



Congratulations to YANQ's Young Queenslander of the Year!



photo: YANQ Director Siyavash Doostkhah and Yassmin Abdel-Magied at the Queenslander of the Year award ceremony

Yassmin Abdel-Magied, YANQ Management Committee member and Founder of Youth Without Borders has been named the Suncorp Young Queenslander of the Year, 2010.

At the age of 17, with a passion for social issues, Yassmin founded Youth Without Borders, an advocacy group that strives to empower youth to work together to implement positive change within their communities in Australia and overseas.

Yassmin is also a member of The Edgy Advisors, a group of young people gathered by the State Library of Queensland that helped develop The

Edge (a \$7.9 million State Government development) to create a dedicated creative space for young people at the Cultural Centre. Yassmin has also actively participated on the Board of the Queensland Museum for approximately 18 months.

Yassmin told the Courier Mail "People talk about Australia having discrimination, [b]ut people still respect me for my achievements, and this is an example of that".

The Board and Staff of YANQ congratulate Yassmin on her outstanding achievement, and wish her all the very best for the coming year.

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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.

Farewell to YANQ's Network Development Officer

David Powell, YANQ's Network Development Officer (NDO) and IT Guru for the last six years, recently resigned and his final day was Tuesday 18 May. David is completing a post graduate degree in education and we're sure that you will all agree that whilst he will be missed greatly within the sector, all those secondary school students will reap the rewards.

We know that YANQ's members and subscribers join with us in thanking David for his valuable contribution and dedication to the youth sector and wish David all the very best for the future.

Welcome to Volunteer – Michele

At the end of May Michele Goudie commenced with us as an administrative assistant volunteer. Michele has kindly offered us 2 days per week and we welcome her generosity. We are sure that at some time you will have contact with Michele either by phone or email.



NETWORK NOISE

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youth affairs network qld

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

Copy Deadline August copy deadline is **Mid July**

State Government on Social Exclusion Course



Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ) Director, Siyavash Doostkhah, has criticized the State Government for adopting the LNP policy of making it easier for principals to expel students without departmental approval. Mr Doostkhah said new research conducted by his organisation has pointed to the need for reform of the education system as part of any social inclusion strategy.

“The absentee rates among Indigenous children and young people in various schools across Queensland are further evidence of systemic problems with our education system and the Queensland Government once again is blaming the victims and introducing new legislation to further punish them.”

Research by the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland, The University of Queensland, Griffith University and the Queensland University of Technology has identified factors that enable young people to thrive in ‘alternative’ schools. The schools that were part of the research are renowned for

supporting young people who have become disengaged from ‘mainstream’ schools.

The findings from the research that was conducted in a variety of ‘alternative’ education sites in South East Queensland have been documented in the new report *Re-engaging Young People in Education: Success factors in alternative schools*. The report will be published by the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland, Queensland’s peak community youth affairs organisation. The report was written by Professor Martin Mills from the University of Queensland and Dr Glenda McGregor from Griffith University.

Prof. Mills, one of the authors of the report said, “Whilst the research has shown some of the ways that alternative schools meet the needs of some of the most marginalised young people in society, there are many other young people in mainstream schools who are effectively disengaged from the learning process. There is therefore much that mainstream schools can learn from ‘successful’

alternative schools in order to provide an education that caters to a wide range of students.”

Dr Glenda McGregor stated that, “most of the young people we spoke to had rejected – or been rejected by – mainstream schools, but we found that they were highly engaged with their learning in the alternative sites. The key factors driving this success were a combination of relevant curricula, the teaching practices employed, the relationships between young people and staff and the philosophies underpinning each centre’s organisation.”

The report, *Re-engaging Young People in Education: Success factors in alternative schools* will be launched by the Youth Affairs Network of Qld in South Brisbane on July 14 from 1pm to 3pm. The launch will take place at the Greek Club, 29/31 Edmondstone Street, South Brisbane.

The report will be available on YANQ’s website after 14th July.

MYNQ and NMYAN Updates

by Daniel Walker

As you may know, YANQ is rapidly approaching the end of its funding for the Multicultural Development Worker. We stopped receiving government funding for the role in mid-2009, and since then have been funding the role ourselves, with funding support from the National Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (NMYAN). Sadly, the State Government is not viewing CALD young people as a priority, and we have been unable to secure funding to continue this role past June this year.

One of the immediate impacts of this will be the loss of a paid convenor for the Multicultural Youth Network Queensland (MYNQ). We know from experience that when networks do not have a funded secretariat and leadership, they can become extremely difficult to maintain, particularly in an over-worked sector. We firmly believe that this cross-issue network, which has been operating for fifteen years, should not be lost. Therefore, YANQ has organised and convened two forums for workers and managers over the last few weeks, to come up with a model in which MYNQ can operate under after June 2010, with no funded convenor. In preparing the forums, there were a few questions we were keen to address. These included:

- What role can this network fill?
- How will the network operate?
- How can it best address gaps in service delivery and advocacy?
- How can the Sector collectively keep this important network running?

We had good responses from the forums, with workers telling us that they like to share information with others in the sector, but they would also like to see their issues taken to a higher level. Managers and Directors of various organisations told us that they are aware of a significant gap in State Government priorities, and CALD young people have

been left out, meaning that a network like MYNQ is even more important.

It was agreed that through collaboration and a sharing of time and resources, we could create a working model for MYNQ. To this end, representatives from YANQ, ACCESS Services Inc, and the Multicultural Development Association (MDA) will be meeting in mid-June as the first Reference or Working Group for MYNQ, to discuss how we can work together to maintain the network and keep it relevant for the sector.

We could not have taken this important step without our colleagues from the NMYAN. Nadine Liddy (National Coordinator), and Carmel Guerra (CEO of Centre for Multicultural Youth Inc in Melbourne, and Victorian representative on the NMYAN) flew up from Melbourne to highlight the significance of MYNQ in addressing issues at the national level. NMYAN has one representative from each State and Territory, and YANQ has been the Queensland representative since the network's inception. Through our consultation with MYNQ, we have been able to represent the issues of Queensland's culturally and linguistically diverse young people at the federal level. NMYAN is becoming increasingly recognised as the key advocacy and advisory network for national multicultural youth issues. As MYNQ is an integral part of this process, NMYAN has been very supportive of YANQ over the last year, and their involvement in this forum process was much appreciated.

If you are already on the MYNQ mailing list, you will automatically receive updates and progress reports by email. If you would like to be added to the list and kept up to date, please email admin@yanq.org.au.

Just one week after conducting forums for the restructure of MYNQ, I flew to Sydney for two days to take part in the annual face

to face workshop of the NMYAN. Last year when we met, we had just received a two-year funding grant from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) to build capacity in the states and territories, and to development the process for advocacy at a national level. This year we looked back over how we had allocated that money, and what kind of progress there had been in each state. We also worked on our policy priorities for the next year, and met with The Hon Laurie Ferguson MP, the National Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services (<http://bit.ly/aKYDqi>).

We outlined our policy plans and requested his aid in securing more funding to make them happen. I was also able to advocate for Federal support in making CALD youth issues a priority for the Queensland State Government.

The NMYAN has plans to establish a website, which may host a number of initiatives, as well as toolkits and information for organisations. If you would like to know more about the NMYAN, please contact me at cald@yanq.org.au.

Queensland Multicultural Policy Review

Queensland State Government has recently been conducting consultations for its review process of the Multicultural Policy. YANQ has provided a submission on behalf of MYNQ, and this submission is available to be read or downloaded from our website at <http://bit.ly/aRpR77>.

Criminal History Screening Legislation Amendments

On 25 February, 2010, the Queensland Parliament passed legislative changes to the Criminal History Screening Legislation Amendment Act 2010. The changes outlined in the Act affect the way that the Department of Communities' funded service provider employees and volunteers undertake criminal history screening processes. Those changes are:

From 1 April 2010:

- organisations are legislatively required to inform the appropriate screening body (ie the Department of Communities or the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian) when a volunteer with a Yellow Card or Blue Card moves into paid employment;
- registered health practitioners are exempt from obtaining Blue Cards.

From 1 July 2010:

- Yellow Cards and Blue Cards for paid employees will attract a fee of \$70.00 over three years. Volunteers' Yellow and Blue Cards will remain free of charge;

- registered health practitioners will be exempt from obtaining Yellow Cards;
- Blue card holders will be able to apply for an exemption from obtaining a Yellow Card, allowing for transferability across the child and youth related and disability services sector.

A copy of the Department of Communities fact sheet Criminal History Screening Legislation Amendment Act 2010 Overview of changes (www.communities.qld.gov.au) is included as an insert to the May-June edition of Network Noise together with the fact sheet How to obtain an interpreter (www.multicultural.qld.gov.au)

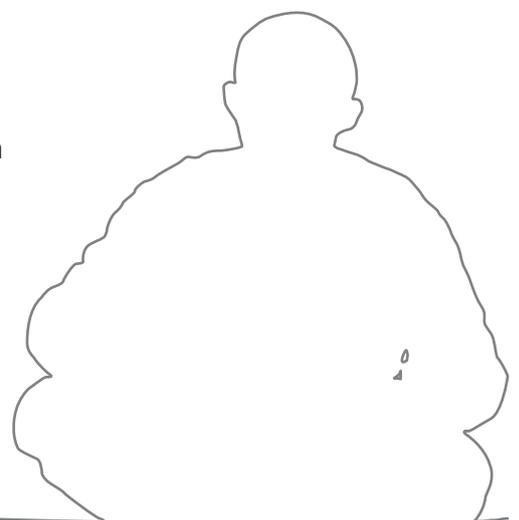
UN Forum on Indigenous Issues Calling for Respect of Values



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon calls Member States to promote development while respecting the values and traditions of Indigenous peoples at the opening of the annual forum, held in New York from 19-30 April.

"The loss of irreplaceable cultural practices and means of artistic expression makes us all poorer, wherever our roots may lie," Mr. Ban told the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York. This year's theme at the forum was "Development with Culture and Identity."

For more information, visit: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/newsletter/2010/may/feature.shtml#fea2>.



New Executive Director to Lead the National Youth Peak



The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) has employed a new permanent Executive Director, Andrew Cummings. Andrew has worked in young people's organisations for over 20 years. His roles have included working with children and young people in care, adolescent and family support, and managing programs and organisations at local, regional, state-wide, national and international levels in Australia, the UK and Europe. His most recent roles include working as Executive Officer of the Settlement Council of Australia, and as a freelance trainer and consultant with organisations including the Australian Council for Children's and Youth Organisations and the Australian Childhood Foundation. He will commence with AYAC in June and be joined by their other permanent staff.

Youth Affairs Council of Victoria (YACVic) caught up with Andrew recently to ask him a few questions about his new role and what his vision for AYAC is.

YACVic: Congratulations on the new role Andrew, what made you apply for the job?

I was working in the youth sector in Australia at the time when the previous national youth peak was de-funded. I remember being very angry and disappointed, and looked forward to the time when we once again had a national voice for the sector. I then worked in youth peaks in UK and Europe for several years, and shortly before I returned to Australia I heard that the (then) newly elected Rudd government had promised

to re-fund a national youth peak. I knew straight away that this was my "dream job" in Australia, and kept watching for the job to be advertised. I had just started a new job when the interim director's role was advertised, so the timing didn't seem right. But when I saw the permanent role advertised a few months ago I knew I had to go for it...

YACVic: Landing the job of the first permanent director of a newly established national youth peak gives you an almost clean slate to start with, what are your plans for the first six months in the job?

I'm keen to spend time in the beginning getting to know the sector again, by meeting and talking with young people and youth sector organisations, and of course the state and territory peaks. I am really keen to find out what people want from AYAC, and what they see as the priorities. I am strongly committed to collaboration and partnerships, and plan to spend time strengthening relationships both within the youth sector, and also with other like minded organisations, especially other national peaks. I'm also keen to keep building the relationship between AYAC and the Federal government – particularly with the Office for Youth and Minister Ellis.

YACVic: What do you think some of the challenges will be?

One of the biggest challenges for a peak organisation is in juggling the interests of the various people and organisations that contribute to what you do, and in trying to get the right balance for each of these. Sometimes that requires walking a pretty fine line in order to represent the interests of young people and the organisations that support them, while at the same time respecting the interests of government, the broader community and so on.

YACVic: You've indicated that youth participation is a concept close to your heart, how will you ensure AYAC adheres

to the principles of youth participation while meeting the needs of the youth sector?

Youth participation is definitely something close to my heart, and it is one of the things I am most excited about working to promote with AYAC. I had the opportunity to be involved in some fantastic projects and developments in Europe and the UK, with regards to youth participation, and I'm really looking forward to exploring how some of these approaches might be used in Australia. In UK, for example, all organisations that receive government funding to work with young people must demonstrate how they will involve young people in decision making at every level of the organisation, and must also develop a "continuous improvement" approach to youth participation.

I've also been very involved in developing training programs and resources to help both young people and youth workers to understand and implement youth participation approaches, and I'm really keen to see how AYAC could use some of these approaches with young people and youth organisations in Australia.

In my experience, when youth participation is done well, it only ever enhances and strengthens the organisations that support young people, as well as providing young people with skills and experiences that help them to develop as informed and involved members of the community. As far as I'm concerned, everybody wins!

YACVic: What are you most looking forward to in the role?

The youth sector has a vitality and a sense of fun that is hard to find anywhere else, and I'm really looking forward to being a part of that again. Also, I believe that young people have the right to have their voices heard on almost every issue in our society, and I am really looking forward to working with young people and the youth sector to help get those voices heard.

Pay Equity – National Day of Action



Thousands of community sector workers across Australia marched in the National Day of Action for Equal Pay on 10th June to support the principle of equal pay for equal work.

YANQ joined hundreds of human service workers marching on Prime Minister's office in Brisbane and handing over signed petitions calling on Federal Government to commit to funding the outcome of the test case that is currently before Fair Work Australia.

For more information on the pay Equity campaign please visit:
www.asuqld.asn.au



Improving the Lives of LGBT Young People in Queensland

a Call to Action

Background

The realisation of sexuality and gender identity occurs at a relatively young age with most young people knowing by the end of teenage years. (10% always knowing, 35% before puberty and a further 55% around the age of puberty).

44% of LGBT young people have experienced verbal abuse, and 16% experienced physical abuse on the basis of their sexuality, with 74% of this abuse occurring at school.

LGBT young people tend to leave school at a younger age than their heterosexual peers.

17% of homeless young people aged 12 to 20 years identified as non-heterosexual.

Significant numbers of LGBT young people experience discrimination, violence and harassment in SAAP services.

LGBT young people use more illegal drugs than young people in the general population, with the risk of drug use being accentuated by experiences of verbal and/or physical abuse.

LGBT young people were more likely to be sexually active earlier than their Year 10 and 12 peers in secondary school, with LGBT young people often engaging in sexual activities that are not in line with their sexual attraction and are 5 times more likely to be diagnosed with a STI.

Required Actions

State-wide education policy developed and implemented that ensures the safety of LGBT young people and responds actively to homophobic bullying that occurs in school.

Tailor support to homeless young people to better meet the specific needs and experiences of LGBT young people.

Provide all young people with high quality, objective information about sexuality and gender identity.

More and better same-sex sexual health information and support for having safe and protected sex.

Ensure young people's services are actively inclusive of and culturally appropriate to LGBT people, through training, policy and other organisational developments.

Provision of LGBT youth support services, delivered by mainstream youth agencies and/or LGBT youth agencies.

Provide opportunities for LGBT young people to come together and build supportive friendship networks, free from drug & alcohol environments.

For further information about this campaign, please visit:
<http://www.qahc.org.au/>

Kelly Vincent MLC Maiden Speech

13th May, 2010 Legislative Council

Kelly Vincent was recently elected to the eleventh and last seat in the South Australian Legislative Council for the 'Dignity for Disability' party.

Firstly I acknowledge the Kurna people, whose footprints meet our own every time they touch this land, and within whose stories we weave our own. I would also like to acknowledge and congratulate the newly elected members of parliament, in particular Tammy Jennings and Jing Lee. I have already found your strength of mind and spirit, eloquence and kindness to be truly "honourable."

Sitting here in this chamber as the youngest female, and the first person who uses a wheelchair ever elected into South Australian parliament, is, as you can imagine, not an easy thing to describe. So, I would like to employ one of the basic rules I often use in what I suppose is now my 'other life' as a writer: begin at the beginning.

Until recently, I would have said that the beginning of my disability advocacy journey occurred roughly 18 months ago, as I had been struggling to get a new wheelchair for about that long. (I was approved for the wheelchair in January of 2008, but would not sit in it until October of 2009).

During this period, I began speaking at disability related conferences and forums about this experience, and the effect it was having on my body, mind, and life. I would usually just get up on to the

stage and ad-lib something, as I am of the view that the last thing the disability sector needs is yet another powerpoint presentation. Through these speeches, I developed something of a small cult following, and, while I really enjoyed doing them, and appreciated the support and increased awareness, it occurred to me that I still didn't have a new wheelchair.

So, late last year, I turned to my last refuge: Facebook. I began a group called 'Mission: Kelly's New Chair,' on which I placed some of my story, as well as the contact details of the office of the Honourable Jennifer Rankine, Minister for Disabilities.

I began the group thinking that if just 10 or 15 of my friends joined and each sent a letter, then the group would have served its purpose. However, within a few weeks, the group had some 250 members, some in countries such as France, Mexico and America.

Fortunately, I have some varying ability to converse in both French and Spanish, and was soon dedicating as much time as possible to sending out trilingual updates. I believe that, although none of us ever said it, we were all perfectly aware that we were in fact communicating in the universal languages of hope and goodwill. Soon, the letters, emails, and phone calls to Minister Rankine's office were flowing thick and fast, and at times, I would sit in front of my computer and chuckle at the fact that, at the age of 20, I was effectively running a disability rights movement from my bedroom. Such is the power of youth.

Then one day, after I had been speaking at a forum, I switched on my computer to see that the group had gained a new member:

Dr Paul Henry Collier, and though I didn't know it at the time, the course of my life was changed forever.

But, as I was saying, I no longer consider this to be the beginning of my journey. This is because, a month or so out from the March 2010 election, my fellow candidate, turned staff member and above all, beloved friend, Sam Paior, pointed to me, and said three words that will stay with me always and forever: 'advocate since birth'. I simply did not realise before I heard Sam say these words, how true they were. I am not just an advocate when I present at forums, or run a Facebook group. I am an advocate every time I point out to the owner of a restaurant that I can't reach the soap in their accessible bathroom. I am an advocate every time I glare disapprovingly at the seemingly able-bodied lady who walks out of the accessible bathroom after I have been waiting to use it for 20 minutes. I was an advocate every time I came home in tears from school because a student made fun of the way I walked. And, most of all, I am an advocate every time I ask this question: 'why is this allowed to happen to people with disabilities?'

Let me suggest a rather disturbing example of what I mean by 'this'.

Some people with a disability wait up to five years, perhaps more, for equipment such as a wheelchair. They may wait fifteen years or more for supported accommodation, unless their primary carer in their current house dies or is forced to abandon them, unable and unwilling to care for them any longer.

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Kelly Vincent MLC Maiden Speech 13th May, 2010 Legislative Council

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A sixteen-year-old girl with burns to 70 percent of her body may, and does, go without the wheelchair she requires to be mobile at school, because the school lost the wheelchair more than a year ago, and have not yet received a replacement.

I am happy to notice that today, a hearing loop has been installed into the public gallery of this Chamber, so that people who are hard of hearing can also participate in our work – in this, the people's parliament. But it pains me that a deaf person misses out on a large part of presentations in public places, because the building's hearing loop is out of order, or never installed.

And the list goes on.

If we applied this concept to education, our children would have to wait somewhere between 2 and 5 years for "equipment" - school books and uniforms. Worse still, imagine being unable to offer a child a place in a school until another student dies?

This is of course unacceptable, even outrageous. The ramifications of a child not having ready access to education, especially in their early years, are potentially greater than any of us can imagine. They may become illiterate, have underdeveloped social skills, and potentially be unable to make as great a contribution to society as they would otherwise be able to. If the disability funding model were applied to education system, there would be a public outcry, followed by a complete overhaul of the system.

And yet this happens in the disability sector. Every. Single. Day.

Perhaps what I have just said will give you a little insight into why I am set back a little when people try to suggest that Dignity for Disability is a 'single issue' party-- because disability knows no boundaries. It crosses transport, education, social inclusion, access, and discrimination, for a start. Anyone who needs proof of the wide reach of disability need only look up at the galleries of this chamber and behold all of the special guests who have graced us with their society and audience today. I sincerely thank them all for this. It is a true honour. Disability affects people of all ages, races, genders, classes and religions, in very different ways. And this should be a source of joy and celebration, just as much as it is seen as a difficulty.

One of my favourite authors, Kahlil Gibran, once wrote: 'Last night, I invented a new pleasure. And as I was giving it the first trial, an angel and a devil came rushing toward my house. They met at my door and fought with each other over the new pleasure, one crying: 'it is a sin!' The other: 'it is a virtue!'"

If only disability could be a pleasure in this sense.

Because although Dignity for Disability is not a single issue party, I guess you could say that its 'mission statement', if you will, is actually pretty simple: the idea that there is no such thing as 'one size fits all' in regard to disability--that people with disabilities, are individuals, and, more than that, because of the struggles they have faced and the battles they have fought taking the good and the bad, have turned them into some of the most strong, well-educated and articulate individuals this state has to offer.

I am sometimes asked if the name of the party, Dignity for Disability, implies that people with disabilities do not already have dignity. My response to this is simple: No. In my mind, the word 'dignity' in the name of the party simply means that people with disabilities truly are dignified and intelligent human beings, who are able to make a real and lasting contribution in society, and it is high time that the services and opportunities given to them reflected this.

I was recently also asked whether comments about people with disabilities 'finally having a representative in Parliament' implied that we were somehow ungrateful for the contributions to the disability sector made by members of parliament who have already graced this chamber and this parliament for many years--I would particularly like to acknowledge Minister Jay Weatherill, the Honourable Mr Stephen Wade, Senator Mitch Fifield, and Minister Bill Shorten. These kinds of people, many of whom do not have any direct involvement in the disability sector, by way of being a person with a disability or a carer, family member or friend to a person with a disability, but still work tirelessly and with ineffable passion and dedication, on the basis that improving the lives of people with disabilities is fundamentally a social, economic and, above all, a HUMAN RIGHTS issue, these people are what some in the disability sector refer to as Allies. And as we all know, the purpose of the ally is to work side by side with those they support, not to overtake or be put in place of them.

As I said in reply to the person asking me this (very valid!) question about allies, we at Dignity for Disability acknowledge and applaud the work of these Allies and look

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forward to being given new reasons to continue applauding them in the future. However, we believe that having Allies in Parliament is quite simply not the same thing as a person, and a party, that has lived, breathed, pure physical and spiritual involvement in disability.

Think for just a moment of Indigenous Australians. I am not for one second suggesting that people with disabilities are comparable with Indigenous Australians in regards to the severity of the hardships they have faced historically. However, if I may be so bold, I would suggest that these two groups are similar in that they are each their own culture, with their own rich histories, languages hardships, and joys, that cannot be understood as clearly, wholly or naturally by 'outsiders'.

Nevertheless, I will be the first to admit that I, and d4d as a party, do not have all the answers. I cannot do this on my own. I would like to take this opportunity to give my heartfelt, spirit-deep thanks to just a few of the people who have helped ensure that while I am travelling this long and winding road, at least I will be doing it without a flat tyre, both literal and metaphorical. To the original members of the party: Sam Paior, Rick Neagle, Ronni Wood, Garry Connor and Michele Thredgold. To Fim Jucha, our volunteer coordinator during the election campaign. To David Holst. To Natasha Stott Despoja and Kate Reynolds for their sage and, pardon the pun, democratic advice, both political and personal. To Ian Gilfillan for much the same reason. To David Winderlich. To Chantel. To Natalie and Nick. To Lucy. To PJ Rose and Alirio Zavarce, who are largely responsible for my becoming an artist, and embracing my

disability as a natural part of my art. And to my mother, whose refusal to see her daughter effectively punished by society, not only for being a sensitive soul, but for not being able to use scissors as well as the other children, may well have saved my life before I was even born.

Returning to the matter at hand. It is high time that these 'outsiders' I was just talking about came in. Not only because we could use some more allies, but because there are numerous factors, such as the rate at which our population is aging, the current twenty percent of South Australians who have a disability, the twenty percent who care for a person with a disability, and the 40 percent of carers who have a disability themselves, could, at any second, become 21 and 41 percent. And that figure could include any one of the non-disabled people currently in this chamber.

As a tragic event on March 9th 2010 showed us, you just never know what is going to happen.

The death of Dignity for Disability's late co-founder and President, Dr Paul Collier, was sudden and, in many respects, untimely. It goes without saying that it was a great shock to myself and the party. I once again offer my condolences, support and love to Paul's mother, Wendy Collier, and his sister, Joanne Harvey. I would also like to thank them, because although I sadly did not know Paul long enough to figure out exactly where his intelligence, drive, warmth and charm came from, I have no doubt it had something to do with his upbringing.

I recall a telephone conversation I had with a friend and fellow advocate a day or so after Paul had the brain haemorrhage that would ultimately take his life. After taking

ten minutes or so digest the news about Paul, my friend said that he was 'like an older version of us.' I realise now how true and profound this simple statement was.

In his 46 short years, Paul did more than most of us can hope to do in 100. He chose to attend Oxford, not because it was going to be friendly to him and his wheelchair, but because he saw it as being the best place for him from an academic perspective.

He was admitted, and in his time there as a student, took steps to make the university accessible to everyone. Paul organised and ran public rallies and forums on disability issues. And, toward the end of his life, Paul performed an action that at the time seemed, and in some ways still does, seem small. He put my name down as the number two candidate for the Upper House in Dignity for Disability's 2010 election campaign.

Now, I am still trying to figure out how big a place the idea of fate has in this chamber, but I will say that to me, the fact that the person who, for want of a less candle-snuffing expression, would 'take Paul's place' is 21 years of age, disabled and a woman, seems a pretty big coincidence.

I had to laugh when I was recently talking to a friend of mine. He has been backpacking around Europe for over a year now, and so he is not quite au fait with current Australian political happenings.

He said to me as we spoke on Skype--our first conversation since he left the country--:"I was talking to Mum on the phone. She said: 'one of your friends from high school has just been elected into parliament. You'll never guess who!

... Continued to page 12

Kelly Vincent MLC Maiden Speech 13th May, 2010 Legislative Council

Cont.

My friend explained that, without hesitation, and without the knowledge that this person had been elected on a disability platform, he said: "is it Kelly Vincent? It's Kelly, isn't it?" to which his mother only reacted with a shocked nod of the head.

Perhaps there really is a plan for each and every one of us. I sincerely hope so.

There can be no denying that Dignity for Disability's recent election and Paul's death are intricately intertwined. However, like many people with disabilities, I am pretty good at working with what I've got. Yes, the circumstances under which my election came to pass are tragic, even macabre, and very difficult to deal with. But what

option do I, and we as a party, have but to embrace this wonderful opportunity and privilege as best as we possibly can in order to achieve the best possible outcome for people with people with disabilities and their networks in South Australia, and to help Dr Paul Collier live on. Because he should. We need him to.

Yes, I suppose I am the quintessential 'accidental politician,' and I unashamedly admit that on my 'bad days' I find myself questioning whether I am deserving of sitting at this previously non-existent custom-made bench, which is, in its own way, a small symbol of just how big this is. I did not earn Paul's votes in the election. I

cannot earn a place on this earth in lieu of Paul Collier. But I can earn the respect of both our constituents, and my colleagues. I can earn your trust, and I do not doubt that, more often than not, I will earn your criticism. But I am ready and willing to earn all of these things until people with disabilities, their families and allies do not have to fight for, and ultimately earn, something that is seemingly a birthright to all others: Dignity through Choice.

Kelly Vincent respectfully requests that in the event that you wish to reproduce this speech, you please contact her office at sam.paor@parliament.sa.gov.au.

Adolescence Fact Sheets

Adolescence is a period of change for young people and the adults that care for them. Whether you are a parent or a professional working with teenagers, you will understand that this stage of development comes with its own set of unique challenges.

The Department of Communities has developed a range of fact sheets that deal with some of the issues young people and their parents may be facing. These cover topics such as living with teens, peer pressure, drugs, relationships and discipline.

A copy of each fact sheet has been included in this edition of Network Noise and further copies are available from the Office for Youth on ph: 3008 8613. Alternatively you can download a pdf copy of the fact sheet at <http://generate.qld.gov.au/family/parenting/tip-sheets.html>.



Regional Queensland

Bundaberg and District Youth Forum

Contact: Andrea Bax, Youth Development Officer
Bundaberg Regional Council, PO Box 2252, Bundaberg Q 4670
Ph: 07 4153 3066 | Fax: 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: Glen Martin, Youth Development Officer
PO Box 359, Cairns Q 4870
Ph: 07 4044 3016 | Fax: 07 4044 3830
Email: G.Martin@cairns.qld.gov.au

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

Cairns Drug & Alcohol Interagency Network

Convenor: Margaret Renfrey
Contact: Judyann Dorante, Lyons House Inc
211 Lyons Street, Westcourt Q 4870
Ph: 07 4051 6262 | Fax: 07 4051 6890
Email: admin@lyonshouse.org
Contact Judyann.

North Burnett Community Services Network

Contact: Hana Penney, 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@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: Sherie McDonald, Youth Development Officer
Central Highlands Regional Council PO Box 21, Emerald Q 4720
Ph/Fax: 07 4982 8393 | Mobile: 0427 820 540
Email: smcdonald@chrc.qld.gov.au
Contact Sherie for details of local youth and community service networks.

Far Northern Youth Sector Network

Contact: Glen Martin, Youth Development Officer
PO Box 359, Cairns Q 4870
Ph: 07 4044 3016 | Fax: 07 4044 3830
Email: G.Martin@cairns.qld.gov.au
Contact Glen for meeting details.

Gladstone Youth Interagency

Contact: Andrea Hughes
Gladstone Regional Council PO Box 29, Gladstone Q 4680
Ph: 07 4976 6358 | Fax: 07 4972 6557
Email: andrea.h@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au

Meets first Wednesday of the month 12 noon at the Community Advisory Service, 142 Goondoon Street, Gladstone

Fraser Coast 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: Tanya Willis, Secretary
Ph: (07) 4965 6651 | Email: Tanya.Willis@dcs.qld.gov.au
Meets first Tuesday of the month 10.30am. Venue – Mackay TAFE J Block, Level 3, Room 3.13.

Maryborough Interagency Network

Contact: Cherie McGregor
Fraser Coast Regional Council
Ph: 07 4190 5822
Email: cherie.mcgregor@frasercoast.qld.gov.au

Meets first Thursday of every month 9-11am at Maryborough Neighbourhood Centre, 25 Ellena Street.

Rockhampton Youth Interagency Network

Contact: Min Seto, Chair
Ph: Mobile 0418 884 096 | Email: min.seto@pcyc.org.au
Meets third Friday of the month 9-11 am at Commonwealth Respite & Carelink Centre, 57A Alexandra Street, North Rockhampton.

Roma Community Services Interagency

Contact: Roma Neighbourhood Centre
PO Box 1028, Roma
Ph: 07 4624 0800 | Fax: 07 4622 1448
Email: reception@maranao.qld.gov.au
Meets on a Monday at Roma Neighbourhood Centre at 11.30am on 18 January, 1 March, 12 April, 24 May, 5 July, 16 August, 4 October, 15 November, 2010 and 10 January 2011.
Meetings of the Child, Youth and Families Interagency Sub-Committee are held at the Neighbourhood Centre at 10.15am on the same dates.

Sarina Interagency Meeting

Contact: Paul Taylor, Youth Development Officer
Sarina Youth Centre, PO Box 41 Mackay Qld 4740
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. Contact Rachel for venue details.

Toowoomba Youth Organisations Network (TYON)

Contact: Ed Bradbury
Education Qld PO Box 38, Toowoomba Q 4350
Ph: 07 4616 9105 Fax: 07 4616 9100
Email: Edward.Bradbury@deta.qld.gov.au
Meets occasionally. Main activity through email discussion (TYON@discussions.eq.edu.au). Contact Ed Bradbury to join discussion list or for details.

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 monthly. Contact Amanda for Network details.

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South-East Queensland

Brisbane Inner Urban Youth Interagency

Contact: Ryan Foster
Ph: 07 3403 0136
Email: ryan.foster@brisbane.qld.gov.au
*This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.
Meets 10-12 noon first Thursday of the month.
Contact Ryan for details.

Brisbane South Youth Organisations Network

Contact: Emma McConnell
Brisbane South Youth Justice Service,
306 Ipswich Road, Buranda
Ph: 07 3406 2801
Email: Emma.McConnell@communities.qld.gov.au
Meets monthly every third Monday. Contact Emma for meeting times and venue details.

Caloundra City Youth Services Network AND Sunshine Coast Youth Partnership

Contact: Belinda Larkin, Sunshine Coast Youth Partnerships
6/131 Sugar Road, Alexandra Headland
Ph: 07 5479 0070 | Fax: 07 5479 2575
Mobile: 0435 180 480
Email: info@sunshinecoastyouth.com
Contact Belinda for meeting times and venues.

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, Manager – Westfalen Parklands
Challenge Employment & Training, 21 Dunlop Street,
Collingwood Park 4031
Ph: 3818 3105 | Fax: 3818 2013
Email: byron.m@challengeemployment.org.au
Meets third Tuesday of the month from 1.30pm at the Goodna Community Health, 82 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 7437 | Email: Kcooper@ipswich.qld.gov.au
Meets first Tuesday of the month 12.30pm at Busy Beat Hub Brisbane Road Ipswich.

Lockyer Service Providers Interagency

Contact: Neil Williamson, Laidley Community/Youth Development Worker
Laidley Shire Community Care Assoc. Inc
Ph: 07 5465 1889 | Email: neil@lscqa.org.au OR
Contact: 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 2 March, 25 May, 17 August, 9 November at Laidley Community Centre, 13 Mary Street (opp The Bus Stop).
Gatton meetings held 19 January, 13 April, 6 July, 28 September at Gatton Baptist Church, 12 William Street (opp Police Station)

Logan Youth Network

Contact: Courtney Gillott, Youth Development Officer
Logan City Council PO Box 3226, Logan City DC 4114
Ph: 07 3412 5029 | Fax: 07 3412 3444
Email: courtneygillott@logan.qld.gov.au
Meetings are held bi-monthly at rotating venues across Logan.
Please contact Courtney for meeting calendar.

Maroochydore Youth Interagency Meeting

Contact: Belinda Larkin
Sunshine Coast Youth Partnerships,
Building 1, 131 Sugar Road, Alexandra Headland
Ph: 07 5479 0070 | Fax: 07 5479 2575
Mobile: 0435 180 480
Email: info@sunshinecoastyouth.com
Contact Belinda 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: Naomi Rayward, Youth Planner,
Moreton Bay Regional Council
Ph: 07 3283 0352
Email: Naomi.Rayward@moretonbay.qld.gov.au

All meetings are held Wednesdays and are 2.30-4.30 pm with afternoon tea provided and are held at Kallangur Memorial Bowls Club Function Room, Anzac Avenue, Kallangur (next door to North's League Club) on 10 February, 14 April and 9 June.

Nambour Youth Interagency

Contact: Lyn Harris, Youth Support Coordinator
United Synergies | Ph: 07 5442 4277 | Email:
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 1-3pm 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 | Mobile: 0407 906 462
Fax: 07 3355 4222 | Email: yiro@picabeen.org.au
Meets quarterly - contact Picabeen for meeting time and venue.

Caloundra and Hinterland Child and Family Network

Contact: Fiona Malcolm
Hinterland Community Development Assn of Caloundra
PO Box 451, Landsborough Qld 4550

Ph: 07 5429 6766 | Mobile: 0418 720 515
Email: hcdworker.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, 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 (YJC) is a diverse coalition of interested NGOs, CLCs, peak bodies and individuals that work together to advance the rights of young people under the age of 18 years in the youth justice area in Queensland.
The YJC works within a rights based framework, informed by the relevant international covenants and agreements including: Convention of the Rights of the Child, Beijing Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
The YJC meets bi-monthly (every 2nd Thursday every 2nd month) commencing February 2010. The coalition actively encourages community members interested in youth justice issues to participate.

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>.

Criminal Justice Network

Contact: Via the website at
<http://www.cjn.org.au/ContactUs.ews>.
Email: info@cjn.org.au.
The Network exists to link individuals and groups committed to pursuing the rights of people marginalised by the criminal justice system. The Criminal Justice Network is informed by the voices of people with lived experience. For more information and details on forums that the Network holds, please visit <http://www.cjn.org.au>.

Health Educators Network

Contact: Pamela at Children by Choice
Tel: 07 3357 9933 ext 3 | Email: ed@childrenbychoice.org.au
The Health Educators Network provides members with an opportunity to network with other educators, share information and work more collaboration in the area of community health education in the Brisbane and Greater Brisbane Area. The network is open to any health educator in the region and members meet quarterly with rotating venues.

Membership / Subscription Application Form



30 Thomas Street, West End QLD 4101 Ph **07 3844 7713** Regional **1800 177 899**

Fax **07 3844 7731** Email **admin@yanq.org.au** Web: **www.yanq.org.au**

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

TAX INVOICE (on payment)

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

Title _____ First Name _____ Last Name _____

Organisation / Department _____ Position Title _____

Postal Address _____ Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Mobile/s _____

Email _____ Additional Email address/s for YANQ Email Bulletin _____

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

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

Please specify. _____

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

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

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

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

Signature _____ Date _____

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

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

Payment Methods

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

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

Credit Card Master Card Visa (please indicate)
 Card No _____ Amount \$ _____ Expiry Date _____
 Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Do you require a receipt Yes/No

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

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

Who are we?

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

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

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

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

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

Who can join?

Full Membership

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

Subscriber

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

Become a member... and make a difference!

Keep up to date

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

Make valuable contacts

- Participate in youth policy development
- Join YANQ's working parties
- Receive support and information for your regional and issues-based networks
- Contribute to our newsletter.

Access professional development

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

YANQ Aims

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

YANQ Objectives

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

Join today!

Simply fill out the application form, detach and return 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.