

NETWORK NOISE

Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

Quarterly Newsletter **May 2009**

Human Rights in Australia

What's the Best Protection and What do Young People Need?

As many readers will be aware, the Commonwealth Government is conducting an inquiry into human rights in Australia. The Government is asking for advice on the following questions:

- Which human rights and responsibilities should be protected and promoted?
- Are human rights sufficiently protected and promoted?
- How could Australia better protect and promote human rights?

Heather Stewart has been working at YANQ for the last few weeks looking at these questions. She is currently preparing a draft submission and has focussed on the effectiveness of the Human Rights Charter that has been proposed by a number of advocacy groups, and canvassed by the Government.

Through her research, Heather has made the following points about this proposal:

- The adoption of a Human Rights Charter of the type currently proposed is not the most comprehensive or effective method for protecting human rights in Australia.
- Any attempt to protect indigenous rights within the proposed Human Rights Charter must be accompanied by the

willingness of government to take steps to initiate amendments to the Commonwealth Constitution to recognise the sovereign rights of Indigenous people to address past injustices and encourage reconciliation.

- Section 51(xxvi) of the Commonwealth Constitution must also be repealed and replaced by a non-discrimination and equality provision consistent with the purpose of the proposed Human Rights Charter.
- The proposed Human Rights Charter that empowers the High Court to make a declarations of incompatibility between a law and a protected right is likely to be unconstitutional.
- The doctrine of the separation of powers outlined in the Commonwealth Constitution limits the scope of the courts to interpret legislation under the dialogue model which may often result in a failure to protect human rights under the proposed Charter.

In addition to these general criticisms of the proposed Charter, YANQ is also considering what particular protections or rights young people require to enable them to participate appropriately in our community. Our initial thoughts are:

- Giving young people aged 16 and 17 the right to vote (on a non-compulsory basis).
- Removing wage discriminations based on age. If a young person can do a job as well as an older person, then there is no reason to pay them any less.
- Guaranteeing access to free education or employment in the public sector – if the community is going to require young people to earn or learn, then it needs to guarantee access to education, training and employment.
- A guarantee of access to training, education and employment must also be backed by a right to a livable income. Social security payments for students must be lifted to above the poverty line. Any employment guarantees must provide young people with wages no lower than the minimum wage.

What are your thoughts? We need to hear from you, our members and subscribers, so that our submission to the consultations represents the collective view of youth services in Queensland.

To share your thoughts, give us a call on **07 3844 7713** or email Heather via heather@yanq.org.au.

For more information about the National Human Rights Consultation, visit <http://www.humanrightsconsultation.gov.au/>.

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National Consultation on Rights

A fair go for Australians – a fair go for Queenslanders

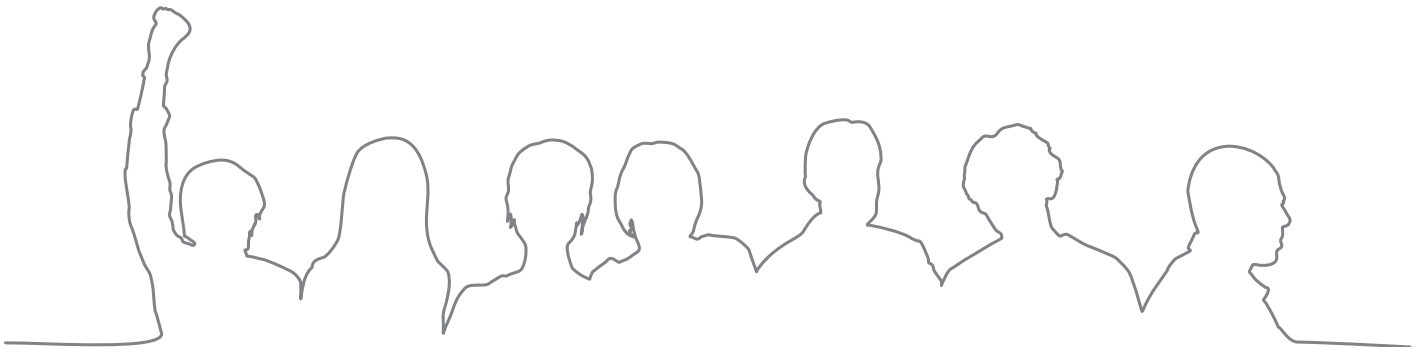
Just Rights Qld (JRQ) (email: campaign@justrightsqld.org) has developed a website on the national consultation to support a local campaign entitled "A fair go for Australians – a fair go for Queenslanders". The website address is <http://www.justrightsqld.org/Fairgo/index.html>.

JRQ encourages young people to use this website. You will have access to:

- Source material on human rights.
- Some background material on what the national consultation on rights is all about.
- Arguments as to why a human rights act would be important.
- Links to sites where people can make online submissions.
- Documents to download, including a submission template, to allow people to write their own submissions or hold meetings to facilitate the writing of submissions.

Talk with your friends, family and colleagues encouraging them to contribute to the national consultation (<http://www.humanrightsconsultation.gov.au/>) on rights.

Send in a submission now at **GetUp!** (<http://www.getup.org.au/campaign/rights/478>) or **Amnesty International** (<http://www.amnesty.org.au/yourhumanrights/consultation/>).



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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 August copy deadline is **Mid July**



youth affairs network qld

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

Human Rights, Religion and Multiculturalism

By Daniel Walker

The Australian Human Rights Commission, Australia's national, independent statutory authority which administers Commonwealth human rights laws, commissioned the Australian Multicultural Foundation in association with RMIT University and Monash University and the Australian Partnership of Religious Organisations to prepare a National Report of Freedom of Religion and Belief in Australia. In March, I was invited to take part in a consultation for the report in Brisbane.

Having come from a background of comparative religious studies, I felt confident that I could contribute to the discussion, particularly when it came to religious requirements for newly arrived African and South East Asian communities, whether they be Muslim or practitioners of indigenous religions. I also have personal concerns about the nature of religious education in state primary schools, and how this affects young immigrants and children of newly arrived skill workers, and I was keen to raise this issue to the panel for feedback.

The panel was led by Professor Gary Bouma from Monash University. Gary is a widely-published and respected academic in the discipline of sociology of religion. Being familiar with his work and his general approach, I was optimistic that the panel would be in good hands. The panellists that arrived on the day, however, gave me pause.

There is still a general feeling that Australia is a Christian nation. While this was certainly the case early in the 20th century, and was still the case up until the early 1970s, it is no longer the case now. However, when many people say 'religion', they often think 'Christianity'. When they hear 'church', they think of a Christian

church or cathedral. And when they hear 'religious leaders', their first thought tends to be of Christian priests, or even the Pope. The reality is that Australia, and Queensland, are very religiously diverse places. Buddhism and Hinduism have been the fastest growing religions in Australia for the last ten years, and the Muslim community continues to grow with new and emerging communities from parts of Africa and Asia. Neo-pagan religions are increasingly popular, and so too are humanist and atheistic movements.

This diversity, however, was not represented at the discussion I attended. There were numerous Christian panellists (Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian, Serbian Orthodox etc), but numbers of other religious groups were significantly under-represented. I cannot simply blame the Commission or the Australian Multicultural Foundation for not inviting a decent range of representatives, because this is a broader problem. Until the mindset of Australia being a "Christian nation" is changed, discussions such as this will never be truly inclusive. Multiculturalism means more than multi-ethnicity. For many cultures, religion is an integral part of daily life, not just a Sunday obligation. This is difficult to understand for the majority of white Christian Australians, who learn from an early age that church and state have long been separated.

In April I went on holidays to Thailand and Malaysia, Buddhist and Muslim countries respectively, and observed societies that are essentially religiously inclusive in nature. In Kuala Lumpur, Muslims, Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Taoists and Sikhs all live their various social and religious lives, in a large and active city. Of course, Islam is the state religion, and government jobs tend to be filled by

Muslims. Such a system would not be appropriate in Australia, but perhaps we could learn a bit about the acceptance of other religions, and move beyond our 'Christian Nation' idea.

Moving past this mindset would not be an easy process. It requires education, probably from an early age, to facilitate understanding and acceptance of different cultures, religions and beliefs as valid and equal to our own. Perhaps this process could begin in primary school, with religious instruction taking a comparative studies approach, or even a cultural appreciation approach. Of course at this stage, I would not recommend an overhaul of the State Education system, but simply a discussion. While the majority of Queenslanders still identify as Christians (regardless of their actual attendance or commitment), there are others who identify as Muslims (20,300), Baha'i (nearly 2000), Buddhists (47,500), Hindus (14,000), Neo-pagans (nearly 6000), Jews (nearly 4000), Sikhs (2600), Satanists (nearly 500), Taoists (780), and Theosophists (340). And then there are Atheists (nearly 6000) and those with no religion (over 700,000). (Figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006 census figures).

Clearly, Queensland is not just a Christian state, nor is it just a white state, nor just a European state. Religious diversity is a big part of multiculturalism, but in many ways, it has been left behind. It is time to take steps to catch up.

ERACISM!

ERACISM into the online community



Due to the short-term nature of my position, 2009 has been a slightly troubled year for ERACISM. I was faced with somewhat limited options for the first half of the year. I initially planned to organise a small event some time in June. Instead, I decided to take ERACISM into the online community.

I had a few reasons for doing this. Firstly, a number of online networking and hosting services are free, so it doesn't cost much, if anything, to set up. Secondly, social networking sites such as Facebook have, by their very nature, a far greater reach than the usual email lists or pamphlet drops. Thirdly, our primary target audience (outside of those who work in the sector) is young people, and the internet is increasingly their preferred medium for communication, research and discussion. Also, a web-based project is sustainable, and can be shared by a number of people.

Finally, having an online presence makes it very easy to host a great deal of information centrally, and then direct people to it, without having to have all the information on hand at any given time.

With all these points in mind, I created a Facebook page called "ERACISM! Project", and would encourage everybody to become a fan. (From your own Facebook page, type "Eracism! Project" in the search

box, and hit 'become a fan' in the search results.) From this page I can advise all the fans about upcoming events on the calendar, and they can quickly see the latest ERACISM! news from my status updates.

It is also a good place to upload photos of events, link to other websites, and start discussion groups.

As a support to the Facebook page, I also created a website hosted by Google Sites. I purchased the domain name www.eracism.com.au, and started a simple and (hopefully) easy to follow format with a calendar of events and a blog, as well as an introduction page on what the ERACISM! Project is all about. Again, we can link to the Facebook page from here, as well as embed videos from the new ERACISM! Youtube account, photos from our Flickr account, and any reports, documentation or information from our own collection.

I also organised a new ERACISM! Logo and ordered some merchandise to help spread the word. We now have button badges, fridge magnets, bumper stickers, and post-it notes all adorned with the new logo, as well as special calico bags to put them in. Now whenever we take part in an event, big or small, other participants will have a memento from us, which leads

them directly to our website, where they can learn even more about us.

These bags of goodies had their first outing at a Human Rights consultation for young people from immigrant backgrounds on 6th May (hosted by QPASTT), and were a great success. My hope is that these bumper stickers and button badges will eventually be seen all around Brisbane.

The first big event hosted by ERACISM! will be a workshop during Refugee Week (14-20 June), in conjunction with QPASTT and QCOSS. Information on the event will of course be posted on the website.

Even though my contract with YANQ is coming to an end, it is my hope that ERACISM! will live on in its new format.

If you would like to know more about the project, take a look at the website, or contact me by calling YANQ, or email cald@yanq.org.au.

Studying Innovative Community based responses

to intra and inter-cultural youth conflict / violence

During 2008 Dr Peter Westoby (Lecturer in Community Development, School of Social Work and Human Services and Research Associate in Australian Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies, University of Queensland), had the opportunity, thanks to a Churchill Fellowship to study innovative community based responses to intra- and inter-cultural youth conflict and violence.

This article summarises the key research findings to do with the three concerns of intra- and inter-cultural youth conflict, youth violence and youth gangs. The research took place during June-August 2008, in South Africa (Johannesburg, Durban and Bloemfontein), the UK (London, Manchester/Oldham and Coventry), USA (Boulder and Denver/Colorado) and New Zealand (Auckland). The main text of the report also clearly identifies resources I have collected during the trip and I am happy to be contacted by people who wish to have access to these.

Major Lessons/conclusions

The key lessons and conclusions have been distilled into the three concerns to do with inter-cultural youth conflict, youth violence and youth gangs. A primary lesson learnt is that any analysis of youth, culture, conflict and violence must include informed discussions about the role of masculinities, the 'work' of culture, social hope, deprivation, race relations, the dynamics of humiliation and rage, the role of the internet in nurturing performance and mimicry, the fragmentation of kinship and community, and the loss of country/law. There are many connecting issues – any reduction of the issue to a simple 'analysis' such as 'gang problems' is unhelpful.

Other key lessons are that any 'community-cohesion work' (building multicultural community) must also ensure inequalities

are addressed. The 'work' of culture is not adequate to address race relations. A class analysis needs to remain central to our understanding of both the challenges and the ways forward. A core strategy would therefore need to be linking young people into comprehensive community economic development work.

With that in mind the final report signposts many ways forward including:

- youth training in mediation and conflict resolution (universally-targeted and group-specific, professionally and peer-led),
- capacity building for peace-work within Diaspora communities,
- facilitated dialogues between groups in conflict, and
- youth mentoring.

With regards to youth violence readers should be reminded that the main victims of youth violence are young people – many live in fear of violence. Secondly, much research to do with addressing youth violence is being ignored by policy makers and politicians. A key problem is not so much our knowing or not knowing how to address it, but building effective links between research, practice and policy. Thirdly, we must avoid overly focusing on manifest visible violence and ignoring systemic violence that leads to inter-generational poverty. Fourthly, we must understand youth violence within the context of an analysis of the impact of globalisation and neo-liberalism on deprived communities. For example, many parents, in being forced to work multiple casual and shift-oriented jobs, are often neither at home nor available to run civic groups (such as sports clubs). This creates a social space that will be filled by other youth and peer-led activities.

In addressing youth violence the main



Street signage on 'Brick Lane', Tower Hamlets, East London

report highlights numerous evidence based initiatives both within communities and school settings. The primary recommendation is a re-investment in effective youth programs that address the kinds of gaps highlighted. Other recommendations refer to activities such as specific engagement with Pacific Islander communities within SE QLD, and groups at-risk of radicalization e.g. Somali young people and some White groups; and the need to set up appropriate counselling services for young people who have experienced violence.

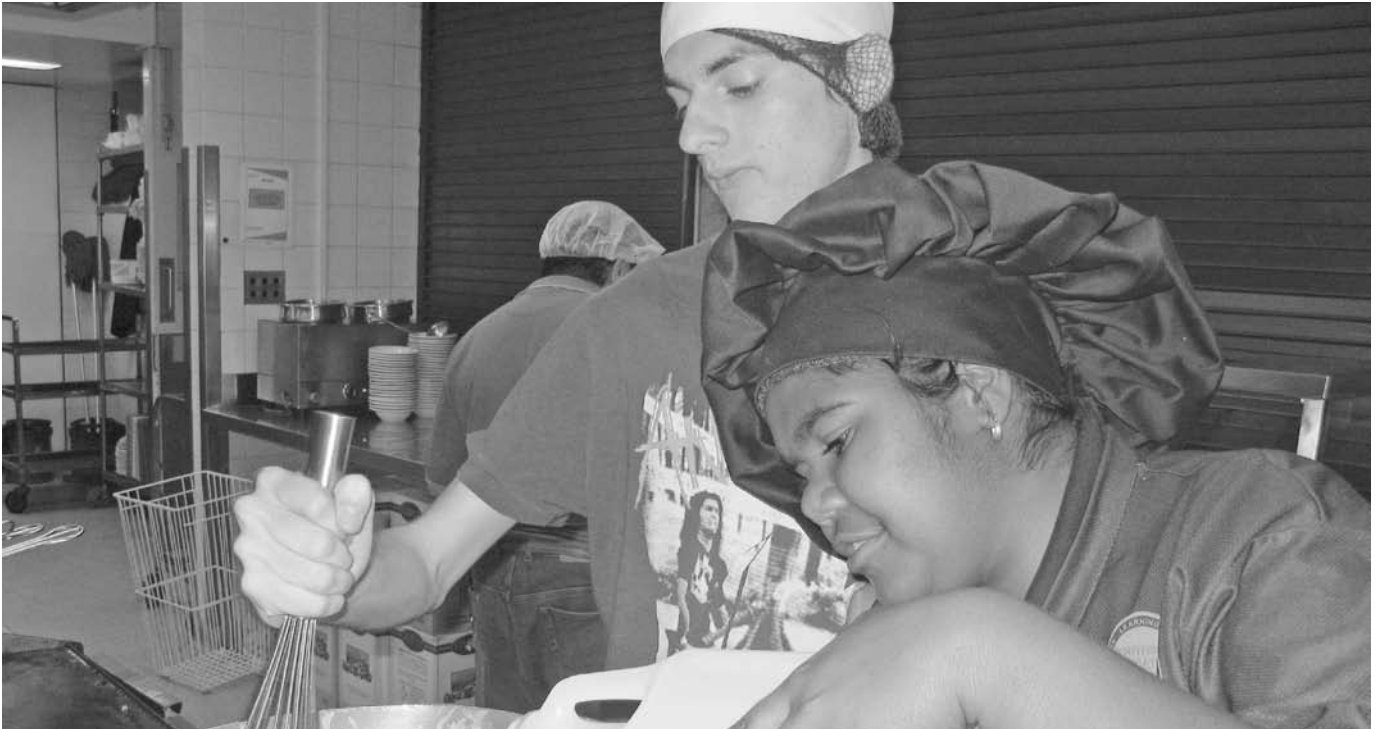
Finally, the report documents some key discussions with regards to 'youth gangs' and emphasises critically that people should be very careful of utilising the concept of gangs; and appreciatively that youth workers/programmers/policy-makers need to invest in:

- i. research that both illuminates the concrete dynamics of group offending and gang-like activities (recruiting, mundane activities, criminal activities and so forth) but also engages 'gangs' as potential social movements; and,
- ii. community development-oriented work that brings community stakeholders, police and other government departments (including local governments) together to develop integrated strategies (prevention, intervention and crisis).

For people interested in accessing the whole report please feel free to contact him on p.westoby@uq.edu.au.

Homeless Young People and the Labour Market

Action Research in Brisbane



A little history

In 2008 Brisbane Youth Service (BYS) was successful in receiving a grant from the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations to deliver a six month pilot project to young homeless people.

The aim of the project was to assist young job seekers gain the necessary skills to enter the labour market by providing a group of young people (30) access to accredited training, job readiness skills and twenty young people into jobs and provide employment support. An action learning approach was at the forefront of this pilot project in order to integrate best practice for working with young job seekers who face many complex barriers. The program logic was and still is based around the idea of breaking things down in small attainable steps hence the implementation of short accredited courses.

Due to the success of the first project in 2009 BYS was granted a further 12 months of funding to build upon the foundation and the program logic.

One of the key learnings from phase one was that short courses are very successful in engaging highly vulnerable young people in training but that in a competitive labour market and with employment being the ultimate funding outcome, young people sometimes fall short depending on their previous education and work history. The extension of this idea sees the 2009 project deliver industry clusters which still focuses on the short accredited training concept however builds upon it by offering a cluster of short courses each building on skill within a specific area.

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Homeless Young People and the Labour Market cont.



The happenin's of 09

Our most recent cluster that all young people successfully completed was the manual labour cluster. This cluster of courses consisted of short accredited training in the following areas: Certificate 1 Horticulture, Safety Construction Blue Card, Forklift License and First Aid Certificate. The young people who underwent the final stage of this cluster (Forklift Ticket) are now interested in doing their Skid Steer Ticket (commonly known as a bobcat) as a result of having an exposure to it whilst on campus.

The second cluster is in Hospitality which will deliver training in Responsible Service to Alcohol/and Gaming, Practical Bar Skills course, Barista training and First Aid Certificate. We are also hoping to have a coffee machine on site in the drop-in space so that young people who are participating in the program can have access to further support to build up their skills and speed in this area. It will also give other young people who are not part of the program an opportunity to have a play on the coffee machine and explore possible skills and interest. A monthly simulated café will also be implemented where young people will wait tables and serve coffee and food in conjunction with the BYS cooking program to community members to build upon their job preparation skills.

Equipping young people with the necessary job preparation skills is another key area of support offered as part of this program and the one that requires the most intensive one on one support. We have had some fantastic support from the likes of McArthur Management Services who developed our Job preparation workbook, Fitted for Work who regularly come to BYS do mock interview with job seekers and Interact Employment and the Young Workers Advisory who have delivered sessional workshops.

Reflections

Having such a program exist as part of BYS's core business has been a really positive experience for young people and one that has enabled a safe and respectful learning environment to be created, young people completing training that we even had underestimated their ability to do!

What has been observed is that a large majority of our young people face fairly extreme barriers to employment: including such things as literacy and numeracy, communication skills, working in a team, lack of employment references, requirements such as own transport, clear on-going job hoping, an incomplete school history, negative learning experiences, confidence and many more other related issues such as housing, drug and alcohol and mental health.

With an initiative that is focused around employment outcomes the challenges that face this program is the reality that for participants successfully completing their chosen accredited course is a massive achievement and completing these first couple of steps is perhaps all that they are ready for. Young people are so keen for training, it has been a constant factor throughout the duration of program, they want to explore different interest areas and develop their skills.

Feeding this information back through reporting measures and conversations with the Department has been a key priority of this program. This program has done a fantastic job in facilitating this process and supporting young people on their training courses to do so. All participants who have put their names down to do courses have completed them apart from one young person due to unforeseen family matters, this track record includes participants from last year program as well.

... Continued to page 8

Homeless Young People and the Labour Market cont.



The way forward

SNAP has generated enormous interest iBYS found out last week that they have been successful in gaining extra dollars for a 3.5 day position as part of the training and employment program. This is a result of continually advocating to the Department on the realities of working with this clients group and the shortfalls of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work Initiative that this program is modeled around. In saying this however receiving this extra money highlights that the regional manager for Brisbane north, Iona Tait has over the duration of the Phase 1 and 2 of this project understood what it means to work with young homeless people and the complexities that exists for these job seekers to attain pathways into training and employment. Iona has been a great voice for us within the Department.

Having an extra person as part of the training and employment team will mean that I will have a greater capacity to coordinate the program and build relationships with local business in the Fortitude Valley area. To date, although an area of program development required there has been limited opportunities to do so due to the lack of resources and high support needs. In the challenging economic climate that faces us finding jobs for the young people who are part of this program is proving to be more and more challenging. Creating jobs for our participants by educating potential employers and building working relationships with them so that they feel that they are not taking such a risk is the way forward in securing pathways to sustainable employment for young people wanting to enter the labour market.

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Homeless Young People and the Labour Market cont.

What Young People Reckon!!

My name is Shaun and I am currently looking for work but now I have the added benefit of having a forklift ticket, a construction blue card and certificate in hand and power tools. I would not have this advantage if it wasn't for the program at BYS and Chantelle. This has been a huge help.

Hi my name is Kiama and I am 16 this year. Last year I did a chef course with Chantelle, it was good. I went from the first day 2 the last day, I attended every day. It was a deadly experience!

I felt excited about commencing these courses because it gave me something to do apart from drinking, I am proud of myself now that the course is over and because I passed.

Chantelle Scacheri
Training and Employment Coordinator

I have been employed with BYS for over two years and prior to taking on this role within the organization I was working on a casual basis across different programs at BYS whilst completing my Human Service degree. I have enjoyed being part of this program – the triumphs, the challenges and learnings, but most of all the privileged opportunity to work with such great groups of young people and watch them develop skills and explore different interest areas in their search.

Out of School Hours Care and School Holiday Program

Ipswich

Ipswich Community Youth Service (ICYS) is a non-profit making community organisation that operates an Out of School Hours Care activities program during school term aimed at children aged 12-15 yrs old. Sessions run Monday through to Thursdays (3pm – 5.30pm) each school week and include a variety of sports and activities.

ICYS will also be operating their regular school holiday program, aimed at children aged 11-16 yrs old. The upcoming June/July holiday program (29th June – 10th July) will include full day activities, including BBQ's, Bush Walks and daily trips to various locations and attractions. Due to the content of the holiday program, a daily/weekly fee will be required to participate.

Available spaces for both programs are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

If anyone would like further information regarding the program, then please contact ICYS Youth Activities Co-ordinator, Bruce Foster on 3812 1050 or email yas@icys.net



Government: Putting Kids in Prison Threatens Community Safety

Extract pp 174-175 11 Feb 2009 Hansard
Second Reading *Juvenile Justice (Sentencing Principles) Amendment Bill*

The following is an extract of a speech made to the Queensland Parliament by then Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport, Hon Judy Spence MP. The speech was made on the 11th of February this year.

“ I understand the opposition’s desperate attempt to whip up a law and order debate as we go into an election year. But the difficulty for the opposition is that we have a very good story to tell in Queensland in terms of our crime figures. What we have seen in the last seven years is a 24 per cent reduction in crime in the state. In the last year alone we have seen a five percent reduction in crime. That reduction in crime did not happen in just the adult area but also happened in the juvenile area. It is disappointing that the opposition has chosen to use juveniles and juvenile crime as its punching bag as it goes into this law and order debate. It is trying to engage with the lowest common denominator out there who believe that we are soft on juveniles and soft on crime.

The facts are that crime is down and our prison population is up. Our adult prison population has increased by 140 per cent in the last 15 years. Our juvenile detention rate has also increased. Just five years ago when I was the minister responsible for juvenile detention we averaged about 80 kids a day in detention in Queensland. Today we are averaging 120 to 130 kids a day in detention in Queensland.

We are locking more kids up. Maybe that makes the opposition happy. It certainly does not make me happy. What I know and what researches worldwide will tell us is that putting kids into prison does not do them any good. I acknowledge that we do have to detain kids who have done heinous crimes. We have to give them a period of detention. But if members think we are getting good results out of it then they are very wrong.

In 2003 the CMC did a very good report called *Youth justice: Criminal trajectories research project*. It studied recidivism of juveniles over a seven-year period in Queensland. It found that 79 per cent

of juvenile offenders progressed into the adult correctional system. Some 89 per cent of male indigenous juveniles will go on to reoffend and end up in adult detention centres. Some 91 per cent of those subject to care and protection orders will go on to adult detention. The CMC said that most serious juvenile offenders will continue a criminal career into adulthood. They are alarming statistics.

They are backed up by statistics in every other country in the world. A large body of research in the United Kingdom reported that 88 per cent of young people reoffended within two years of release from custody. In North America research reported recidivism rates as high as 96 per cent of people leaving custody. The belief that a short period of remand in custody acts as a short, sharp shock and deters offenders from further offending has also been disproved. In fact, a British study found that this can lead to significant increases in subsequent offending. The study showed that 64 per cent of young people held in custody on remand reoffended. It is all bad in terms of our very good attempts, our courageous attempts to provide some rehabilitation when we send young people to detention.

That is one reason we do not want to use detention as a first resort which is the proposition being put to us by the opposition tonight. There are lots of other reasons though. Firstly, it does not work. Secondly, let us consider the cost. At the moment, this government is expanding the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre in Townsville. **We are expanding it by 48 beds at a cost of \$180 million. That works out at \$3½ million a bed. That is just the built in infrastructure. If we are going down the path of building more prisons for kids and for adults then people clearly have to understand the cost to taxpayers of that course of action.**

Only this morning I read in the paper that in California – the place in the world that has the biggest prison

Putting Kids in Prison Threatens Community Safety cont.

population – the judges have got together and demanded that people be released from prison because of the overcrowding in the prison population. I have visited those prisons in California and it is a shocking state of affairs. **But the premise behind what the opposition is putting to us tonight is that prison works and that prison rehabilitates kids, and clearly that is not the case.** Having said that, we should be very proud of the fact that in the state we have youth justice conferencing which we know works and which is used to great effect by the police and by members of the community who want to sit face to face with the juvenile in order to get some restitution and explanation for the juvenile's actions. We also fund many youth organisations around the state that look after juveniles and supervise them on community based orders. I do not think any government anywhere else in Australia has given so much attention to this vexed problem of how we can assist juveniles who offend to turn their lives around, but I know for sure that jailing more of them is not a solution.

We are the only state in Australia that has 17-year-olds in the adult prison system rather than the juvenile prison system, as happens in every other state. We are tougher on juvenile offenders than any other state in Australia, and I know that that makes some people happy and hopefully it makes the opposition happy. But at the end of the day it is going to be very hard for the opposition to conduct this law and order auction on this Labor government being soft on crime when every single figure we can present to the people of Queensland shows the reverse. We are proud of our record of achievement in the adult prison system and in the juvenile prison system. I stand here proudly as the minister and say that we have not had an escape from secure custody in the 10 years of the Labor government. The last time anyone escaped from a Queensland prison was under a National Party government.

I am proud of the fact that we are investing in our infrastructure and that we have built first-class prisons in Queensland in both the adult and the juvenile detention systems, and we should all be proud of the fact that we have provided those good conditions for

people who are incarcerated. I am proud of the fact that we continue to put money into programs for juveniles and for adults in our prisons and we continue to provide them with the skills and employment opportunities that hopefully will make them worthwhile citizens when they are released from detention. So in no way, shape or form do I believe that the Nationals are going to be successful in whipping up this law and order debate as they embark on this election year, because if we can get out there and honestly and sincerely explain the juvenile detention philosophy that we have in this state most thinking Queenslanders will appreciate that locking up every 15-year-old graffiti artist or shoplifter or egg thrower really is not the way to turn their lives around.

Most of the kids who end up in detention come from poor homes. Most of them are Indigenous. Most of them have literacy and numeracy problems, and throwing them into jail is necessary unfortunately if they have committed a crime that warrants that, and we do not walk away from that. But making it a first resort, which is the opposition's proposition here tonight, is certainly not the way any thinking people would have us behave. I talk to our police on a daily basis, particularly police who deal in the juvenile area of our police force. They are all volunteers and most of them are good-hearted people who joined that part of policing because they want to make a difference in kids' lives. That is why they would rather sit them down at a youth justice conference or give them a caution and try to turn their lives around. Most police do not see sending our children to prison as a solution to enhance these children's lives or to reduce crime in our society.

So if members opposite think that their daft idea has the support of the law and order officials in this state, then they are wrong, because the police that I talk to are smart people. They are deep-thinking people who are smart enough to know – unlike the opposition – that these are tough problems and there are no easy solutions. Jailing every kid is an easy solution. It might be saleable out there in the marketplace that those opposite talk to, but it is certainly not a smart solution for pushing down the rates of crime in this state. I would urge all members to proudly vote down this nonsense here tonight.

”

Meeting the Needs of Marginalised Young Men

By Mindy Sotiri

The impetus for the research came from workers at two key youth health services in the inner west of Sydney. These workers identified that for many young men at risk (of suicide, or involvement in the criminal justice system), engagement with youth services was – when it existed – problematic and frequently erratic. The difficulties involved in engaging, and then maintaining connection with this group of men – combined with the risks this group posed to both themselves and to others – led to these services seeking – and receiving funding for a project to both further explore these issues and recommend strategies to address them.

The research process involved an extensive literature review, interviews with 40 service providers from 20 different agencies and interviews with 17 young men who were in contact with youth services. Four key questions were investigated.

Who are marginalised young men¹?

What are the needs of these marginalised young men?

How are services meeting the needs of marginalised young men? and

What could or should services be doing differently to meet these needs?

The research found that the most marginalised young men tend to be those who do not access- or are not accessed by- youth services. The needs of this group are substantial- and at times overwhelming for youth services. At risk young men are generally socially and economically impoverished, are often involved in problematic drug use, are frequently alienated from their families

and communities, tend to have problems with mainstream education, have difficulties more generally with ‘fitting in’, and often struggle to find motivation and hope. It is those young men who are most in need and most at risk, who provoke youth services to reassess their standard modes of operation. They are frequently the ‘problem clients’- the young men who cause exasperation and frustration amongst workers because of the combination of the vastness and complexity of their needs and the accompanying range of self-destructive behaviours that can make meeting these needs so difficult.

The research identified many practical barriers to solid service provision and pragmatic considerations formed the basis of many of the recommendations. These recommendations covered areas such as: opening hours (too many youth health services were not open outside of standard business hours), location (young men tend not to want to travel far from their local area), the breadth of the service (young men wanted a ‘one stop shop’- and didn’t want to be referred to outside services) and first impressions (an unfriendly receptionist, or otherwise unwelcoming environment was found to have a huge impact on the likelihood of ongoing contact).

In addition the research found that there were often structural barriers to service provision relating to organisational culture. For instance punitive policies governing punctuality and displays of anger have the potential to alienate, and at times further exclude, already marginalised groups. Although ‘relaxing’ policies about displays of boisterous, loud, or even angry behaviour is frequently not possible when

other clients are sharing the service space – and there is certainly no argument to allow abusive behaviour – the research found that there is a need for youth services to closely examine the extent to which policies governing behaviour (including importantly past expressions of anger and attendance at appointments) contributes to the ongoing exclusion of young marginalised men.

The research also found that although flexibility and spontaneity are two of the most important case-work tools for this client group, many organisations did not have the capacity to enable workers to utilise these. For instance many organisations were not set up to allow a worker to make an unscheduled, spontaneous trip to accompany a young man in crisis to a housing or Centrelink office. However this form of flexible case-work in times of crisis was found to be extremely influential in terms of promoting ongoing engagement with the service.

Tensions often exist between the needs of youth services (worker safety, efficient use of worker time and resources, pragmatic prioritisation of all client needs) and the needs of the most vulnerable men. The research found however, that despite the many barriers to service for this group, there are a number of programs which are enormously successful at engaging marginalised young men. The research recommended that attention be paid both to the programs which are working, as well as to the voices of marginalised young men who when given the space, are clearly able to articulate what is and isn’t helpful when accessing youth health services.

1) The term ‘young men’ in this project refers to young men between the ages of 12 and 24.

This article is a brief overview of research conducted in 2007 examining the needs of marginalised young men, and barriers to service provision for this group. It is summarised from the article ‘Meeting the Needs of Marginalised Young Men. An analysis of service provision’, published in Youth Studies Australia in 2008.

Regional Queensland

Bundaberg and District Youth Forum

Contact: Andrea Bax, Youth Development Officer
Bundaberg Community Development Inc
PO Box 2252, Bundaberg Q 4670
Ph: 07 4153 3066 Fax: 07 4151 1813
Email: andrea.bax@bundaberg.qld.gov.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 Brooks-Cooper, Youth Development Officer
PO Box 359, Cairns Q 4870
Ph: 07 4044 3016 Fax: 07 4044 3830
Email: T.Brooks@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

Convenor: Margaret Renfry
Contact: Sue Feleleai, 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 Sue for meeting times and venue.

North Burnett Community Services Network

Contact: Lauren Pattie, Community Development Officer,
Monto Neighbourhood Centre
Ph: 07 4166 1733 Fax: 07 4166 1061
Email: cdomonto@bigpond.com

Meets second Wednesday of every month at different venues around the North Burnett.

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@anglicarecq.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@swhcp.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.

Far Northern Youth Sector Network

Contact: Tanya Brooks-Cooper, Youth Development Officer
PO Box 359, Cairns Q 4870
Ph: 07 4044 3016 Fax: 07 4044 3830
Email: T.Brooks@cairns.qld.gov.au
Contact Tanya for meeting details.

Gladstone Youth Interagency

Contact: Andrea Hughes
Gladstone Regional Council PO Box 29, Gladstone Q 4680
Ph: 07 4976 6300 Fax: 07 4972 6557
Email: andrea@gcc.qld.gov.au
Meets first Wednesday of the month (excepting school holidays) 12 noon at the Community Advisory Service, 142 Goonoon Street, Gladstone

Hervey Bay Youth Sector Workers Network

Contact: Sue Lawler, Youth Development Officer
Fraser Coast Regional Council PO Box 1943, Hervey Bay Q 4655
Ph: 07 4197 4330 Fax: 07 4197 4303
Email: sue.lawler@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
Fraser Coast Regional Council PO Box 1943, Hervey Bay Q 4655
Ph: 07 4030 2255 Fax: 07 4061 6005
Email: cdo@ccrc.qld.gov.au
Meets last Thursday of every second month 1pm at Parish Centre, Rankin Street, Innisfail.

Mackay Youth Connections Network Inc

Contact: Nikki Hughes, Secretary
Ph: (07) 4961 9436 Mobile: 0437 031 879
Email: ydo@mackay.qld.gov.au
Meets third Tuesday of the month 10.30am. Venue will rotate – participants will be advised at start of each month.

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: Julie Andersen, Secretary – MICAT
Mobile: 0458 335 414
Email: julieandersen@ereflc.org.au
Meets twice per school term.
Contact Julie for meeting details.

Rockhampton Youth Interagency Network

Contact: Laine Barclay, Youth Facilitator
St Vincent de Paul Society, Rockhampton Central Council
Ph: 07 4927 8073 Mobile 0409 495 020
Email: Laine.Barclay@svdpqld.org.au
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 4624 0800 Fax: 07 4622 1448
Email: rncReception@romaregionalcouncil.qld.gov.au
Meets every six weeks on a Monday from 11.30am. Contact the Neighbourhood Centre for details.

Sarina Interagency Meeting

Contact: Paul Taylor, Youth Development Officer
Sarina Youth Centre, PO Box 219, Sarina Q 4737
Ph: 07 4961 9277
Email: sarinayouthcentre@mackay.qld.gov.au
Meets first Wednesday of every second month. For additional information, please contact Paul 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: Ingrid Reichelt - Community Capacity & Service Quality,
Department of Communities
PO Box 2427, Toowoomba Q 4350
Ph: 07 4699 4222
Email: ingrid.reichelt@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 Ingrid 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 in the Youth Justice Service (Bamford Lane).

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: Bonita Tyler, Community Youth Worker
PO Box 26, Warwick Q 4370
Ph: 07 4661 7166 Fax: 07 4661 0333
Email: bonita.tyler@southernndowns.qld.gov.au
Meets quarterly. Contact Warwick Youth Service for meeting details as dates & venue vary.

Whitsunday Youth Focus Network

Contact: Amanda Jensen, Youth Services Officer
Whitsunday Regional Council
Ph: 07 4945 0216 Fax: 07 4945 0222
Email: Amanda.jensen@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au
Meets bi-monthly. Contact Amanda for Network details.

South-East Queensland

Brisbane Inner Urban Youth Interagency

Contact: Ryan Foster
Ph: 07 3403 0136
Email: ryan.foster@brisbane.qld.gov.au
Meets 10-12 noon first Wednesday of the month.
Contact Ryan for details.

Brisbane South Youth Interagency

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

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Youth Caboolture Area Network (YCAN)

Pine Rivers Youth Service Providers Network and Redcliffe Youth Service Providers Network

Contact: Jacqui Pedersen

Moreton Bay Regional Council – Caboolture District

Ph: 07 3283 0285 Fax: 07 3883 1723 Mobile: 0419 024 394

Email: jacqueline.pedersen@moretonbay.qld.gov.au

As meeting times and venues rotate, contact Jacqui for details.

Gold Coast Youth Network

Contact: Resource Worker, Gold Coast Youth Service
PO Box 740, Burleigh Heads Q 4220

Ph: 07 5572 0400 Fax: 07 5575 2607

Email: manager@goldcoastyouthservice.com

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 Fax: 07 3812 2971 Mobile 0438 549 942

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: john@iyfss.org.au

Meets 1pm 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@lscca.org.au

Contact(2): Anne James, CDW/Coordinator

Lockyer Information & Neighbourhood Centre Inc (LINC)

Ph 07 5462 3355 Fax: 07 5462 4437

Email: lincgatton@bigpond.com

All meetings commence at 1.00pm.

Laidley meetings held 10th March, 2nd June, 25th August and 17th November at Laidley Community Centre, 13 Mary Street (opp The Bus Stop).

Gatton meetings held 27th January, 21st April, 14th July and 6th October 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: jasonreid@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 Tunncliffe

Sunshine Coast Youth Partnerships,
Building 1, 131 Sugar Road, Alexandra Headland

Ph: 07 5479 0070 Fax 07 5479 2575 Mobile 0435 101 687

Email: jtunncliffe@caloundrayouth.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: Carol Gollschewsky

United Synergies

Ph: 07 5442 4277

Email: cgollschewsky@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).

Redlands Youth Network

Contact: Kara Mansley, 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 Kara 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 Fax: 07 3355 4222 Mobile: 0407 906 462

Email: yiro@picabeen.org.au

Meets quarterly, next meeting 25/05/09.

Contact Picabeen for meeting time and venue.

The Hinterland Youth Services Network

Contact: Fiona Malcolm

Hinterland Community Development Assn of Caloundra

PO Box 451, Landsborough Qld 4550

Ph: 07 5494 1538 Mobile: 0418 720 515

Email: hcdaworker.fiona@gmail.com

Contact Fiona 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.

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: Daniel Walker, 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 or Jenny Goodwin

Othila's Young Women's Housing & Support Service

Ph: 07 3847 9633

Email: manager@othilas.org.au or group@othilas.org.au

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 or Jenny.

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!



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

Simply fill out the application form, detach and return 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.