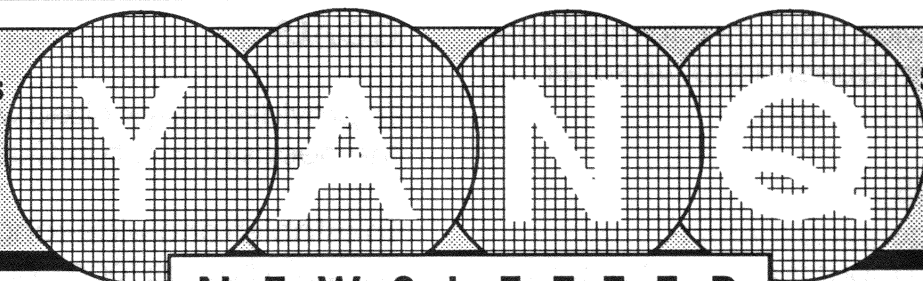


Youth Affairs
Network of
Queensland



SEPTEMBER
1989 No. 18
Formerly YACC
Newsletter

P.O. Box 362 Woodridge 4114

NEWSLETTER

(07)208.7250 (008) 177899

FAX 071 808 7613

WHAT NETWORK?

The Youth Affairs Network of Queensland is officially under way. Well? you are probably asking, what's this got to do with me? Just what is it all about anyway?

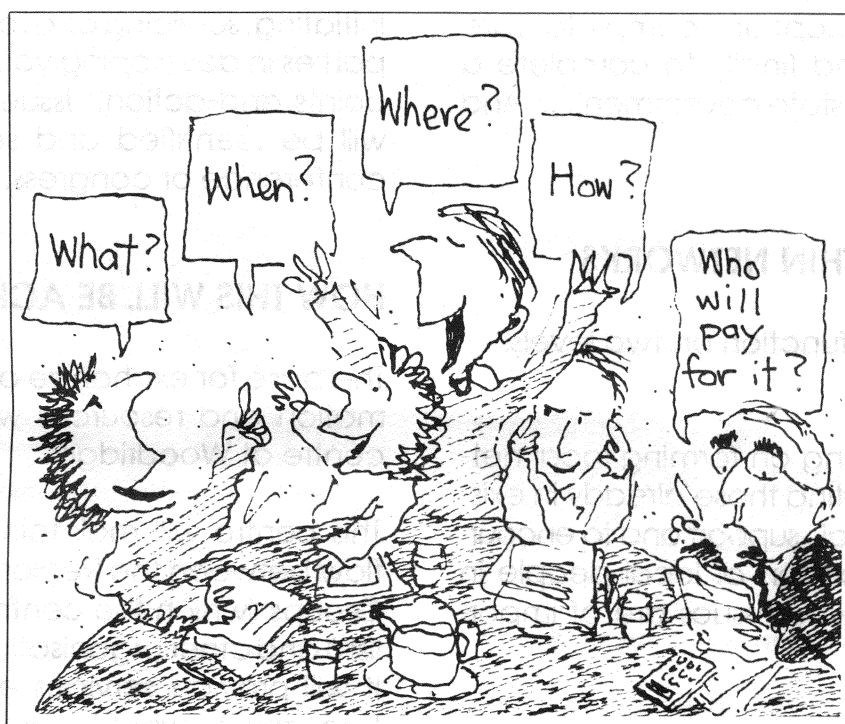
No, I'm not going to answer your questions right now. First you will have to answer some questions:

Are you quite happy with the situation of all young people in Queensland today?

Are you totally satisfied with your situation as a youth-worker or young person?

If you answered "yes" to both these questions, then the YANQ is probably not for you.

If you loudly answered "NO!", then read on.



THE BIG QUESTION

The big question is: In the future, who is going to influence the development of youth policy? ... Someone in an office in Brisbane, or you, the workers in the field, and young people themselves?

At present, the people with

the power to make decisions regarding youth services and provisions, for instance, the decision to cut out the unemployment benefit for those under 16 years of age, are far removed from the field, and the difficulties experienced by youth and those who help them.

Until a state-wide network is formed, the youth sector in Queensland will suffer.

BEGINNINGS

The concern about the lack of a network was reflected at the State Youth Conference at Mapleton in November 1987 which highlighted the need for some sort of infrastructure to maintain the network of participants. The Gaps in Youth Services conference held in March 1988 determined the major gap was the lack of infrastructure. A survey of agencies throughout Queensland received a very positive response to the concept of a structured network for the youth sector.

Various people began to make enquiries as to why Queensland lacked a peak body for the youth sector. From these enquiries contact was made with interested people from existing networks and a Steering Committee was elected to evaluate and develop the concept of a complete state wide network and finally to complete a submission to the state government. ... And here we are.

NETWORKS WITHIN NETWORKS

The network will function on two levels:

Regional

concentrating on forming local networks, (or supporting those already in existence), for mutual support and to encourage the participation of local people in decisions as to what issues are of importance to them.

State-wide

collating the issues raised by the regional networks, disseminating information amongst the regions, co-ordinating responses to the government, and developing policy.

GOALS

To provide an organized way of promoting the needs of youth in Queensland.

To establish one wide-ranging youth affairs network drawing together existing networks and all other youth services

To develop relationships between the various people, groups and organizations who work with youth in order to encourage sharing of ideas, expertise, information and support.

To ensure the participation of young people, minority groups and disadvantaged young people in the developing youth affairs networks.

To ensure the maximum cost effectiveness in terms of efficiency in the use of resources and less duplication of services where such is not required.

Initiating, servicing and resourcing working parties in developing youth policies, viewpoints and action. Issues and objectives will be identified and set at an annual conference or congress.

HOW THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED

The base for exchange of news and information and resources will be the YANQ centre at Woodridge.

This centre will maintain communication flow between the Regional Co-ordinating Groups (which the centre will help establish) and other organisations and networks. It will provide services eg the Youth Info Line, this newsletter and a resource "library".

One or more Regional Co-ordinating Groups will be established, in each of the Education Department boundaries, to draw together the youth workers, young people, and interested parties within a region and

provide a forum for expression of concerns particular to that region. The purpose is for local people to decide on their priorities and put effort into what they perceive as most important.

BENEFITS

A co-ordinated and well-informed youth affairs field will be able to collate information and opinions and present these to various levels of government. This will ensure government policies are responsive to the needs of the community.

Opportunity for Queensland to establish an effective youth affairs network, and in so doing to more effectively provide youth services.

Opportunity for clearer, more direct communication between the non-government youth sector and government agencies and regional officers. (About policy, programmes, resources and services).

Better informed youth workers will be more effective in the field.

The participation of young people themselves in this network and through it in the process of identifying needs and developing policy will counter the feeling of alienation and powerlessness often experienced and will serve to make our youth policies, programmes, services and organisations more effective in responding to their needs.

Potential for increased community input into developments in Youth Affairs. As any youth worker would know, the youth sector is made up of people with very diverse views and attitudes. We hope that, starting from the common aim of being there to assist young people, we will be able to put aside personal prejudices and work together for all young Queenslanders.

I look forward to speaking to you personally about the NETWORK and the issues I have raised. Feel free to contact me.

Georgina Warrington
Project Development Officer

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY

has available:

- Leaflets
- Booklets
- Charts
- Cards
- Posters

Explaining Social Security Guidelines.

To be put on the mailing list for automatic sending of information Contact:

Department of Social Security
G.P.O.Box 1088
BRISBANE 4001

OR PHONE ON (07) 225-3239
225 3056

QUEENSLAND HOUSING COMMISSION

aims to provide solutions to the housing problems of lower to middle income groups through innovative schemes to allow Queenslanders to buy their own homes.

A means test is applied. Two points of eligibility:

1. gross income is not to exceed \$497.80 (this rises with the cost of living) and,
2. you must have the 10% deposit plus another \$1,500 for fees and legal costs. This Scheme allows many people receiving Social Security benefits to purchase their own home.

QLD Housing Commission
202 Adelaide Street, Brisbane
Housing Info Line: (07) 227 8510

THANKS FUSION.

YOU CAN REST NOW.

The Youth Affairs Centre is up and running with our full-time Project Development Officer and a part-time Administration assistant.

Yet for many years the onus has fallen on Fusion and in particular Jennifer Condon who was one of the original members of the YANQ Steering Committee and Bob Adams, the present Chairperson of the YANQ Steering Committee.

Jennifer has looked after the Newsletter. Getting it printed folded and out on time. She has also been looking after the Youth Info Line. Keeping the dream alive, even though government funds were not forthcoming.

They have also been very helpful in helping us set up our office. Tim and Arthur from Fusion have saved YANQ from spending too much of our submission monies on renovations to our office. (Above Photo)

As they hand over the reins to us I thought it would be fitting to let them tell you a little of themselves and what they are trying to achieve.

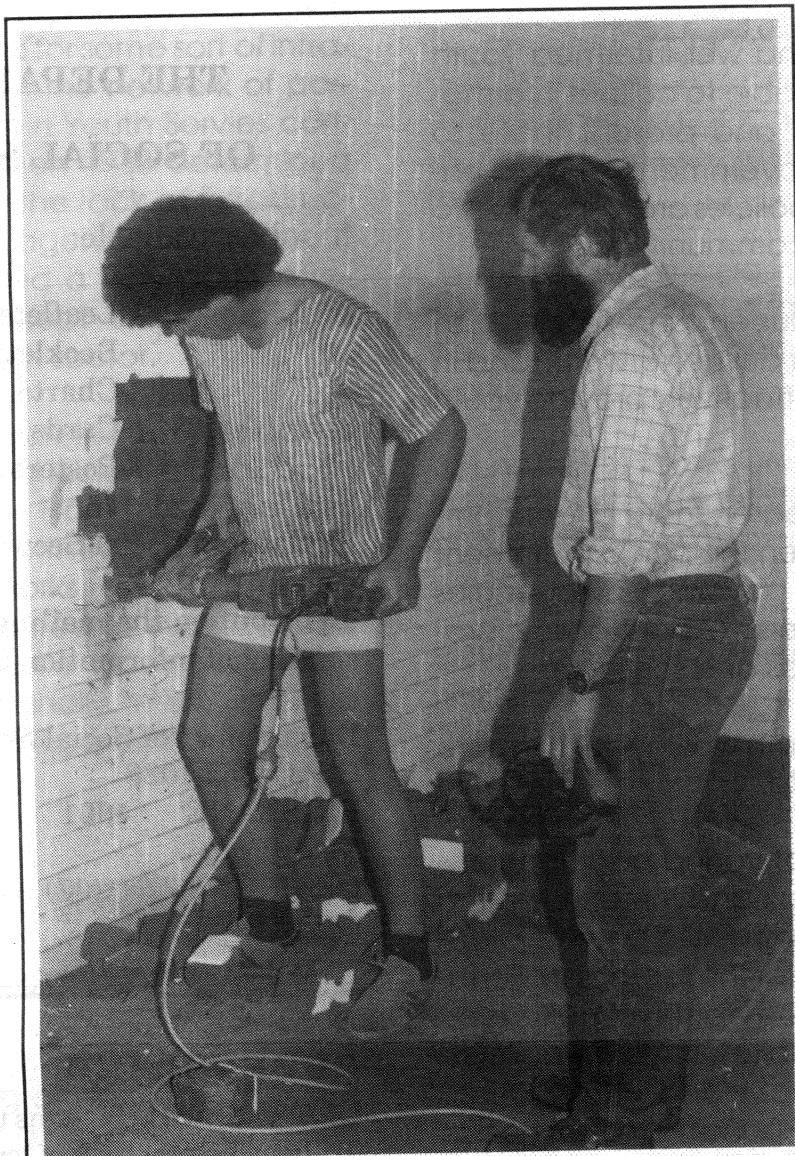
In future we would like **YOU** to write to us, with articles about your

organisation. Answering the questions:

1. Who you are?
2. What your objectives are?
3. What services you offer?

This should be about A4 size. Preferably typed. You can Post it, Fax it or send it on a computer disk.

I Look forward to hearing from you and being able to be of assistance to your organisation.



Barry Gordon
Administration Officer

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES, ADVERTISEMENTS, ETC. FOR THIS NEWSLETTER IS THE LAST DAY IN THE MONTH. POSTING WILL BE ABOUT 10 DAYS AFTER THE CLOSING DATE.



We are a 30 year old national, Christian youth and community organisation that's keen to link arms and work in co-operation with any services agencies, government departments, churches, or organisations who are committed to the same goals as us.

Being:

- To help people survive with dignity
- To help our country go the right way.

We are committed to seeing structures develop which as far as possible, see **JUSTICE** happening for all people whose lives are affected by those structures.

We are committed to promoting **MERCY**, which biblically means literally "to get inside the skin of another". We want to promote understanding between the many disparate groups in our society.

And we are concerned to see **COMPASSION** for others become a primary value in our society.

Fusion Queensland is based in Woodridge, which was a deliberate decision; to be where the kids are hurting the most.

In Queensland we have bases at Woodridge, and Maroochydore. We have been operating a medium term accommodation house for young women in the inner southern suburbs of Brisbane.

We've been instrumental in the effectiveness of the S.W.A.N. program at the Maroochydore High school for academic non-achievers; we are involved in school seminars; R.E. teaching and in student counsellor roles.

We conduct regular Day Trips for Youth ; are involved in the support of migrants and the intellectually handicapped.

Since being at Woodridge we have commenced the "Wombat Box" used clothing recycling operation which is put into the Wombat Shop for the purposes of keeping our Emergency refuge open.

The Refuge is the only one of it's type in our community and is totally run by Fusion volunteer staff with a house donated by the Housing Commission.

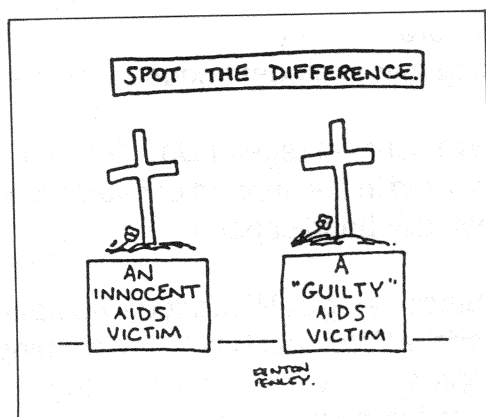
Youth leadership training is high on our agenda as well as instruction in a "Human Relationship" course especially with church groups and we auspiced the Youth Affairs Contact Centre and the Youth Affairs Training projects for the Federal Government.

In short we are interested in providing services and friendships that will demonstrate alternative ways of seeing oneself and one's relationship with others, helping people to grow in their capacity to be loving, truthful, creative, responsible, and autonomous.

We have enjoyed our role in being part of the on going life of the Youth Contact centre at West End and also at Woodridge. But we look forward to our new free time to put our energies into our projects through out the state.

All the best YANQ.

FUSION BRISBANE



The Queensland AIDS Council Incorporated (QUAC) is a community based organisation which provides welfare, counselling services and education programs on AIDS. The organisation is made up of volunteers and staff who provide services to those effected by the HIV epidemic. The organisation has workers in Cairns, Townsville, the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast as well as volunteer coordinated information and education services in Toowoomba, Mackay and Rockhamptom. **For more information contact the Executive Director, Steven Brown.**

QUAC is principally a voluntary organisation. Over 400 volunteers have participated in training programs for home care, telephone counselling and educational activity. The training programs are coordinated by paid staff who support the volunteers. Volunteers come from a wide variety of backgrounds, experiences and age

groups. The backbone of the service is provided by volunteer workers meaning that the Queensland response to the HIV epidemic is truly a community one.

QUAC provides care and support to people infected by HIV and their family, lovers and friends. This may mean volunteer supported twenty four hour home care or buddy support, or individual counselling with professional staff. QUAC operates a vitamin co-operative, a drop-in centre for infected people and their friends, and short and long term accommodation. QUAC also runs support groups that are facilitated by trained volunteers or professionals. At all times the needs of the individual for support and care and confidentiality are the highest priority. **More information about welfare services should be directed to the Senior Social Worker, Jill Rhodes.**

Another major activity is public and professional education and information on the epidemic, care and prevention. QUAC regularly runs workshops and seminars at the invitation of various organisations and provides the most comprehensive AIDS information service in Queensland. **Interested people should ask for Michael Carden, the Information Officer.**

The organisation also runs successful education programs. "Bi-Line" is a 24 hour telephone counselling service for bisexual men and their partners who are concerned about HIV infection. The service also provides referral to more formal individual counselling and support services. **To find out more ask for the Bi Line coordinator, Kathy Moran.** Other special projects are being constantly run by the organisation. For example **a resource manual for people living with AIDS is being prepared by Anita Chauvin, Education Projects Officer** among her other activities. The organisation also coordinates a state wide peer education program for gay and bisexual men. This involves small groups and social activities as a way of promoting health education. **The peer**

educator is Mark Davis.

QUAC has always worked with young people from various backgrounds, but mostly with gay or bisexual males. There are counselling and support services available for youth infected by the virus or concerned about their health and well being. In addition there are peer oriented support services available and access to youth groups. The organisation regards confidentiality and sexual non discrimination as important for the development of all young people adjusting to the risk of infection.

Recently **Michael Tansky** completed a 12 month period at QUAC developing a **resource for gay and bisexual youth and those working for them.** The package developed was designed in consultation with youths and service providers nationwide. Any worker embarking on AIDS education with young people should contact QUAC to obtain more information. The staff are available for consultation.

Over the last four years the QUAC has built up experience and knowledge of the special needs of young people facing the HIV epidemic who are at high risk of infection. Inquiries are welcomed.

Mark Davis
Queensland Aids Council
546 Stanley Street
Woolloongabba 4102 8441990

BURDEKIN REPORT INTO YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

In February this year, a National Inquiry into Youth Homelessness, chaired by Mr. Brian Burdekin, released its report, *Our Homeless Children*.

The inquiry was set up by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission in 1987 to identify the housing problems of the young homeless, explore the rights of children to protection from cruelty, neglect and exploitation and to report on the effectiveness of existing programs and services.

Hearings were conducted in all States and Territories during 1987 and 1988 and the Inquiry also commissioned a number of studies.

The main finding of the Inquiry was that there are at least 20,000 to 25,000 homeless children and young people across the country. Reasons for homelessness vary considerably from temporary family problems to psychiatric illness and drug and alcohol addiction.

The report makes a number of recommendations relating to the provision of income support, accommodation and related support services by both government and the private sector.

The Federal Government has referred the report to its Youth Social Justice Steering Committee for consideration.

Commonwealth and State Welfare Ministers also discussed the Report at their June 14 meeting and agreed on several key priorities:

- the expansion of medium and longer term accommodation and support services for young people:

- further development of community projects to provide culturally appropriate services to young Aboriginal people and other special needs groups;

- improvement of services for the chronically homeless; and

- a program to improve current services through the development of staff training and Counselling services.

(Copies of the Report are available from the Australian Government Publishing Service Bookshops in all capital cities at a cost of \$34.95 a copy)

Published in the August edition of HOUSING ACCESS the Newsletter of MACHA (Ministerial Advisory Committee on Housing Access)

Since this came out the Budget came down.

Two booklets are available from us here at YANQ

1. **Towards Social Justice for Young Australians. The 1989-90 Budget Statement**
2. **The Federal Government's Strategy for Young Australians. The Youth Book 1989-90.**

Please send monies to cover postage.

DOES 'YOUTH POLICY' MEAN NO MORE YOUTH WORKERS

by Rob White

Youth Work Studies,
Western Australian CAE*

The process of public policy formulation and implementation has immediate and crucial implications for youth work practice. While the temptation is to leave 'policy' issues to the 'experts' and to get on with the job, the reality is that every youth worker is directly implicated in the decisions being made by governments across a number of areas. Put simply, regardless of what one may do, or think, or think that they are doing, youth workers cannot escape from the dilemmas posed by and impact of government policy development.

SO what is youth policy? A policy is essentially a framework of aims and objectives, linked to a series of concrete strategies, directed at putting certain key ideas into practice. Whether something is officially labelled 'youth policy or not is largely irrelevant, in that if any specific policy impacts upon the youth affairs field it needs to be taken into account and critically responded to in terms of the effects it may have on young people or youth workers. For example, so-called 'housing' policies (eg, relating to interest rates, or rent rebates) will affect young people in need of secure, safe accommodation. Similarly, 'family' policies (eg, sole parent benefit allowances) will have an impact on the welfare and wellbeing of individuals in these types of households. Social security, education, and training policies are often constructed on age lines (such as Priority One) and as such are generally seen as 'youth' policies. Present government preoccupations with 'law and order' policies, however, rarely are seen in 'youth' policy terms, even though the main targets of such policies are young people. Youth policy therefore has to be seen in broad terms, as involving any government decision-making and financial and administrative structures, which affect people in the youth affairs field.

Depending upon one's viewpoint a policy may be good or bad at the level of basic philosophy or ideology; it may be good or bad in terms of how it is

* This paper was presented as a keynote address to the Overseas Youth Affairs Conference, Rottnest Island, March 1989.

used enough we might get the idea that the government really is concerned with social justice. A look at the wider distribution and polarisation of wealth and poverty in the country, however, would call into question the government's stated concern with social justice, or at the least, its definition of social justice.

The use of repetition is a key tool in the selling of policy by governments. And the constant repeating of the same message can and does have a real impact on how people in general think about and react to various issues. If one analyses the situation confronting a sizeable proportion of young people in Australia today, then unemployment and income security emerge as central issues of concern. While objectively the problems relate to lack of jobs for young people and inadequate incomes, the issues have been constructed politically – and especially in terms of policy initiatives – along lines which suggest that the problems lie in not enough training, a need for families to take more responsibility for the young, and a need for greater social controls being placed upon young people (eg, truancy officers, social security investigation teams and tighter regulations). Further publicity on the need for 'skill formation' puts the onus squarely on the backs of individual young people to upgrade their skills in order to get a job, rather than confronting the issue of widespread mass unemployment in institutional or social structural terms.

The formulation and implementation of public policy has, of course, real effects at both the level of ideas and in everyday practice. For instance, a recent national opinion poll showed that the majority of young people now believe that unemployment is due to lack of skills and training, and that many young unemployed people are simply lazy or unskilled. In other words, the poll indicated a shift toward blaming the unemployed for their situation rather than looking to wider social and economic factors as explanations for youth unemployment. On the other hand, law and order policies, particularly those centring on youth crime, means that greater numbers of young people will be subject to surveillance and harassment. Meanwhile the causes of youth crime continue to elude the attention of government policy makers.

Implications for youth work practice

Youth policy can be gauged in several ways. Certainly one of its more invidious and potent aspects is the way in which it can be used to set the agenda for youth work practice. Taken together, the range of public policies affecting the youth affairs field need to be critically evaluated in terms of the way they construct the 'problems' for us. Official youth policy

thus has an ideological dimension. It influences how we see the world, and how we act upon our perceptions.

For example, current public pronouncements and policy initiatives in the area of crime prevention focus attention on controlling the behaviour of young people; the issue of the legal and social rights of young people has accordingly been conveniently overlooked or dismissed altogether. Constructing social problems in terms of 'the ideal family' and calling for parents to do more with and for their children (eg, providing financial security, controlling 'deviant' behaviour) ignores the impact of unemployment, low incomes, incest, and discrimination on household life, as well as imposes a particular kind of (white, middle class, heterosexual) moral code on everyone regardless of real differences in sexuality, lifestyle, ethnic background and cultural experience.

To take another example, constructing the problem in terms of education and training ignores the profound inequalities in educational and job opportunities on the basis of class, ethnicity and sex. These inequalities are not the result of individual differences; they have been institutionalised into the very structures of society (eg, private vs. public schools, stereotyping of particular groups). For the disadvantaged and the oppressed, skill training may mean that particular individuals will find 'success', and thereby leave behind them the bulk of their peers, their family, and their friends. This does not, however, represent a change in the structure of circumstance, only a personal resolution of problems arising from circumstance. Furthermore, while a need for skill training has been expounded time and again, very little indeed has been said about the process, content and end results of this skill training. This is another aspect of policy which can create considerable confusion and consternation – namely, the imprecision of what is meant by the prescriptions offered in policy statements, the lack of direction and coherent philosophical base for specific strategies, and an uninformed or obscure social orientation in such schemes.

Impact on youth workers

In addition to playing an ideological role in defining youth needs, youth policy also involves a constant definition and re-definition of what youth work itself actually is. Depending upon the policy in question, the central task of a youth worker may be seen as that of welfare worker, trainer, delinquency preventer, family reconciliator and so on. Either youth work is presented as a purely technical role (eg, trainer) or in terms of an individual treatment role (eg, counsellor). Notions such as advocacy and

empowerment tend to get lost in the re-definition process, as does the idea that there is such a thing as politics ingrained in their very nature of youth work practice.

Definitions of youth work tasks are important. Concealed of broadly, say in terms of training, then the category youth worker could also include teachers, even though the needs of young people cannot be restricted to simply what a teacher (as narrowly defined) could provide. The recent reduction of CYSS workers by about 350 people around the country was the direct result of not only the demise of CYSS itself, but of a re-definition and re-organisation of community agencies to better reflect the government's policies in the training area. Since training does not necessarily require all of the skills of a youth worker, and since the other tasks of youth workers are in this instance no longer seen as important, it was but a small step to get rid of any excess people from the new SkillsShare projects and to open the door to the possibility of having non-youth workers taking an even greater role in 'youth' skill training.

The constant re-definition of 'youth work' does not only have implications in relation to how that work is conceived at a general policy intention level. In practical terms, it also has immediate funding ramifications. In effect, youth policy dictates where the money is going to go, to whom it will be directed, and what tasks are to be undertaken. Once again it is government setting the agenda; constructing the 'solution' as well as the 'problem' for us. This raises big issues as to how to orient to government funding if this means having to follow an agenda established by bureaucrats and politicians. The real needs and interests of young people, and alternative analyses, perspectives and practices of people active in the youth affairs field, are apt to be ignored or threatened under such circumstances. If the employment of youth workers is not to be strictly determined by government funding, then alternative sources of funding have to be considered. At a minimum, the non-government sector has to develop ways and means to avoid being constricted by either a narrow funding base or a narrow conception of the role and tasks of youth workers.

The question of whether or not youth work is defined in policy terms as being skilled or unskilled also has a bearing on who is considered a youth worker and what their tasks are to be. It is no secret that under the proposed work-for-the-dole scheme bandied about a couple of years ago, the majority of 'jobs' were to have been found in the community services sector. It would seem that the devaluing of youth work (in the eyes of both government officials and young people themselves) is still a real possibility.

ity. Part of the reason for this is because the notions of a 'helping mentality' and 'altruistic motives' continue to hold sway in many popular and government views of what it takes to be a youth worker. Now more than ever, youth work that is based upon well thought out, coherent, analytical and action-oriented philosophical foundations needs to be defended and extended in practice.

Strategies in policy

Just as policy-as-ideology is based upon the projection of certain images and justifications, so too a response to policy development must not only grasp the essence of what a policy actually means, but it must be able to be projected into the public realm as a counterweight (or perhaps in support) of the policy in question. For sake of argument, let us consider the question of how to respond to government policy processes, and specific policies, that ultimately do not serve the interests of the youth affairs field.

Approaches to policy must be based upon analysis of the contemporary situation and trends in policy and practices over a period of time. For example, while the words 'consultation', 'negotiation' and 'participation' appear to offer much currency, especially in a field which uses them so often, they in fact can be worthless when it comes to actually influencing government decision-making. Typically, when government policy is being devised today it is already informed by a particular ideological agenda. Asking people to discuss and consult with official bodies is more often than not a waste of time in such circumstances. Rather than lend credibility or legitimacy to a pre-ordained decision, it is better to set one's own agenda and to work out alternative policy options. Indeed, it needs to be emphasised that the non-government youth affairs field as a whole must be proactive and not simply reactive in the area of youth policy.

This is especially so if young people and youth workers are going to be able to influence public perceptions of what are the important youth issues that need serious consideration and action. The idea of getting in first in terms of raising issues and shaping the debates is fine in theory. In practice, however, it requires a coordinated and well planned course of action. At least initially, this means that we have to take seriously the idea of self-education on a continuing basis. Indeed, further and continuous training and education are an obligation and responsibility for everyone in the field today - especially if we are to adequately respond to the needs of young people, if we are not to be sidetracked by 'official' interpretations of issues and tasks, and if we are to consciously and meaningfully intervene at a strategic level in the youth affairs area.

Organisationally, to have any sort of impact and influence in the policy debates youth workers need their peak bodies, union bodies, and activist networks to be informed of what is going on, to participate in formulating alternative policy options, and to contribute to the building of media and political interest in the options being presented. But these organisations - such as the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia or the Australian Social Welfare Union - are very much 'field' bodies. That is, they are only effective to the point that each youth worker participates, contributes and takes part in their deliberations and actions. Activity by these bodies has to be undertaken in the framework of something done by youth workers, not for them. To be taken seriously, alternative policy has to appear realistic and realisable, and for this to be the case a central requirement is active and widespread support within the field itself.

Where the policy agenda has been set by the government already, all is not lost. In some cases it can be advantageous to actually use the rhetoric of the policy-makers to criticise any new policy changes or developments. The notion of social justice, for example, while often employed simply as a government catchphrase, is nevertheless meaningful in its own right and is a powerfully symbolic and emotive expression. The injustice and inadequacy of present policy developments present themselves as prime targets for a response using the government's own language. After all, the term social justice is certainly not the exclusive property of bureaucrats and politicians and is sorely in need of re-interpretation in more meaningful ways.

Conclusion

Policy analysis is important for everyone in the youth affairs field. It shapes our perceptions of issues and how we orient to the tasks at hand. Without a critical analysis of policy, and of the definitions of 'problems' and 'responses' presented in policy statements, publicity and new institutional arrange-

ments, it is easy to lose perspective and direction on how best to tackle social issues which impinge upon young people and the field in general.

Policy initiatives from the field are essential. An uninformed and simplistic and exclusively negative response to government policy proposals and actions does not take us very far. It does not offer any constructive or politically relevant alternative and thus leaves wider audiences with nothing to grasp on to. In the end, without positive proposals of our own, little support will be forthcoming and further confusion will be sown regarding the question of 'what is to be done?'

Policy critique is inseparable from contact work. Youth work involves a range of skills, knowledge and philosophies which implicitly or explicitly inform everyday practice. A well developed sense of what our objectives are, the rationale for a particular kind of practice, and commitment to certain ideals, is the best guarantee that youth workers will perform tasks (even within the constraints of government policy, funding and bureaucratic directives) that are progressive and that will lead to meaningful social change. A government re-definition of 'youth issues', 'youth work' and even 'youth workers' does not necessarily mean that workers with young people have to themselves accept these re-definitions, or that they cannot be translated by youth workers in ways that allow alternative, creative ways of working in their daily practices.

If youth work oriented toward progressive social change is to survive and grow, then youth workers have to be conscious of the ways in which policy can be directed against specific kinds of people and practices. The best way to ensure that 'youth policy' means no more youth workers' does not become a reality is to be aware of the processes which lead to this conclusion. Fundamentally, this requires that we critically reflect on what it really means to be a 'youth worker' in this day and age.

YOUTH SECTOR **TRAINING COUNCIL**

UPDATE

A Youth Sector Training Council has been established in Queensland as an Advisory Committee to the Minister for Education, Mr Littleproud. It is an initiative of the Federal Youth Bureau which has committed \$30,000.00 for two years. This money has been matched by a State government allocation.

The membership and functions of the Council are as follows:

YOUTH SECTOR TRAINING COUNCIL

MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson Doug Rowell
Under Secretary,
Youth Sport and Recreation
1st Floor, Education House,
30 Mary Street
BRISBANE Q 4001
PH: 237 1371

Family Services Phil Crane
Department of Family Services
GPO Box 806
BRISBANE Q 4001
PH: 224 8669

DEVET - TAFE Julia Zimmerman
DEVET
6th Floor, Education House,
30 Mary Street
BRISBANE Q 4001
PH: 237 0125

DEVET - Division of
Employment Ken Moore
Branch Youth Employment
Initiative
DEVET
PMB 3
South Brisbane Q 4101
PH: 896 5108

Youth Affairs Network
Bob Adams Peter Walsh
Fusion PO Box 324
PO Box 362 Fortitude Valley
Woodridge Q 4006
Q 4114 PH: 254 1566
PH: 208 7822

Colleen Kelly Lance Haines
127 Nelson St Skillshare
Kalinga 14 Lilac St
Q 4030 Inala
PH: 857 5728 Q 4077
PH: 372 1665

Department of Education, Bob Robbins
Employment and Training DEET
(DEET) GPO Box 9880
Brisbane Q 4001
PH: 226 9307

Qld Trades & Labour John Rockett
Council c/- Qld Teachers Union
PO Box 310 4000
Spring Hill Q 4004
PH: 831 3516

B.C.A.E. Gary Embelton
Health & Welfare Studies
Carseldine Campus
Beams Rd
Carseldine Q
PH: 263 6222 Ext: 249

Local Government
Associate of Qld

Executive Officer Sue Shaw
Division of Youth
PO Box 336
North Quay Q 4002
PH: 237 1295

YOUTH SECTOR TRAINING COUNCIL : FUNCTIONS

These functions were agreed to by representatives from Division of Youth, Youth Affairs Network of Queensland and Department of Family Services, for the purpose of securing Commonwealth funding for the Youth Sector Training Council

1. Identification of training resources, gaps and needs throughout Queensland, with a view to:

(a) achieving a training system that can respond flexibly and with speed to provide accredited training to meet the skill development needs of workers providing services to young people in a variety of areas,

(b) supporting the development of training methods, delivery methods and processes most effective in providing skill development in the youth sector; and

(c) evaluating youth sector training programs throughout Queensland.

2. Ensuring equality of access to training for workers in metropolitan, rural and isolated areas through:

(a) the establishment of regional training networks, via a link with the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland;

(b) the co-ordination of training programs delivered throughout the State; and

(c) the adoption of a "clearinghouse" role with respect to the dissemination of training information and resources.

3. Undertaking State-wide planning in order to:

(a) develop a forward plan for both short and long term strategies;

(b) monitor the development of certified, diploma and degree courses for youth work in Queensland;

(c) ensure the accreditation of youth work courses; and

(d) review the role and functions of the Council in light of developments in the National Working Party on Human Services Training.

4. Consideration of funding through:

(a) setting priorities for the allocation of funding;

(b) recommendations to the Division of Youth regarding the administration of funds;

(c) accountability to the Minister for Education, Youth and Sport through the Division of Youth; and

(d) addressing the needs for future funding for youth sector training in Queensland.

There are many difficulties with such a body, e.g. all of the members are from Brisbane, a decision which was not made without much debate, and with which there is disagreement - especially if you live somewhere else in Queensland.

To assist those of us who are on the Council, we need to establish some method of communicating with those who are interested/concerned about training for youth workers in Queensland. We will attempt to

provide a continuing update in this newsletter, but we also need to hear from you - so please let us know what you are thinking - put it on paper / ring us or get one of us to ring you???

At this point in time no momentous decisions have been made by the Council - we have only met on two occasions.

There are a number of working parties operating on the following:

(a) Skillshare : DEET has provided the Council with \$30,000 this year to provide for youth related training needs of Skillshare providers and staff.

(b) Training and Development Officer: examining the need for the role of a TDO in Queensland.

(c) Structure of the Council: examining the present structure of the Council and alternative models.

(d) Strategic Planning: The Council members will be meeting from October 15-17 to develop long and short term planning for the Council and to develop as a "team".

If you have any comments, please contact one of the members of the Council or myself.

Colleen Kelly 857 5728
P.O.Box 362 Woodridge 4114

WHAT PRICE INDEPENDENCE?

by Robyn Hartley (Research Fellow of the Australian Institute of Family Studies).

Outlines a research study into the income and living costs of young people. In the study young people - living away from home and at home; employed, unemployed and students - kept a detailed diary of income and expenditure for a fortnight.

The young people and, where possible, their parents were also interviewed.

The study clearly illustrates that general living expenses for young people are not lower than those for adults. It indicates that "there is enormous variation in the amount of financial support which parents across a range of socio-economic groups are able and/or willing to give their children."

The study dramatically illustrates the dire poverty in which many young people live.

Economic and labour market policies are crucial to young people's employment opportunities and to their futures. In addition, young people's incomes and living costs reflect the intersection of policies related to education, family support, youth income support, training, accommodation and community services.

The issues raised in the study are both simple and complex, with immediate and long-term significance. They must be faced now because many young people are living in poverty and going through their teenage years with very limited opportunities for education and employment. Their experiences will have long-term individual and social effects.

Youth poverty is detrimental to the whole of society. Not only does it have enormous potential financial costs in terms of social security payments, health care and crime, it also reduces the capacity of individuals to contribute to society.

WHAT PRICE INDEPENDENCE?

full report \$15
summary report \$5
or
report and summary \$17
Youth Issues Forum \$4

The Youth Affairs Council of Victoria
14-16 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy Vic 3065
Phone: (03) 419 9122

The **YOUTH AFFAIRS NETWORK OF QUEENSLAND (YANQ)** at the moment is a complex body. As well as trying to **NET WORK** other agencies and groups within the state.

We also run the **YOUTH AFFAIRS CONTACT CENTRE (YACC)** which is what a lot of groups still know us as. This involves:

The **YOUTH INFO LINE**. Young People (and their parents phone us from anywhere in the state on a 008 number (for the cost of a local call) and we, from our Computerised Data base, refer them to help in their local area. Are you part of this? See pages 14 and 15.

From our **DATA BASE** it is also possible to give you a Directory of all other Youth Agencies in your area. (If they are listed with us of course).

We are also trying to become a **RESOURCE CENTRE**. We are in the process of cataloguing and placing on our files all the information we have. *Please see below a list of headings for information we have to date.*

If you think we can help you please give us a call or write, or Fax. There will be a nominal cost involved, but if you apply early you can get in before the committee works out prices.

ABORIGINAL 1
ABORIGINAL 2
ACCOMMODATION 1
ACCOMMODATION 2
ACT Worker's With Youth Network ACTWYN
ADDRESS LIST
ADMINISTRATION 1
ADMINISTRATION 2
ADMINISTRATION 3
ADMINISTRATION 4
ADOPTION
ADVOCACY
AGENCIES
ALCOHOL
ARTS
AUSTRALIAN NETWORK OF SECONDARY STUDENTS
BIBLIOGRAPHIES
CHILD ABUSE
CHILD CARE
CHILDREN
CHURCH / Denominations
COLLEGE
COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
COMMUNICATION
COMMUNITY RELATIONS
COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES
COUNCILS
COUNSELLING
CRISES INTERVENTION / CARE
CULTURAL
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY DSS 1
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY DSS 2
DISABLED / HANDICAPPED 1
DISABLED / HANDICAPPED 2
DRUG
EDUCATION 1
EDUCATION 2
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REGIONS 1
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REGIONS 2
EMERGENCY RELIEF
EMERGENCY SHELTER / CARE
EMPLOYMENT 1
EMPLOYMENT 2
ETHNIC / MIGRANT
FAMILY CARE AND COUNSELLING
FAMILY DAY CARE
FAMILY PLANNING AND PREGNANCY
FINANCE 1
FINANCE 2
FOOD DISTRIBUTION
FOSTER CARE
GOVERNMENT REPORTS
GOVERNMENT
HEALTH
HOMOSEXUALS / LESBIANS
HOSTELS
HOUSING 1
HOUSING 2
HOUSING 3
HOUSING 4
HUMAN RIGHTS
INCOME
INFORMATION AND ADVICE
INSTITUTIONAL CARE
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SHELTER HOMELESS
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR IYY 1
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR IYY 2
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR IYY 3
ISOLATED YOUTH
LEADERSHIP
LEGAL
LIFE EDUCATION
MEDIA
MUTUAL SUPPORT
N.T. WORKER'S WITH YOUTH FORUM
PEACE
POLICIES, RESPONSES AND CONSULTATION 1
POLICIES, RESPONSES AND CONSULTATION 2

POLITICS 1
POLITICS 2
POVERTY
PRIORITY ONE
PSYCHIATRIC
PSYCHOLOGY
PUBLICATIONS
RAPE
RECREATION / LEISURE
REFERRAL
RELIGIOUS
REPORTS - GENERAL
RESEARCH
RESOURCE 1
RESOURCE 2
RURAL AND ISOLATED YOUTH
SCOUTING GUIDES AND ROVERS
SERVICE CLUBS
SEX
SHELTERS SHORT TERM ACCOMMODATION
SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
SKILLSHARE
SOCIAL SKILLS
SOLE PARENTS
STATISTICS 1
STATISTICS 2
STREET WORK
STREETWISE
STUDENT COUNSELLING
TAFE
TELEPHONE COUNSELLING
TRADE UNIONS
TRAINING 1
TRAINING 2
TRAINING 3
TRAINING 4
TRAINING 5
TRAINING 6
TRAINING 7
TRAINING 8
TRANSLATION / INTERPRETING SERVICE
U.N.E.S.C.O
UNEMPLOYMENT 1
UNEMPLOYMENT 2
UNEMPLOYMENT 3
UNEMPLOYMENT 4
VIOLENCE
WOMEN 1
WOMEN 2
WORKERS WITH YOUTH
YACA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 3
YACA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE PAPERS 1
YACA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE PAPERS 2
YACA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE PAPERS 4
YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA YACA
YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF N.S.W. YACNSW
YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF S.A. YACSA
YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF TASMANIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF VICTORIA YACVIC
YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF W.A. YACWA
YOUTH CONFERENCE
YOUTH STUDIES



Is your data up to date?

If you think it's possible that the data on your agency in our 008 Youth Info Line computer is not accurate, or if you just want to make sure it's up-to-the-minute, then why not take a few minutes to complete the form at right and post it back to us. It's particularly important in that we are now starting to print numerous directories for various areas and it'll save a lot of heartbreak if you can help us get it right.

Focusses: Tick up to 8 of the focuses listed below, to describe the main activities of your agency.

ABORI	Aboriginal	HOSTE	Hostels
ACCOM	Accommodation - General	INFOR	Information and Advice
ADOPT	Adoption	ISOLA	Isolated Youth
ADVOC	Advocacy	JOBTR	Job Training
ALCOH	Alcohol (addiction/counselling)	LEGAL	Legal (advice/counselling)
ARTS/	Arts/crafts	LIFEE	Life Education
CCARE	Child Care	MUTUA	Mutual Support
CES	Commonwealth Employment Service	PEACE	Peace
CHILD	Children's Services	POLIT	Political/Lobby Groups
COLLE	College/University Groups	PSYCH	Psychiatric / services & clinics
COMMU	Community Relations/Services	RAPEC	Rape Counselling
COORD	Coordination of Activities	RECRE	Recreation, leisure, sport
COUNC	City, Town, or Shire Councils	REFER	Referral
COUNS	Counselling - General	RELIG	Religious
CRISI	Crisis (intervention/care)	RESEA	Research
CULTU	Cultural	RESOU	Resource Groups
CYSS	Community Youth Support Scheme	SCOUT	Scouting, Guides and Rovers
DISAB	Disabled / Handicapped	SERVI	Service Clubs
DRUG	Drug (addiction/counselling)	SEXUA	Sexual (counselling/violence)
DSS	Department of Social Security	SHELT	Shelters-Short term accommodation
E/REL	Emergency Relief	SKILL	Skills Development
EDUCA	Education	SOCIA	Social Skills/Groups
EMERG	Emergency (shelter/care)	STREE	Street Work / Detached Workers
EMPLO	Employment	STUDE	Student Counselling
ETHNI	Ethnic/Migrant	TAFEG	TAFE Groups
FAMDC	Family Day Care	TELEP	Telephone Counselling
FAMIL	Family Care and Counselling	TRADE	Trade Unions
FAMPL	Family Planning/Pregnancy	TRAIN	Training
FINAN	Finance (advice)	TRANS	Translation/Interpreting Service
FOODD	Food Distribution	VIOLE	Violence (counselling/support)
FOSTE	Foster Care	WOMEN	Women
HEALT	Health	YOUNG	Young Gays and Lesbians

008 Youth Info Line Agency Directory Information

Please print clearly. Grey areas for office use only

Full name of organisation/agency: _____		Agency code: <div><div></div></div>
Locally known as: _____		Street Address of Agency: _____ _____ _____
Phone number: (.....) _____ After hours: (.....) _____		<div>Location Code <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> Service Area Locn <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> Organisation Code <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div></div> <div>No. of full-time employees _____ No. of part-time employees _____</div>
Postal Address: _____ _____ _____ Postcode: _____		
Are you an incorporated body? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Is the above address the head office of your organisation? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Do you have other branches of your organisation in Qld? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please list the town/city/suburb in which they are located (or attach a list of addresses): _____ _____ _____ _____		In what way is your service funded? _____ _____
Contact Person Details: Surname _____ Christian Name _____ Phone _____ Position in Agency _____		Transport to your agency: <input type="checkbox"/> Bus <input type="checkbox"/> Train <input type="checkbox"/> Private Access for disabled? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		Contact Person Code <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
		Is there a specific contact person? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Costs if applicable _____
Objectives: Please state the main objectives of your organisation/agency _____ _____ _____ _____		Do you have a 24 hour crisis service? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Number (____) _____
		Who is Service available to? _____ _____ Hours Open _____
Name of any Publication _____ Frequency of Publication _____		Do you wish for your agency/organisation to be listed in a published directory? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Mailing Classification <div><div></div></div>		PLEASE TURN OVER

Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Newsletter

If undeliverable return to:
P.O. Box 362
Woodridge 4114

To:

Agency Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____
Phone: _____

Contact Person Details:

Summa: _____
Christian Name: _____
Phone: _____
Position in Agency: _____

Objectives: Please state the main objectives of your

organisation: _____

Do you want your agency/organisation to be
listed in a published directory? Yes ☐ No ☐

PLEASE TURN OVER