights met. The central role of governments is to ensure that this occurs. Unfortunately, at the moment, governments in Australia focus on supporting global economic interests. Whilst we believe that everyone is fundamentally equal, some sections of our society do not have access to their fair share of society's resources. This includes young people, whose basic human rights are currently not being met. YANQ is committed to encouraging positive discrimination on behalf of those groups which miss out in society so that this type of social injustice will be overcome. It is only when everyone's fundamental rights are fulfilled, and each has the means to fully participate, that it will become relevant to talk about "mutual obligation" between society and its members.

We believe that a range of strategies is required to achieve constructive social change. Governments in Australia appear committed to stopping the voice of those who challenge their misplaced priorities. YANQ is responsible for being a strong public voice which lobbies and advocates on behalf of those young people who particularly miss out in society and of young people as a whole. To undertake this role effectively, it is crucial that we draw on the expertise of those working most closely with issues affecting particular groups of young people—

young women and young men themselves, youth workers and youth organisations. That's why networking is another important social change strategy; it enables the youth sector to participate in collective action.

Ultimately, YANQ's credibility is maintained by practicing what we preach. Our whole structure is designed to ensure that our values and vision permeate the organisation.

We are committed to maintaining an open, flexible, accountable, consistent, inclusive, valuing approach in all our dealings— within YANQ, and in our relations with our members and the wider community. We are committed to applying our values in everything we say, and everything we do.