

NETWORK NOISE

Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

Quarterly Newsletter **November 2009**

Youth Services Workforce Skills and Training Project Report to be released in December 2009

This report is the product of a collaborative effort from the youth sector in South West Queensland, Brisbane and Brisbane South regions and other key government stakeholders. It captures the data and findings that have been generated over a four month period in 2009 to create a youth service sector workforce profile and to identify key training and skilling priorities for current and future youth sector workforces.

The Queensland Government Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland platform with its 2020 vision for the State contains five key areas of focus; strong economy, smart, green environment, healthy and fair communities. This statement provides the framework to inform government priorities and initiatives towards 2020 and provides the policy guideposts in which to situate workforce development initiatives. 'Three out of four Queenslanders will hold trade, training or tertiary qualifications by 2020' provides a key message and a key avenue for workforce development initiatives in the area of 'smart' Queenslanders (www.thepremier.qld.gov.au).

Strategies to meet this target include funding and delivering flexible, high quality, post-school training, matching

the provision of training places to the skill needs of particular regions and increasing the number of vocational education and training places available to Queenslanders. Recommendations and strategies that relate to skilling and training for a 'smarter' youth services sector that support healthy and fair communities have been identified through recommendations developed for the Youth Sector Development Plan for Queensland that outline the government's role in working towards these goals and the place of industry to support workforce skilling.

In early 2009, YANQ received funding support from the Office for Youth, Department of Communities and the Department of Education and Training (DET) to undertake a Youth Services Workforce Skills and Training Project. YANQ has been advocating for a systematic approach to the development and maintenance of the youth sector workforce to ensure quality services for young people for some time. The project goes some way towards this goal through the development of this Youth Sector Development Plan, creating a platform to support a vibrant and sustainable youth sector workforce that protects and promotes young people's rights.

The project involved:

- **researching literature** about youth workforce skill development and vocational education and training requirements and products across Australia as well as internationally;
- **collecting data** on the current skills, competencies and qualifications of youth workers
- **projecting future skills** needs in line with young people's needs, government priorities and contemporary practice frameworks;
- **identifying preferred models** and potential alliances to support skill development.

The project has been designed to create opportunities for the youth services workforce to be engaged through surveys, workshops and discussions about the viability and sustainability of a vibrant youth sector in Queensland. This approach is based on the premise that sector engagement will ensure that a plan is developed by the sector, for the sector, paving the way for successful implementation of the plan.

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YANQ Believes that the Primary Culture of Australia is Aboriginal

We recognise that Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Islander people are 3 separate cultures. We recognise Aboriginal people as the permanent custodians of mainland Australia and Torres Strait Islanders as permanent custodians of the Torres Strait Islands that are an integral part of Australia, including those areas of land and sea whose owners have been wiped out as a result of

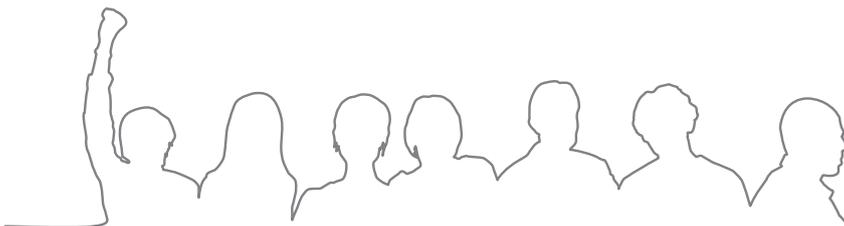
racist politics and acts. We use the term custodianship in the context of protection and care for the land. YANQ is committed to respecting individuals, Murri and Islander communities. We seek to understand their responses to policies and issues affecting them. We are committed to learning about their understandings of the impact of decisions on them. YANQ apologises for the past and

present social mistreatments of Murri and Islander people created by colonisation, and is committed to supporting the healing process.



Thanks!

We, at YANQ, sincerely thank all the contacts of the Interagency Networks for promptly responding to emails updating meeting information of the networks – this certainly helps us to provide up-to-date details both on YANQ's website and in this newsletter.



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Latest resources

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Copy Deadline February copy deadline is
Mid January



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

Youth Services Workforce Skills and Training Project Report

Cont.

The primary target group of the project was youth workers employed by community based organisations funded by Department of Communities and the Australian Government Reconnect program in South West Queensland (based on DET regional boundaries) and Brisbane and Brisbane South (including BrisbaneLGA area and the DET Brisbane South region). Some information from youth workers in services funded through other avenues or in other regional areas was also considered in the project. Data gathered and strategies generated from these two regions will be validated with other regions across Queensland.

To maximise potential outcomes, the project has been designed to consider youth sector development needs in the broader context of workforce development. Contemporary concepts of workforce development provide a framework for organisations, industry and the government to systematically approach industry or sector wide development. While workforce development typically incorporates the traditional focus of developing a workforce through training and professional development opportunities, it locates these type of strategies within a broader organisational and system approach that takes into account the range of factors that can impact on workforce capacity and effectiveness including, but greater than the individual and their development needs in their current role, to building capacity of the sector overall. Typical workforce development approaches consider systemic issues such as job role and design, recruitment and retention, policy and

funding along with training and professional development and focus on both current and future workforce. The project has gone some way towards identifying issues and themes more broadly than training needs and attempted to capture needs of both current and future workforce.

The Youth Sector Development Plan provides a summary of the data gathered during the project, key themes that emerged and recommendations that can be used to inform skilling and workforce development initiatives.

The Plan has:

- developed a baseline picture of the youth sector workforce for the identified target groups against which capacity and future workforce development strategies can be measured
- identified important issues that impact on the development of the youth sector workforce
- identified areas for further research and discussion towards systematic development of the youth sector
- provided a picture and strategies and recommendations that can be validated across all regions in Queensland to strengthen the rigour of the data and ensure regional variations and characteristics can be integrated into the plan.

Genuine sector development is a long term process requiring interest, ownership and buy-in from those within the sector both to inform what is required and how this is possible and from government to work collaboratively

with sector leaders and other key stakeholders to implement and evaluate strategies and initiatives. Working in partnership short and medium term contributions can be developed while seeds are planted for long term sustainable development and support.

The next phase of this project involves the validation of both the data collected and the picture that has emerged with other regions across Queensland. This will create the opportunity to build in regional variations, identify regional specifics and increase interest and ownership across the sector and with government and other stakeholders at a local level.

Project outcomes will be workshopped at youth sector networks across the State where the reports will be presented and a discussion facilitated about how the data applies in this region, what is the same, what is different, if recommendations and strategies are relevant and what it would take for them to work.

Data collected through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander project will be validated both back with the local communities from where it emerged to ensure accuracy and understanding of their story and then more widely across the State in a process similar to that discussed above.

For further information on this project visit: <http://www.yanq.org.au/workforceor> contact YANQ's Director Siyavash Doostkhah on 38447713.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Staff and management extend season's greetings to our supporters and look forward to catching up with you in 2010. Have an enjoyable time and stay safe.



How is the Commonwealth going to Lift School Retention Rates in Australia

by David Powell, November 2009

About 5 years ago, the Queensland Beattie Government introduced the suite of policies that we all refer to now as 'the ETRF' (Education and Training Reforms for the Future). The slogan that accompanied these changes was "Earn or Learn" – in other words the clear message was that all young people should either be working or studying. The Commonwealth Government has now picked up on this theme, implementing its own suite of policy reforms that aim to entice or cajole young people into either full time study or work or a combination of the two. One of the primary aims of the new suite of policies and programs is to increase the numbers of young people who attain their year 12, or equivalent school certificate (Y12E). Putting aside for the moment some broader analysis and critique of these changes let's examine what the Government is aiming for and how they want to achieve it.

The central aim of the new policies and programs is The Council of Australian Governments' (COAG's) target of a 90% Y12E attainment rate by 2015. The current Y12E attainment rate in Australia is 74%¹. COAG has also agreed to set a target of halving the gap in attainment rates between Indigenous young people and other young Australians by 2015.

The main strategies that the Commonwealth is applying to achieve these aims are:

- the extension of the basic underlying principle (that young people should either be earning or learning) to young people up to the age of 24;
- applying penalties to social security recipients who do not live up to this principle;
- a 'guarantee' of training places and some financial support for young people who take them up; and
- the replacement of a range of federally funded youth services with two new funding programs that aim to increase school retention levels by improving school and industry links and assist young people not engaged in education or training to re-connect.

Sticks

The basic 'earn or learn' principle is being enforced by the Rudd Government by restricting young people's access to social security payments². Young people without a Year 12 certificate (or equivalent) will be expected to undertake study that gets them closer to this outcome. Young people who already have their Year 12 certificate will have more options to either look for work (through the Job Services Network) or undertake further study. Many young people receiving Youth Allowance will also be required to sign a written agreement about their training or job search plan and meet regularly with Centrelink or their Job Service provider to monitor their progress. Young people who fail to attend meetings may be penalised and have their payments stopped or suspended³.

The families of young people under 21 will also be affected if they are recipients of Family Tax Benefit (Part A). The families of 16-20 year olds will not be able to receive payments unless their child/ren have received their Year 12 certificate (or equivalent) or are participating in approved education or training activities. There is already a requirement for young people aged 21-24 to be in full time study in order to be an eligible child for Family Tax Benefit Part A.

Prior to these changes at the Commonwealth level, the State Government was only able to enforce its own 'earn or learn' policies for young people up to the age of 17. This was done (rarely according to anecdotal evidence) via police prosecutions of parents (under Section 239 of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006)⁴ for failing to ensure their children participated in approved activities.

And Carrots

There is little debate that there are strong links between education and future employment opportunities. So there is at least a long-term 'carrot' - a well paying job - for young people to aim for. In addition to this general argument, the Commonwealth and Queensland

Governments have also agreed, under National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions⁵ to implement an Education or Training Entitlement.

The agreement states that the Commonwealth and State Governments have agreed to "deliver an education or training entitlement for young people 15-24." Under the agreement 15-19 year olds will have an 'entitlement' to a place in any government-subsidised qualification. 20-24 year olds will be 'entitled' to a training place, so long as the course which they undertake will lead to a higher qualification than what they currently have. For both age groups, the 'entitlement' is subject to admission requirements and course availability.

At this stage the 'entitlement' is being offered until 31 December 2011, at which point it will be received by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

How much do carrots cost?

For some young people (it is unclear how many or what percentage), the costs of taking up their education and training 'entitlement' will be covered by the Commonwealth Government.

For young people who access a course via the Productivity Places Program (PPP)⁶, the course fees are fully met by the Government. Young people might be able to access training places via the PPP if they are registered with an Employment Service Provider (ESP)⁷, are not a full time student already and are assessed (by the ESP or an approved organisation) as having the capacity to complete the training⁸.

For those who cannot access courses under the Productivity Places Program, additional forms of support may be available to help with the costs of study. For example, Job Services Australia providers will have the discretion to help with course costs through the Employment Pathway Fund.

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How is the Commonwealth going to Lift School Retention Rates in Australia

Cont.

Additionally, from 1 January 2009 to 30 June 2010 Youth Allowance recipients who commence full time study or training may be eligible for the Education Entry Payment (\$208 one-off payment) and the Training and Learning Bonus (\$950 one-off payment)⁹.

Young people who wish to take up their training entitlement, but who are not registered with an ESP and who are not recipients of Youth Allowance may have to cover their course costs themselves. However given the complex eligibility criteria for the various support programs it would be wise to contact Centrelink in all instances to double check.

Extra Support for Marginalised Young People

In addition to existing State Government funded programs (such as 'Get Set for Work') the Commonwealth Government is replacing some of its existing funded youth service programs with two new programs – Youth Connections and the School Business Community Partnership Brokers program. The former, Youth Connections is specifically targeted at marginalised young people.

Together, Youth Connections and the School Business Community Partnership Brokers programs replace eight existing Commonwealth funded programs, including:

- Youthlink
- Mentor Market place
- Career Advice Australia (CAA) initiative:
- Youth Pathways
- Connections
- Local Community Partnership Network
- Regional Industry Career Adviser Network
- National Industry Career Specialist Network.

The Youth Connections program provided funding for services that will support "young people who have disconnected from education or their community, or are at risk of disengaging"¹⁰. Services funded under the Youth Connections program will be established early in 2010 and will focus on young people

between the ages of 14 and 18. The services will most likely offer a combination of case-management support along with referral/brokerage to other services or activities that support young people's (re)connection with education or training.

Youth Connections programs will be available in all regions of Australia and will be expected to work closely with services that deliver the School Business Community Partnership Brokers program. The latter program focuses on building the capacity of schools and industry, to broker partnerships between key stakeholders in education (schools, business, families and community groups) to improve transition outcomes for young people.

The Youth Connections programs will deliver 4 types of services including: those for young people 'at-risk' of disengaging; services for those that are already disengaged; outreach services to locate and support disengaged young people in the community; and strengthening regional services (community/service development).

Funding of services under the Youth Connections program will be contingent on the service providers achieving some agreed outcomes or making progress towards them. The agreed outcomes will vary from service to service, and from young person to young person. Service providers will be responsible for negotiating a 'Re-engagement Plan' with each young person. The plan must set out the progressive (short to medium term) and final (longer term) outcomes that the young person needs to achieve. Examples of some of the outcomes that services might negotiate with young people include a young person regularly attending workshops on literacy and numeracy (which might be defined as a 'progressive' outcome) or taking up and remaining engaged with an apprenticeship (a 'final' outcome).

Organisations (or consortiums) that have been chosen to deliver the Youth Connections and School Community Business Partnership Brokers program will be announced in December and are expected to be up and running very early in 2010.

It is yet to be seen whether these services,

the training guarantee and the social security penalties will help the Government to achieve their aim of a Y12E attainment rate of 90%. It is also unclear whether the aims are achievable or even useful without also addressing shortages of secure, affordable housing, cheap access to healthcare or ensuring that there is a wide range of jobs at all skill levels in the economy that provide people with both a livable income and a sense of worth.

More information about the Commonwealth 'Earn or Learn' policies can be found online at the links below:

- National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions from <http://is.gd/4wXvN>.
- Compact with Young Australians from DEEWR at <http://is.gd/4x14P>.
- Compact with Young Australians from <http://www.pm.gov.au/node/5201>.
- Changes to Youth Allowance (Other) from DEEWR at <http://is.gd/4wXV0>.
- Frequently Asked Questions re Changes to Youth Allowance from <http://is.gd/4wXZH>.
- Youth Allowance details from Centrelink at <http://is.gd/4x0ic>.
- Changes to Youth Allowance (Jobseeker) participation requirements from Centrelink at <http://is.gd/4wY57>.
- Education Entry Payment from Centrelink at <http://is.gd/4wYIM>.
- Productivity Places Program from <http://is.gd/4wXy8>.
- Employment Pathway Fund – mentioned by DEEWR at <http://is.gd/4wZkq>.
- Youth Attainment and Transitions Programs from DEEWR at <http://is.gd/4x0JO>.
- School Business Community Partnership Brokers and the Youth Connections programs - Presentations and Speaking Notes from the Public information sessions that were held to provide more information about these programs are available at <http://is.gd/4Mpcg>.

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How is the Commonwealth going to Lift School Retention Rates in Australia

Cont.

Endnotes

1. See: Australian Government FactSheet: Compact with Young Australians - Increasing educational attainment of young people aged 15–24 at <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/YouthAttainmentandTransitions/Documents/CompactQAsWeb.pdf>.
2. See: The Dept. of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), Changes to Youth Allowance (Other) at <http://is.gd/4wXV0>; DEEWR, Frequently Asked Questions re Changes to Youth Allowance at <http://is.gd/4wXZH>; and Centrelink, details on Youth Allowance at http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/youth_allow.htm.
3. See Activity test and participation requirements for job seekers at [http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/filestores/lw054_0906/\\$file/lw054_0906en.pdf](http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/filestores/lw054_0906/$file/lw054_0906en.pdf).
4. See Education Queensland's Policy -SMS-PR-017: Enforcement of Compulsory Schooling and Compulsory Participation Phase at <http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/epr/students/smspr017/>.
5. See http://www.coag.gov.au/coag_meeting_outcomes/2009-07-02/docs/NP_youth_attainment_transitions.pdf.
6. Delivered by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. See <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Skills/ProductivityPlaces/Pages/default.aspx>.
7. An ESP is an organisation which has a contract/deed with the Commonwealth to deliver employment services under the Job Network, Disability Employment Network, Job Placement Employment and Training, Personal Support Program and/or Vocational Rehabilitation Services.
8. See PPP guidelines at [http://www.deewr.gov.au/Skills/ProductivityPlaces/Resources/Documents/Resources/Guidelines\(final\)20090123.pdf](http://www.deewr.gov.au/Skills/ProductivityPlaces/Resources/Documents/Resources/Guidelines(final)20090123.pdf).
9. See Centrelink guidelines at <http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/edep.htm>.
10. See details of the two Youth Attainment and Transitions Programs at <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/YouthAttainmentandTransitions/Pages/YouthCareerandTransitionProgram.aspx>.

At last. A practical guide to doing youth work in Australia.

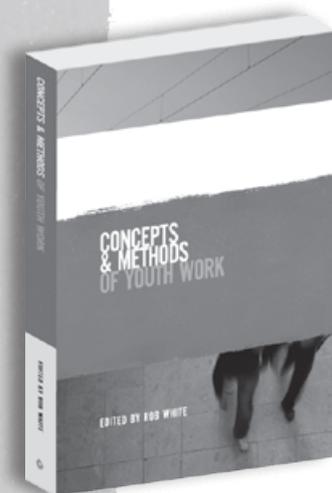
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In recent months there has been a lot of attention from governments, especially the Commonwealth on the situation facing young people who have become disengaged from education and training. Back in May the Rudd Government set a target of 90% of young people achieving a year 12 certificate (or equivalent) by 2015 – up from around 75% now. You can read more about this in the article *How is the Commonwealth going to Lift School Retention Rates in Australia* contained in this edition. At the same time, YANQ has been continuing our 'Re-engagement Project', investigating the success factors of 'flexi-schools' in South East Queensland, supporting an interagency to develop responses to young people under 15 years of age who are disengaged and finalising the report of our 'Census of Re-engagement Services' that we conducted last year.

What are the success factors of flexi-schools

YANQ, The University of Queensland, Griffith University and others from the youth sector and the Queensland University of Technology are currently conducting research that aims to identify the factors that help 'flexi schools' to attract and retain young people who would otherwise be disengaged from school. Five 'flexi schools' in South East Queensland have been involved in the research and some initial findings from interviews with students were published in the last edition of Network Noise and are available on YANQ's website at www.yanq.org.au/reengage.

Presently the findings from interviews with staff at the schools are being analysed and the full report is being written up by our research partners. We anticipate that the final report will be launched early in 2010.

Support for young people under 15 and not in school in the North Brisbane area

Earlier this year YANQ began meeting with members of the North East Youth Organisations Network (NEYON - a youth service interagency based on Brisbane's north side) to discuss how services can better support young people under 15 years of age who have become disengaged from education and training. YANQ is hoping that the work we do with this network – investigating the issue in more detail and supporting them to identify resources – might be transferable to other parts of the state.

In September YANQ and NEYON asked youth workers in the area to help us count all young people they encountered who were under 15 years of age and who were finding it difficult to maintain their connection to schooling. The survey form that we used to collect that data was problematic and we received only a handful of surveys back. Not everything can run smoothly of course so we are now moving to 'plan b', trialling a new method of collecting the data.

At the same time NEYON is planning to hold a 1-day forum on the topic, inviting academics, community and education service providers in the area to come and share ideas on how best to support young people under 15 who are disengaged. We anticipate this forum will be held on the north side of Brisbane in February 2010.

Census of Re-engagement Services

The long awaited report of the Census of Re-engagement services that YANQ conducted last year is now available on YANQ's website. The Census was conducted in 2008 to try and get a clearer picture of what services are available to young people who have become disengaged and /or disenfranchised from education. The response was quite good, with 128 unique services responding. While this sample may not be representative it does give us a better picture of what is available to young people.

Not surprisingly we found that the bulk of 're-engagement' services were available for 15-17 year olds. However we found that the sector has a very broad definition of how it defines 're-engagement'. For example, while a large proportion (35%) of services aimed to help young people to achieve educational outcomes, 1 in 4 of the services that responded to the census supported young people to achieve other aims (such as secure housing, better relationships, stronger attachments to culture, preventing crime etc). This is heartening given that YANQ has for many years advocated that there are many social and economic barriers to education that must also be dealt with alongside the specific problems of 'disengagement' from school.

The full report includes data on the size of Queensland's Re-engagement services, their sources of funding, their location, the demographic profile of young people they work with, how they evaluate their successes and their capacities. The report, A Snapshot of Queensland's Re-engagement Services (written by David Powell and Tiara Shafiq) can be downloaded from YANQ's website at www.yanq.org.au/reengage.

Is Australia a White Supremacist Country?

By Daniel Walker

The term “white supremacy” tends to conjure up images of various extremist groups, such as the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) and Skinheads, or Neo-Nazis. In this sense, of course, Australia is not a white supremacist country, as it does not condone the behaviour of such radical and violent groups.

However, white supremacy has a much broader interpretation when used at a cultural level, and it is in this regard that I ask the question “Is Australia a White Supremacist Country?”

What is White Supremacy?

The image of the KKK and neo-nazis is a significant point to consider. These groups are a serious and dangerous threat to multiculturalism and ethnic minorities, but they are a highly visible and largely vilified threat. A much more insidious threat is institutionalised white supremacy. White supremacy tends not to promote advancement of white people at the expense of non-white people. Instead it promotes the interests of ‘whiteness’.

Whiteness, in this context, is not a skin colour. It is a racial discourse; an examination of power relationships. A critique of whiteness therefore, is not an attack on white people, but rather on the socially constructed and continually reinforced power of majority white identification and interests.¹ The promotion of whiteness as the ‘norm’ and non-whiteness as ‘other’ has been a long and complex process. Australia does not have, and has never had, a culturally or ethnically homogeneous society, and yet whiteness is considered the norm, out of all the coexisting cultures, including the primary cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Therefore, appearing white in Australia offers a number of privileges available only to the majority. As a white person in Australia, and particularly as a white man in Australia, I enjoy a social position above various other non-white Australians, regardless of the fact that I personally have done nothing to achieve this. Some would argue that white people can suffer from poverty, discrimination and other problems, and therefore could hardly be considered the powerful majority. Again, I note that whiteness does not necessarily include all white people, but is

a socially constructed concept of majority power, in which white people play the lead role.

Ansley (1997) writes:

[By] ‘white supremacy’ I do not mean to allude only to the self-conscious racism of white supremacist hate groups. I refer instead to a political, economic, and cultural system in which whites overwhelmingly control power and material resources, conscious and unconscious ideas of white superiority and entitlement are widespread, and relations of white dominance and non-white subordination are daily reenacted across a broad array of institutions and social settings.²

White supremacy and racism are actually fairly recent phenomena. Considering how deeply ingrained they are in Western consciousness, one could assume that racism had grown out of the natural ethnocentrism of ancient times.³ However, a closer examination reveals potential points of origin of ‘racism’. In 1776, Johan Frederick Bloomingbach published a text called *Natural Varieties of Humankind*, in which he listed, in hierarchical order, the physical characteristics of human bodies, and tried to make links between those physical traits and beauty, intelligence, potential, moral character and capability.⁴ Before the Age of Europe, beginning 1492, no one had considered dividing humankind in such a way. Bloomingbach’s writing, being a very modern approach at the time, found a receptive audience, and his ideas took root. They allowed the horrors of the Atlantic Slave Trade to appear normal to the world, and by the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, white supremacy was an intrinsic part of Western culture. Interestingly, Bloomingbach’s book was published in the same year as the *Wealth of Nations*, and the Declaration of Independence, in which Thomas Jefferson wrote that “all men are created equal” (while simultaneously owning black slaves).⁵ Hirschman (2004) also suggests that racism is a modern concept, and credits three historical transformations with the creation of a sharp divide between European peoples and the rest of the world, which in turn led to the rise of ideological racism. The three events were:

- 1) the enslavement of millions of Africans and their removal from Africa to America;
- 2) the profound spread of European colonial efforts around the world, particularly in Africa and Asia; and

- 3) the development of Social Darwinism—the concept of European superiority that became popular in the nineteenth century.⁶

He points out that the word “race” did not appear in any printed literature before the late seventeenth century, and it was not until at least a century later (after the French and American revolutions) that the term began to take on any of its modern connotations.⁷

How White Supremacy Affects Us Today

In Australia, America and Britain today, white supremacy manifests with two key approaches: material and ideological.⁸ The first approach, material, includes a number of influences. White people have higher incomes, are more commonly educated at university, have much lower infant mortality rates, and generally a higher life expectancy than non-whites. Generally speaking, the gap between whites and non-whites is high in all these areas, and is closing very very slowly. In Australia, the topic of the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians has been on the government agenda in recent years, with no significant outcomes. Australia is an affluent country, with some remarkable achievements in the fields of medicine, science and research, as well as sport and the arts. When Australia as a nation sets its mind to something, there is not much that can stop it. It stands to reason that if Australians truly wanted to close the Indigenous gap, we could. I can only assume, therefore, that we don’t truly want to.

The other approach, ideological, exists at a more subtle level. It affects our Euro-centric thought processes, and the way we make decisions. It is responsible for the unconscious preference for employees with white-sounding names, or the desire to live in an area populated largely by white people. It is this ideological approach that perpetuates white supremacy in each generation. A clear example is how white supremacy is represented in education curriculum. Cornel West, professor of religion and African American studies at Harvard, writes:

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1) Gillborn, “Education policy,” 488.

2) Ansley, “White supremacy (and what we should do about it),” 592

3) Ethnocentrism can be defined as the nearly universal tendency to believe in the rightness of one’s own group and the natural aversion to difference. It is a product of socialisation into the beliefs and practices of one’s own society,

seeing them as natural and, by contrast, seeing the behaviour and culture of those who are different as unnatural.

4) West, “Grand Tradition,” 40

5) Boulton, “American Paradox.”

6) Hirschman, “Origins and Demise,” 392

Is Australia a White Supremacist Country?

Cont.

...I have had teachers of English who have meant so much to me. I think of Mrs Kay and Mrs Angel and Mrs Sol, who walked us through the poetry of Eliot and the novels of Charles Dickens and George Elliot on through James Ball. They didn't get to Toni Morrison, unfortunately.⁹

Gillborn (2005) conducted research into schooling outcomes in British schools. In doing so, he asked three central questions: firstly, who or what is driving education policy? Secondly, who wins and loses as a result of education policy priorities? And finally, what are the effects of policy?¹⁰ In examining the answers to these questions, he proposes that in the last couple of decades, education policy has been driven by a desire to accommodate the 'mainstream', rather than catering to the needs of all students. The British Department of Education's "Five Year Strategy" policy makes a very vague reference to "low achieving minority ethnic groups" without offering comprehensive solutions or approaches.¹¹ Gillborn points out that the word "racism" does not appear at all, nor even "discrimination" or "prejudice". In contrast, the words "business" and "businesses" appear 36 times, and "standards" appears 65 times. He suggests that the policy prioritises "standards", but asks "standards for whom"?¹²

Similarly in Australia, Education Queensland policies and strategies make vague references to "celebrating diversity" without explaining how this will be done, and without acknowledging that there is currently a problem.¹³ There are various programs available to schools in different regions that run workshops on understanding diversity, but these are run by external organisations, who have to charge the individual schools for operational costs. The focus remains on maintaining high standards for the majority, not creating equal education processes and experiences for all students.

Perhaps not surprisingly under a standards-based approach, the mainstream (and largely white) majority students are the only ones to enjoy consistent year-on-year improvement. While some isolated minority groups, such as Indian or Chinese students, are held up as examples of 'high-achieving minorities', this type of praise can actually be very damaging not only to that particular group, as unfair specific pressure is put on them, but also to other

minority groups, as they are seen as failures by comparison.¹⁴

The outcome of these trends is harder to determine. There is some evidence that some schools, faced with sliding positions on national standard scales, have sought to limit the number of non-white students they accept. Some schools also use forms of internal organisation and separation to sort children into hierarchical groups. Each step in the process reinforces negative outcomes for non-white students, creating a continuous cycle of disadvantage. This, whether done consciously or subconsciously, is a systemic white supremacist process.

Across Australia, those most affected by institutionalised white supremacy in education are Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander people. A report from 2000 examining high school students and their ongoing engagement with education confirms that:

Indigenous students have considerably lower participation rates than non-Indigenous students. Of the Indigenous students sampled in 1995 when they were in Year 9, 47 per cent participated in Year 12, and 17 per cent undertook some form of higher education in 1999. These rates were much lower than for non-Indigenous students.¹⁵

There are a number of factors at play in these figures, including isolation and remote living, lower socio-economic status, and limited career outcomes, all of which are branches of a white supremacist agenda.

To return to the original question of this article, "Is Australia a White Supremacist Country?", I'm afraid the answer I must give is "yes". Even a short glance at education policies shows a remarkable bias towards the majority of students, who in Australia are white middle-class students. The true issue of course, is that such a policy seems, to most people, to be completely normal and fine. The majority of Australians, even those who would not consider themselves to be racist, live comfortably within the mentality of a white supremacist paradigm. It is the ongoing acceptance of this agenda that allows such discriminatory policies to be continually created and implemented. Unless the system is challenged by people within the same white middle-class majority that the white supremacist agenda favours, then Australia will never be a truly inclusive or diverse nation.

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7) Ibid.

8) Jensen, "The Color of the Race Problem Is White."

9) West, "Grand Tradition," 39

10) Gillborn, "Education policy," 492

11) Ibid., 493

12) Ibid.

13) Education Queensland, "Education Queensland 2010 Strategy."

14) Gillborn, "Education policy," 495.

15) Marks et al., "Patterns of Participation," 2.

National Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network

By Daniel Walker

YANQ's Multicultural Development Officer is the Queensland representative on the National Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (NMYAN), which is auspiced by the Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) in Melbourne.

Earlier in 2009, the NMYAN was pleased to receive some federal funding from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, for a period of two years.

The purpose of this funding is to strengthen the processes of feeding information from each state to the national network, and use these processes to identify problem areas throughout the country, and prepare actions to help prevent them.

It also allows some opportunities for capacity building at each state level. In Queensland we already have the long-standing Multicultural

Youth Network of Queensland (MYNQ), but a number of other states do not have existing networks of this nature. The NMYAN now has an opportunity to help those states develop strong networks, using MYNQ as a model.

In August I flew to Melbourne for a face-to-face meeting with all the representatives from the other states, who I had previously only met via teleconference.

We spent a day and a half discussing and planning the proposals under the new funding agreement, and identifying which states required the most assistance.

We allocated funds to a couple of different projects, and we also appointed Nadine Liddy of CMY as the NMYAN National Coordinator. Nadine will spend a lot of time meeting

with various organisations and government representatives around the country to discuss the ongoing role of the NMYAN as a national advocacy and advisory body representing multicultural youth. YANQ is pleased to be representing Queensland in this capacity, and we look forward to a number of exciting projects in conjunction with the NMYAN. For more information on the network, please contact me at cald@yanq.org.au.



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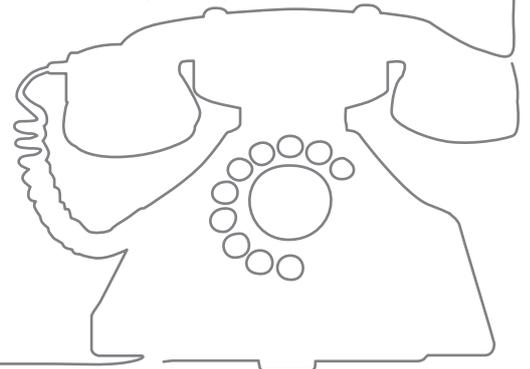
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YANQ has remaining 2,600 five dollar (\$5.00) Telstra Phonecards (for use in public payphones) to give to services to distribute to young people with low income and who rely on public pay phones for their communication.

Details on eligibility criteria and how to order the phonecards to distribute to young people are set out in the (inserted) Telstra \$5 Phone Cards order form.

To order cards for your service, please complete and return the order form either by fax to YANQ at **07 3844 7731** or email to admin@yanq.org.au or contact YANQ Ph **07 3844 7713** or **1800 177 899**.

Please note: Distribution will be based on a first-come-first-served basis.



Cross Cultural Youth Work Practice Training

On 1st October, YANQ once again ran the very popular Cross Cultural Youth Work Practice Training one-day session, facilitated by Dr Peter Westoby of the University of Queensland. The training took place at Kelvin Grove, and was attended by a broad range of workers from various organisations.

The training covered a number of issues, including:

- defining and understanding culture, identity, and ethnicity
- understanding and defining youth within a cross-cultural framework
- diverse experiences of young people from culturally and linguistically (CALD) diverse backgrounds, and
- thematic issues facing young people from CALD background.

This is a very helpful and consistently popular course, and YANQ plans to conduct its next session around April 2010. If you would like to be contacted when a date has been finalised for this session, please contact Marilyn at **3844 7713** or email **admin@yanq.org.au**.

Mackay Youth Sector Forum 2009



Forum participants take the opportunity to engage with forum key note presenter Mr. Siyavash Doostkhah and facilitator Mr. John Flanagan

Following a number of completed and attempted suicides of young people in Mackay in 2008, the then Minister for Youth requested the Mackay Whitsunday Regional Managers Coordination Network to set up a Mackay Youth Task Force.

The Task Force was to report on the following:

- What is being done with respect to community responses to young people in need - and what could be done?
- How can we improve the coordination of government and community to meet the needs of young people, particularly at times of crisis?
- How can we develop a whole of government and community response to issues of suicide prevention and intervention?
- How can we best meet the needs of marginalised young people in our community?

The Task Force report *Mackay Task Force Responding to Needs of Young People identified:*

- That the rapid expansion of the mining industry in the Bowen Basin has had a significant environmental, social and economic impact on Mackay;
- The commitment of the sector to enhancing integrated practice; and
- Strengths within and the long history of collaborative practice within the youth sector in Mackay.

Following the completion of the Task Force report, working parties were established to implement the recommendations. In order to further progress the Youth Task Force recommendations Department of Communities, Mackay Regional Council, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Mackay Youth

Connections proposed a two day regional forum which took place on 16-17 July 2009. The forum brought together 75 key community and government stakeholders within the youth sector in Mackay.

Dr Andrea Lanyon from Department of Communities and Siyavash Doostkhah the Director of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ) provided the key note address to the forum. The participants then attended workshop sessions focusing on the six forum themes including: building a common language and developing a vision and specific strategies.

One of the outcomes of the two day forum was the articulation of future direction for the sector in Mackay. Forum participants identified the need to support a range of mechanisms to enhance opportunities for young people to be engaged in decision making including:

- Re-establishment of Youth Newspaper "Mouthpiece";
- Usage of youth friendly technology to "hear the voice" of young people;
- Opportunities to involve young people in sector forums;
- Opportunities to enhance sector knowledge of existing youth participation strategies; and
- Enhance sector support for youth led projects.

“Axis of Evil” responsible for high rate of detention

At the recent Australian Institute of Criminology’s National Conference on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Juvenile Justice, Professor Chris Cunneen summarized the frustration of the community in his keynote presentation stating “an axis of evil made up of populist politicians, radio shock jocks and intransigent bureaucrats is the reason Indigenous juveniles are 28 times more likely to be locked up and detention numbers are rising for the first time in decades.

The above three groups of power brokers had failed to grasp the damage that tough law and order policies were doing to Aboriginal children” Professor Cunneen said.

“It’s 20 years since I first spoke about Juvenile Justice issues at an Australian Institute of Criminology Conference. Now we just hope things don’t get worse rather than hoping for improvements” he said.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Tom Calma, also raised concerns saying “something was seriously wrong when Australia’s justice system showed a 27 per cent increase in Indigenous juvenile detention rates from 2001 to 2007”.

Siyavash Doostkhah, YANQ’s Director gave the conference a presentation on findings from YANQ’s research into the issue of Remand Numbers in Queensland. He outlined a number of recommendations arising from the research which can save governments money and enhance community safety.

Criminal Justice Network

Over the past several years YANQ and a number of other advocacy organisations working in the area of Criminal Justice have discussed the need for a broad base state wide network. To this end we have set up the Criminal Justice Network (CJN) which was launched on 24th September.

The CJN will conduct three forums per year from which alliances and projects then arise. The Directors of Uniting Care Queensland and Queensland Council of Social Services (QCOS) Co-Chair the Network.

Members of the CJN include InCorrection Coalition (a coalition of organisations, including

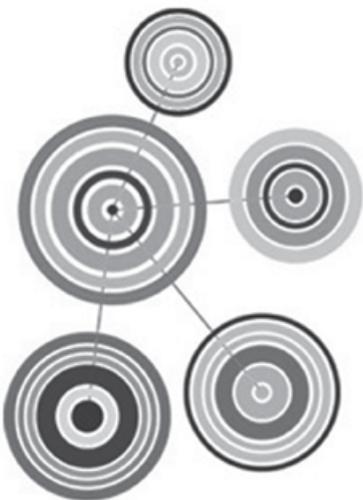
YANQ, working together around issues of incarceration and release for the benefit and safety of the whole community). The Network membership includes people with lived experience and membership is also open to other organisations wishing to pursue the agreed purposes of the Network.

The CJN is informed by the voices of people with lived experience. The Network exists to link individuals and groups committed to pursuing the rights and well-being of people marginalised by the criminal justice system. In deciding whether possible projects, advocacy and research initiatives will be pursued by CJN, three questions are asked:

1. Is the idea/initiative consistent with the purpose of the CJN?
2. Is there a more appropriate forum/group/organisation to pursue this?
3. Do CJN members have an interest in this?

To find out more about the Criminal Justice network visit www.cjn.org.au or email info@cjn.org.au.

In the photo:
Andrew Bartlett - Ethnic Communities Council of Qld and Qld Democrats Senator 1997 – 2008; Dr Tamara Walsh – Bernie Law School University of Queensland; Jill Lang - Director of Queensland Council of Social Service; Greg Mackay – Director UnitingCare Centre for Social Justice. Photo taken by Susan Hutchinson.



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 Renfrey
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 Community Development 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@anglicareq.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: Rebecca Hall, Youth Development Officer
Central Highlands Regional Council PO Box 21, Emerald Q 4720
Ph/Fax: 07 4982 8393 Mobile 0427 820 540
Email: rhall@chrc.qld.gov.au
Contact Rebecca 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 Goondoo 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
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: Cherie McGregor
Fraser Coast Regional Council
Ph: 07 4190 5822
Email: cherie.mcgregor@frasercoast.qld.gov.au
Meets fourth 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: reception@maronoo.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: Rachel Cook
Ph: 0408 635 998
Email: Rachel.cook@deta.qld.gov.au
Meets third Thursday of the month 9-11am, 42 Percy Street, West End.

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.

Southern Downs 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@southerndowns.qld.gov.au
Meets quarterly. Contact Warwick Youth Service for meeting details. 2010 Meetings – 27 January, 28 April, 28 July, 27 October.

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: Emma McConnell
Brisbane South Youth Justice Service, 306 Ipswich Road, Buranda
Ph: 07 3406 2801
Email: Emma.McConnell@communities.qld.gov.au
Meets quarterly, contact Emma 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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Gold Coast Youth Network

Contact: Amanda Wright
Gold Coast Youth Service PO Box 740, Burleigh Heads Q 4220
Ph: 07 5572 0400 Fax: 07 5575 2607
Email: RADS@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, Youth Employment Advisor
Mission Australia Inala 20 Wirraway Pde, Inala Q 4077
Ph 07 3723 7800 Fax: 07 3723 7899
Email: mulliganb@missionaustralia.org.au

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 1pm second Thursday of the month at Inala Community House Hall, Sittella Street, Inala.

Ipswich Youth Interagency Group

Contact: Kathryn Cooper, Youth Development Officer
Ipswich City Council PO Box 191, Ipswich Q 4305
Ph: 07 3810 7989
Email: Kcooper@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 10th March; 2nd June; 25th August; 17th November at Laidley Community Centre, 13 Mary Street (opp The Bus Stop). Gattton meetings held 27th January; 21st April; 14th July; 6th October at Gattton 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 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.

Moreton Bay Regional Youth Service Providers Network

(An amalgamation of previous networks: Youth Caboolture Area Network (YCAN), Pine Rivers Youth Service Providers Network and Redcliffe Youth Service Providers Network)

Contact: Denielle Beattie, Moreton Bay Regional Council
Ph: 07 3283 0370
Email: Denielle.Beattie@moretonbay.qld.gov.au

All meetings are held Wednesdays and are 1-3:00 pm with lunch provided as follows:

15 July at Supper Room, Memorial Hall, King Street, Caboolture.
19 August at Community Development Rooms, 4a-199 Gympie Road, Strathpine. 16 September at Redcliffe Youth Space. 21 October at Supper Room, Memorial Hall, King Street, Caboolture. 18 November at Lawnton Community Centre.

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.

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

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 30/11/09.
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 3rd Tuesday of the month 9am-12noon.
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 Doostkhah, 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.

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.