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Newsletter October / November 1993

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... and a whole lot more!

Mental Health Report Condemns Treatment of Young People

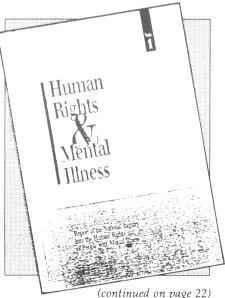
On 20 October 1993 the Report of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's Inquiry into Mental Illness (the "other" Burdekin Report) was tabled in Federal Parliament.

The 1000-page report condemns Australia's mental health systems as committing gross abuses of the human rights of people with a mental illness. Queensland's system was singled out for particular criticism. Queensland spends less per capita on mental health than any other state.

Compiled over three years, the report presents evidence that people with a mental illness are denied access to treatment, particularly community-based treatment, that patients in psychiatric hospitals are subject to widespread sexual and physical abuse, that many are accommodated in sub-standard boarding houses, and that rural mental health services are virtually non-existent.

The report includes a chapter on the treatment of children and adolescents in the mental health system. It cites evidence that 15 per cent of adolescents

suffer from a recognisable psychiatric disorder, and about 5 per cent suffer from serious disorders which warrant intervention. About 1 per cent have a 'severe psychiatric disorder' (around 16 000 individuals).



Network Noise

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CONTRIBUTIONS ARE **WELCOME**

Ring, write or fax vour latest news on

- workshops
- youth programs
- training events
 - projects
- positions vacant
- change of address
 - latest resources

to Rita Riedel, YANQ PO Box 116 Fortitude Valley 4006

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COPY DEADLINE

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The views and opinions contained in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland.



Coordinating Committee Update Oct - Nov 93

1993-94 Coordinating Committee Elected

At the 1993 YANG AGM held on 7 October 1993 the following people were elected to the Coordinating Committee:

Executive

Phil Crane (Chair)

Donna Densley (Vice-Chair)

John Rigsby-Jones (Secretary) India Youth Care Community

Tony Parsons (Treasurer)

Social Sciences, QUT

Redback Housing

Youth and Family Service

Ordinary Committee Members

Gerald Appo

Elei Faraimo

Jenny Gilmore

Dianne Matters

Uz Pyle

Judith Rowell

Wallis Westbrook

Clump Mountain Youth Wilderness Camp

Samoan Advisory Council

Dept of Social Work/Social Policy, Uni of Qld

JPET, Bundaberg

CONTACT Youth Theatre

Zig Zag Young Women's Resource Centre

Youth Sector Training Council

\$\$\$ New Membership Fees \$\$\$

YANQ has reviewed its existing membership fees structure in light of an increase in Australia Post charges for publications scheduled for 1994. New membership fees are as follows:

Young Person	Income < \$16,000	\$5.00
Individual	Income < \$16,000 \$16,000 - \$50,000 Income > \$50,000	\$10.00 \$25.00 \$40.00
Organisation	No funding Funding < \$100,000 Funding > \$100,000	\$10.00 \$40.00 \$60.00
Government	Department or Service	\$75.00
Subscribers	transitions & Network Noise	\$60.00

Please remember that membership fees are due on 1 January 1994. Members will have until 31 March to renew membership before it lapses.

YANQ Policy Forum Identifies

Priority Objectives

The 1993 Policy Forum was held at YANQ on 7-9 October 1993. The Forum brought together members from around Queensland to discuss specific policies and directions for the Network until the 1994 Forum,

MAJOR OUTCOMES

- The modification and ratification of the draft policy document on Principles for Guiding YANQ Policy Development; and
- the nomination of priorities for action over the next twelve months.

PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

Rural, Remote and Isolated Young People

• To increase awareness of needs and to provide support and information to ensure that young people and workers with young people have increased access to information, resources, services and support in rural, remote and isolated areas.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Young People

• By 1994 Policy Forum the Working Party will have gained funding for an ATSI Networking Project which will provide support and resources for the ATSI Working Party. The purpose of the project, as developed by the Working Party, is as follows:

"The purpose of the project is to build a statewide network and to develop a culturally appropriate and effective infrastructure that will provide a forum for the ATSI youth sector in this state. This will act as an effective mechanism for advocacy, consultation, coordination and information exchange between government departments, the ATSI youth sector and the mainstream youth sector. The purpose is also to enable all ATSI organisations working with young people in Queensland to inform,

negotiate with, and influence government and non-government organisations."

Recreation

• YANQ to investigate representation on Youth Arts Queensland and Cross-Departmental Reference Committee on Youth and Community Cultural Development, and to develop responses to perceived gaps for disadvantaged young people.

Employment

• YANQ will develop a policy position on employment, focusing particularly on state issues. This will involve research on alternative responses

to unemployment, and on structural causes of unemployment. It will also focus on long-term unemployed young people. The policy will inform YANQ's input to the development of labour market programs, and will also be used to educate the youth sector.

OTHER STRATEGIES

- YANQ will respond to the White Paper on Employment Opportunities;
- Given the high youth unemployment and the changing labour market, influence public and government perceptions on increased need for recreation and leisure for disadvantaged young people.
- That YANQ ensure that its communications and publications disseminate information to the sector and community about the project and ATSI youth issues generally.

A more detailed report of the Policy Forum will be circulated in the near future. In the meantime, if you would like more information, or are interested in participating in YANQ's response on these issues, contact Tim Wilson, YANQ's Policy and Research Officer, on (07) 852 1800.

STOP PRESS

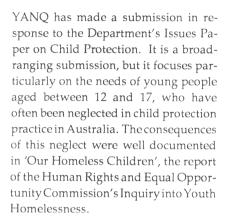
1994 QUEENSLAND YOUTH AFFAIRS CONFERENCE IN THE PIPELINE

Planning has begun for the 1994 Queensland Youth Affairs
Conference. Tentative dates are late August or early September
1994. Equity issues are a high priority to YANQ and it is important
that the conference is accessible to people from across Queensland. We anticipate that travel subsidies will again be available
to assist delegates in attending. We look forward to presenting
another conference which will challenge, unite, entertain
and educate the youth affairs sector in this state. If
you would like to be part of the Conference
Working Party contact Lindsay Granger
at YANQ on (07) 852 1800
or (008) 177 899.

Review of Queensland's

Child Protection Legislation

The Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs (DFSAIA) is currently conducting a review of laws covering child protection in Queensland. They are hoping to present new legislation to parliament in mid 1994.



The YANQ submission argues that one of the primary goals of the new legislation must be to defend young people's right to have a say in decisions that affect them. For this to be put into practice, young people must be a party in child protection hearings, and provided with advocates to assist in defending their rights. Young people and their families should be provided with an opportunity to have input to decisions regarding the placement of the child. Agencies providing alternative care services should develop mechanisms whereby young people can have input to the design and management of services. Finally, research conducted in order to evaluate the revised child protection system must involve consultation with young people.

YANQ argues that steps must be taken to ensure young people in care do not continue to suffer neglect at the hands of the Department. YANQ members consistently report an increasing reluctance on the part of Departmental staff to intervene in cases where a young person is over 12 years old. Specialist resources must be dedicated to working with young people in this age group, who often present particular challenges

to Departmental officers due to the effects of previous neglect and developmental issues. Young people must also be provided with avenues for initiating proceedings for their own protection.

YANQ cites evidence that young people in the Department's care are being discharged from orders by their mid-teens, while young people in the general community are increasingly dependent on their families into their early 20s. Queensland is one of the few states that provides a program specifically for young people leaving care. However, young people continue to be discharged into a life of subsistence on the Young Homeless Allowance, and are denied access to secure, affordable housing. Workers have also reported that young people are discharged from care with inadequate living skills and limited support networks. YANQ argues that the Department must commit itself to providing ongoing support for those young people leaving its care, including income supplements, access to public housing and a range of support services to provide long-term assistance.

The submission argues that a Commissioner for Children, modelled on the New Zealand Commissioner and the Children's Interest Bureau in South Australia, should be appointed in Queensland to ensure that the rights and protection conferred by the Convention on the Rights of the Child are transformed into policy, practice and law. The Commissioner would provide an independent overview of the Department's efforts in the area of child protection.

It concludes by reiterating that legislative change will have little effect unless resources are provided for a range of support and advocacy services for young people and their families. Effective reform will also depend on the extent to which young people, their families and the community sector are invited to participate in the design and implementation of reforms.

Thanks to all those members who participated in forums and teleconferences to develop YANQ's response.

Tim Wilson

For further info contact Tim Wilson, Policy and Research Officer on (07) 852 1800.

"Working with Marginalised Young People" Research Project

I am currently undertaking extensive research into ways of working with marginalised young people. As part of this project I am looking for a small group of youth workers who are currently doing direct work with young people. The main focus will involve youth workers exploring aspects of their current practice and possibly developing new models or strategies for working with young people. If you are interested in knowing more details about the project please do not hesitate to contact me as soon as possible on (07) 365 2316 or (07) 365 2068.

Jenny Gilmore, Dept of Social Work and Social Policy, University of Qld



Corrective Services Commission Makes Grab for Juvenile Corrections

The Queensland Corrective Services Commission (QCSC) has sought responsibility for juvenile corrections in a submission to the Public Sector Management Commission (PSMC). The PSMC is currently conducting a review of the Corrective Services Commission to examine its effectiveness and to make recommendations about its continuation.

YANQ has made its own submission to the PSMC regarding this proposed transfer of responsibility for juvenile corrections. The submission re-iterates the position taken by YANQ in the PSMC Review of the Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs, viz. that Family Services should retain responsibility for dealing with young offenders.

YANQ highlighted the need to differentiate between adult and young offenders, in terms of both the types of offences they commit and their needs within the corrections system. The submission pointed out that despite some concerns regarding its treatment of young people in detention, Family Services had far greater expertise in dealing with young people than QCSC. In

order to comply with United Nations rules for the treatment of young people in detention, QCSC would need to duplicate much of the infrastructure already existing within Family Services.

YANQ also pointed out the inconsistency of placing juvenile corrections firmly within a punitive corrections system while simultaneously implementing a crime prevention strategy which recognises the role of the environment in juvenile offending.

Finally, YANQ highlighted the lack of sensitivity to the needs of young people displayed by QCSC in the past. In particular, reference was made to comments by Director-General of the Commission, Keith Hamburger, regarding a plan to run bush camps for 'feral' street kids.

Further details of YANQ's submission can be obtained by contacting Tim Wilson on (07) 852 1800.

Group Forms to Speak Out on School Exclusions

A coalition of youth organisations has been formed to deal with suspension and exclusion from schools.

The group was formed in response to the Youth Justice Coalition's concerns about the number of young people presenting at youth services who had been expelled from schools. In many cases it appeared that school principals had made it impossible for young people to attend schools, without going through the formal channels to exclude them. There also appeared to be some inconsistency between regions regarding the use of advocates in appeals of decisions to exclude students.

The group, which to this point has involved the Youth Justice Coalition, the Youth Advocacy Centre, YANQ, Phil Crane from QUT, and youth workers from Logan, the Gold Coast and Inala, is concerned that young people who are excluded from schools are effectively locked out participation in the work force. Despite the serious conse-

quences of exclusion for students, it appears there are few safeguards to protect their rights to an education.

To this point, the group has been successful in having proposed amendments to the Education (General Provisions) Act 1989, which dealt with exclusion and suspension, deferred until next year. The proposed amendments would have provided considerable discretion to school principals and regional directors in the exercise of their power to exclude or suspend, without specifying the rights of young people in the process. In at least two sections, the amendments appeared to breach Article 12 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, which guarantees young people a voice in decisions which affect them.

The group will continue to agitate for the improvement of procedural safe-

guards to ensure that suspension and exclusion are used only as a last resort, and that adequate appeals and review processes are available.

How can you be involved?

1. Attend the group's next meeting at YANQ, on

Thursday 18 November at 3.30pm.

- 2. Make some quick notes about particular cases you are aware of where young people appear to have been unfairly excluded from schools, and forward them to YANQ.
- 3. Contact YANQ to find out more about the group and how you can participate.





Young Women Applaud WAYWARD Speakouts

- Report Available -

Two speakouts for young women have been held in recent months by WAYWARD (Women Alongside Young Women for Action, Research and Development).

In June, a speakout on "Young Women - Who Are We?" attracted 60 young women and 30 youthworkers. The speakout, funded by a grant from the National Agenda for Women Grants Program, gave young women the chance to speak on issues such as disability, sexuality, sexual abuse, parenting and discrimination.

A speakout on young women as health consumers, held as part of Youth Week activities in October, drew similar numbers from metropolitan Brisbane and beyond. Young women at this speakout discussed health issues ranging from pre- and post-natal care, gynaecological examinations, and domestic

YOUNG WOMEN'S

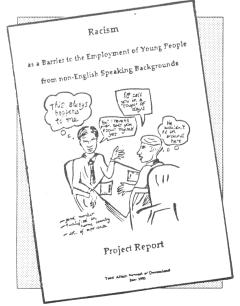
violence, to health rights and their treatment by health professionals. Health professionals attended afternoon sessions to hear young women's opinions.

Speakouts are a chance for young women to develop confidence and self-esteem in a supportive, womenonly environment. They include recreational and educational workshops as well as time for 'speaking out' in front of a large group. Participation and evaluations indicate that young women respond very positively to the opportunities speakouts present.

Corrie Macdonald WAYWARD member

The report "Young Women: Who Are We?" includes speeches by young women and guest speakers, poems and photos by young women, and documents background information to the speakout, details of the day and an evaluation. For a copy of the report please forward payment of \$5.00 (includes postage and handling) to WAYWARD, C/-PO Box 116, Fortifude Valley 4006. Please note, copies are strictly limited.

The report from YANQ's project 'Racism as a Barrier to Young People from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds' is now available.



YANQ REPORT ON RACISM IN EMPLOYMENT NOW AVAILABLE

The project, which involved around 30 young people from a variety of non-English speaking backgrounds, ran from mid-92 until early 93. It ran a forum for employers and youth workers, an educational drama workshop for NESB young people, and a number of other activities, all around the theme of racism in employment and strategies for young people confronted with racism.

The 50-page report notes that the employment, education and training agencies and NESB community groups accessed during the project had little contact with NESB young people, particularly those who were unemployed. It also includes the results of a survey

carried out by young NESB people among their peers, which indicate that 92 per cent of survey respondents had experienced racist acts at some time, but 19 per cent of these young people did not identify the acts as racist.

In light of this fact, the report recommends more education about racism for NESB young people. It also contains other relevant recommendations, data on participants, and photographs from the project.

For a copy of the report please forward payment of \$5.00 (includes postage and handling) to YANQ, PO Box 116, Fortitude Valley 4006.

Young People and the State Budget

"More of the same" was very much the picture for young people after the 1993 Queensland Budget. The Government has persevered with its low tax, low expenditure regime. The consequence of this approach is a very low level of expenditure on social services relative to other states.

The Government made a number of small improvements in expenditure in areas which will impact on young people. These are as follows:

Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs

- An extra \$3.3 million dollars was added to the Department's general funding base in line with recommendations by the Public Sector Management Commission.
- ♦ The Department contributed \$300 000 to meet the State's contribution to SAAP.
- ♦ \$2 million to continue the Youth and Community Combined Action Program (YACCA).
- \$0.5 million to fund the YACCA special projects targeting young people involved in opportunitistic prostitution.
- \$4 million to implement programs related to the Juvenile Justice Act.
- An extra \$1.86 million for the Division of Intellectual Disability Services for residential care staff and for resource and assessment teams.
- The establishment of a \$7 million Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund to offset the effect of gambling on the fundraising capacity of community organisations.

Department of Employment, Vocational Education, Training and Industrial Relations

- \$1 million extra to support community organisations to develop employment initiatives and train unemployed people.
- ♦ \$1.3 million to enhance the Self

Employment Venture Scheme.

- ♦ \$1.2 million to employ an extra 20 Youth Employment Consultants.
- \$150 000 to expand apprentice employment in public sector construction work by introducing a requirement for Government construction contracts to prescribe set levels of apprentice employment.
- \$400 000 to fund five communitybased Enterprise Centres to foster job creation and small enterprises.
- \$700 000 to implement the Australian Vocational Certificate System.
- \$48 million increase in TAFE funding.

It should also be noted that there was a \$100 million increase on spending on capital works, which the Government estimates will create more than 40 000 jobs.

Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning

- The State will meet its matching obligations under the Commonwealth/
 State Housing Agreement.
- A significant reduction in new money for the Community Housing Partnership Program, due to overspending last year.

Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing

- ♦ \$150 000 to implement the Youth Advisory Mechanism.
- Establishment of the Facilities Development Grant program targeting sport, recreation and youth organisatons.

• The Department has maintained its focus on sport, at the expense of other recreational activities. However, regional recreation planning pilot studies in Mulgrave, Gladstone and Albert have been continued.

Department of Environment and Heritage

♦ An additional \$4.2 million for the Youth Conservation Corps.

Queensland Health

- \$0.5 million in funding to community based mental health services. Funding to inpatient mental health services was decreased by \$140 000.
- \$1.5 million to establish a Health Promotion Fund.
- \$1.1 million to fund public sexual health centres targeting workers in the sex industry.
- An increase of \$855 000 for Aboriginal health services.
- An extra \$1.15 million to the Prevention of Violence Against Women strategy.

Legal Aid

• A 2.7 per cent increase in Legal Aid to address shortfalls in solicitor's trust fund accounts.

Overall the Budget contained some positive, albeit limited, initiatives. YANQ will be looking to the Government for bolder strategies in the next budget, particularly in relation to the high level of youth unemployment, support and advocacy services for young people, recreation, and mental health services for young people.

Tim Wilson, Policy and Research Officer

Young People from Emerald and Brisbane Receive Housing Awards

On 8 November 1993 young people from Emerald and Brisbane were presented with awards from the Royal Australian Institute of Planners Queensland as part of the celebration of World Town Planning Day.

The Emerald project received a Certificate of Merit in the Category of "Residential Development". The judges were impressed by the process which was used in developing the project, in particular, the involvement of young people and other members of the community. The project was one of six "demonstration community housing projects" undertaken by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning (DHLG&P) throughout Queensland.

Some of the participatory activities engaged in by the young people included: discussion of design issues; selection of unit types; the building and arranging of models on the site; plan preparation and review; and taking photographs of Emerald to record visual qualities which could be used for the proposal. The final scheme has six units housing twelve people which include single and double storey units of one, two and three bedrooms. One unit is wheel-chair accessible.

The Brisbane project was a collaboration between the South East Queensland Youth Accommodation Coalition (SEQYAC), DHLG&P and Goodsir, Baker, Wilde Architects and received its Certificate of Merit in the category of "Community Planning". The purpose of the project was to involve young people in designing public housing units for a proposed development site in East Brisbane and to make general recommendations to the Department of Housing about design guidelines for public housing for young people. The judges stated that, "the project was a first for Queensland and was sensitive to user needs and site characteristics."

Some of the participatory activities engaged in by the young people included: discussion of design characteristics -

what they liked and disliked about their own current housing; a bus tour of new public housing projects in Brisbane; translation of aesthetic preferences into design objectives; designing small models of different unit types; exploration of different internal arrangements of units eg. proposing one bedroom units with mezzanine bedroom; and work-

ing with the project's architect to design three dimensional drawings.

These projects sound complex and sophisticated - and they are! The participatory processes developed by the project workers, Jo Besley and Peter Richards, are a testimony to the accessibility of such sophisticated procedures if workers have a commitment (and without a doubt the skills) to facilitate inclusive processes.

Our congratulations to the young people and workers involved!

Colleen Kelly

For further information on either of these projects contact SEQYAC on (07) 252 2555.

Young People Meet the Press

On Saturday, 9 October 1993 young people had an opportunity to "Meet the Press" at a Youth Week open forum held at the Queensland University of Technology. Representatives from nine magazines/newspapers answered questions by young people on a range of topics, including: gender roles, education, drugs, nutrition, entertainment and popular culture, relationships, sexual health and consumerism. Can popular consumer magazines such as Dolly and Girlfriend "afford" to stray from the norm? How biased are our daily newspapers? What view of young people does the media portray to the wider community? Facilitated by Samantha Butler, presenter of the ABC's current affairs youth program "Attitude", participants discussed agenda setting; media stereotyping; creating trends for young people; and educational roles of the press versus profits.



Young People Meet the Press at the Queensland University of Technology

YOUNG PEOPLE AND DEET LABOUR MARKET PROGRAMS

Data recently published by DEET, in its 'Job Report', shows a shift towards the use of wage subsidy programs, and away from job search training courses as a means of assisting long-term unemployed people into the workforce. They also reveal a high level of variability in the use of different labour market programs by young people.

Spending on JOBSTART, which provides wage subsidies to employers taking on jobseekers who have been out of work for 6 months or who are disadvantaged, has increased by 155%. Young people aged between 18 and 20 make up a higher than average proportion of JOBSTART clients.

Conversely, commencements in Job Search Training Courses have declined by 47% in 1992/93, following DEET evaluations indicating generally poor outcomes. About 18% of people who undertook these courses in 1991-92 were in unsubsidised work three months after their completion, compared to 54% of people who had been JOBSTART clients. Clients under 20 years of age have represented about 20% of the users of these courses.

€ Data ... shows a shift towards the use of wage subsidy programs, and away from job search training courses as a means of assisting long-term unemployed people into the workforce. 99

Those labour market programs which experienced the greatest growth include the Special Intervention Program (303% increase), IOBSKILLS (775% increase), and Contracted Placments (979% increase).

Overall, the participation of people under 20 years of age in labour market programs increased by 56%. Participation by Aboriginal and Islander people decreased by 7%.

Figures indicate that access by young people varies widely across labour

market programs. For example, the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme, which provides assistance to people starting their own businesses, is used by virtually no young people. On the other hand, there are two programs aimed exclusively at those under 20. Across all programs, young people make up 23% of the client group.

When you compare the number of commencements in all of the labour market programs over the last two years. JOB- START has overtaken Skillshare and JOBTRAIN as the largest of the labour market programs.

According to DEET, 31% of young people are in unsubsidised employment3monthsaftercompletingalabour market program, and another 10% are undertaking further education or training. This is roughly the same as the average outcomes for all DEET clients.

Tim Wilson



HEALTH RIGHTS COMMISSION OUEENSLAND

Invitation to Contribute to a Code of Health Rights and Responsibilities

The Health Rights Commissioner invites written submissions from individuals and groups on what you consider should be included in a draft Code of Health Rights and Responsibilities. The Code will set out the legal, social and ethical rights of health consumers in Queensland and will be the first of its kind in Australia.

Part 3 of the Health Rights Commission Act 1991 requires the development of the Code by 1 July 1995. The Government has endorsed the Commissioner's Invitation as the first stage in the development of the Code. The submissions will be used to develop a draft Code and Discussion paper which will be used in the formal public consultations to commence in the first half of 1994.

The Invitation to Develop a Code of Health Rights & Responsibilities Paper sets out some principles that should be covered, including:

- a person's right to participate in decisions about their health and to take an active role in their own health care
- a person's entitlement to be provided with services in a considerate way
- patient confidentiality
- a person's right of access to their health records
- access to complaints/grievances mechanisms the responsibilities of both service providers and people who use health services.

Copies of the paper have been circulated widely to groups and individuals including public libraries where they will be available from 30 September 1993. Additional copies are available from the Health Rights Commission.

You can contact the Commission by phone or in writing:

Address: Health Rights Commission

GPO Box 3089

18th Floor, 80 Albert Street

Brisbane Q 4001 Brisbane Q 4000 (07) 234 1286 or 234 1676 or 008 077 308

(07) 234 0333 or Fax:

Phone

Closing Date for Submissions will be 15 December 1993. All submissions will be available for inspection at the Health Rights Commission at the completion of the Invitation to Contribute Phase.

Dr Ian Siggins, Health Rights Commissioner

8705818

THE REGENERATION

Youth Studies Australia held its inaugural biennial Symposium Series 2001 - "YOUTH • 93 - The ReGeneration" in Hobart on 3-5 November 1993. YANQ Administration and Publications Officer, Rita Riedel, attended and prepared this report.

Following a colourful opening by the Rokeby High School Rock Eisteddfod, a thought-provoking opening address by year 12 student Amanda Carr reminded participants why we were there -

- to acknowledge young Australians as a group of people with specific needs and issues of their own;
- to acknowledge that these young people are first and foremost individuals who have a positive and valuable contribution to make to society;
- to acknowledge that young people don't want to be told how hard it is to get a job but how to get one; and
- to acknowledge, perhaps most importantly of all, that young people are not just our future they are our present.
- "Our Federal Government can no longer continue to treat young people as the property of adults, they need to take responsibility for the ratification for the Convention of the Rights of the Child over and above the states."

It was a refreshing change to attend a conference which emphasised not the problems of young men and women, but their competence and resilience, and the value of collaboration and innovation in meeting the needs of these

young people. As Amanda stated, young people know only too well how hard it is to get a job - as workers, our efforts should be concerned with highlighting opportunities for young people rather than obstacles - what is effective and what works.

The Symposium differed from other conferences, not only in its interdisciplinary nature but also in the method of presentation delivery. The two and a half day event featured the following:

Youth and the Media Forum and Presentations

This was a special event on the opening evening which included professionals involved in youth media production. Seven speakers covered the following topics: 1) youth issues and current affairs TV; 2) news representation of juvenile crime in WA; 3) the influence of TV on teenage suicide; 4) communicating to young people through comics; 5) corporate sponsorship in the classroom; 6) popular culture and the images of young women; and 7) Young Media Australia: a community initiative.

Whilst each speaker focused on their own area of expertise, as a group they highlighted the need to understand the context of the media and how it operates before we can criticise it, or alternatively, take advantage of it. Gavin Morris, youngest reporter of the ABC's youth current affairs program "Attitude" emphasised once again that young people are a diverse group of people with different views, different ideas and different sub-cultures, and that "we are serious and want to be heard and taken seriously."

A Hand-Out or a Hand-Up?

This discussion took the form of a twopart debate which looked at the critical issues surrounding youth unemployment and the resultant disadvantage suffered by young people. Guest speakers included:

- Rob White, lecturer in the Department of Criminology, Melbourne University, and author of "No Space of Their Own: Young People and Social Control in Australia";
- Fr Julian Punch AM, a priest and social worker involved in community development in Tasmania for 20 years and a governor of the Australian Youth Foundation since 1991;
- Anita Soederlund, Stockholm Institute of Education, Sweden, involved with cooperative programs between local government and voluntary organisations for young people at risk;
- Peter Kwakkelstein, Faculty of Education, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, involved in local youth policy and welfare systems and vocational training for unemployed young people; and
- five youth debaters from Hobart high schools who replied to the above speakers, giving young people's perspectives on unemployment and the developing underclass.



While this feature of the conference was in effect more a delivery of speakers' views rather than a debate, I nevertheless found the presentations interesting and insightful. Peter Kwakkelstein in particular presented delegates with a stimulating alternative thought when contemplating whether the way we work with young people and respond to their needs is from either a "hand-out" or a "hand-up" perspective. Perhaps it should be neither, but rather a "hand-over" approach. If we truly believe that young people deserve



every opportunity to participate fully in society, to participate fully in *life*, then the barriers between "us" and "them" need to be dissolved. Governments, the community and workers with young people must acknowledge that young people are highly competent, resilient and creative individuals capable of taking responsibility for their lives. Young people must be enabled to do so.

Research and Practice

This part of the Symposium featured short, focused and stimulating presentations of research and innovative programs and practice in youth-related areas. A total of 52 presentations was covered, a summary of which is included as an insert for members interested in obtaining further information.

Hypothetical Case Consultation

Presented on the last morning of the conference, this hypothetical consisted of five professionals role-playing a group consultation, each representing one of the many (and frequently overlapping) needs of a young person in crisis, with a young 16-year old offender, Jason, as the client.

As noted by social researcher and critical observer, Robyn Hartley, the purpose of the large-group consultation was unclear and consequently outcomes were less than conclusive. Robyn concluded her critique by posing three fundamental questions: Who defines the problem? Who defines the solution? and Whose problem is it defined as in the first place?, questions all workers with young people could benefit from asking.

Whilst it was interesting to observe the role-play and its outcomes, I feel a more mainstream hypothetical could have been chosen with which more workers would have identified - there seemed to be too much division between the players and delegates.

Symposium Highlight

The highlight of the conference for me was listening to Brian Burdekin's address on "Aspects of disadvantage among young Australians". Brian spoke passionately about how our dysfunctional society and the dysfunctional laws within fail to serve the best interests of approximately one third of our population, our young people. Governments believe that they address a problem simply by passing a law. However, this is only 5% of the equation. Unless governments adequately resource these laws and their implementation nothing changes. And it is for the most disadvantaged young people - the

Governments, the community and workers with young people must acknowledge that young people are highly competent, resilient and creative individuals capable of taking responsibility for their lives.

homeless, the mentally ill, the unemployed, Aboriginal and Islander young people - that there are the least services and resources. As Brian stressed, "this is an unacceptable systemic violation of the rights of our most vulnerable young people." Our Federal Government can no longer continue to treat young people as the property of adults, they need to take responsibility for the ratification for the Convention of the Rights of the Child over and above the states. Governments need to start taking young people seriously.

The gaps in our legal, political and social systems are perhaps nowhere better exemplified than in the recently released Mental Health Inquiry. Statistics as quoted by Brian are staggering, shocking and simply disgraceful. Approximately 900,000 of young Austra-

lians have a recognisable mental health problem, approximately 5 % warrant specialist intervention and approximately 1% experience serious psychiatrc problems ordisorders. And where are the resources to support these young people? Once again, it is the most vulnerable and disadvantaged for whom there are the least and in some cases no services. Aboriginal young people in particular have no access whatsoever to culturally appropriate mental health services.

The message from Brian Burdekin was clear - that the rights of our young people, and in particular disadvantaged young people, are neither protected nor respected is more than a tragedy, it is an outrage. Brian stressed the continued need for advocacy and carefully targeted strategies by the community even more urgent today - if we are to see any hope of change for our thousands of neglected young people. We, the community, need to demand government changes of the existing dysfunctional bureaucratic system. We need to advocate and continue advocating for systemic change, for the proper protection of the basic human rights of our young people. Our Australian Government must be held accountable.

Conclusion

Like all conferences, the 1993 Re-Generation Symposium had its highs and lows. With its emphasis on the positive contributions and attributes of young people and the workers and organisations who work alongside them, I found the conference overall to be a refreshing one. Innovation and positive, constructive change is certainly what is needed to inspire the youth affairs field. Let us heed the words of our young people -"we want to be taken seriously" and let us heed the words of Brian Burdekin to continue lobbying, advocating for and demanding systemic government change. In the poignant words of Tracey Chapman: "If not now, when?"

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) of the Flinders Medical Centre in South Australia is currently developing a research study into the early detection of mental health problems in young people, in particular, teenage suicide. The 5-year study is expected to commence in February 1994 and will involve surveying Year 8 students from approximately ten high schools from the southern Adelaide metropolitan area. Director of CAMHS, Graham Martin, presented a paper on the early detection of mental health problems in young people at the ReGeneration Conference. Here he talks to YANQ's Administration and Publications Officer, Rita Riedel, about the importance of early detection, professional intervention and the need for greater community awareness about youth suicide.

RR: Teenage suicide is often seen as a taboo subject in society. How important is it to educate the greater community about this sensitive yet very real issue?

GM: I think education is really the whole essence of what we're doing. Whether we're talking about early detection studies or teenagers who have attempted suicide or postvention activities, all of these have to be considered in the context of educating the wider community about what the signs are and what we can do about them. In isolation, each sign may not be so important - it is the addition of a number of risk factors that we are focusing on.

Teenage Suicide

The Challenge of Early Detection

I believe it is important to say to ordinary people, that if one bit of your parenting is wrong, or if you're child is depressed, or if they like heavy metal music, that doesn't mean your child is going to commit suicide. However, if a young person is depressed and they've been sexully abused and they're into drugs and alcohol and their best friend has suicided and they've attempted before - all of these things add up. We need to look at the sum total of the factors involved. In order to do this, we need to be aware of the signs. If, for example, a young person scores 24 out of 30 identified risk factors, then we know they are at extreme risk of suicide. If we can detect this information at an early stage then we have a greater chance of helping young people.

RR: If people working with young people recognise some of these signs, what can they do? What initial steps can they take?

GM: Firstly, we have to recognise the distinction between secrecy and confidentiality. If a young person asks you to be secret about things, if they want to keep their affairs private, then I would try to draw a distinction between those two. I would say, "As far as I possibly can I will hold all of your information confidential. But if you begin to tell me things that are putting you in danger, then I am duty bound on two counts to do something about that - 1) I don't want you to die, and 2) I can't hold that information and cope with that on my own." Because of the nature of the issue involved, it is important for workers to seek appropriate assistance. It is also important to be clear, open and direct with the young person from the outset. These are the basic rules of communication. Young people are very good at telling if you're lying or not genuine.

RR: If the situation seems vulnerable and you have engaged the young person's trust, what is the best way to proceed? How do you start to bridge the gap?

GM: If you ask, "Are you feeling suicidal?", young people often find this confronting and difficult. I usually make a statement. If the young person has told you about severe depression and a sense of hopelessness, I might say, "I guess that means you're feeling suicidal". Often they will then give you a very clear answer. A useful technique is to scale your questions. You could say something like, "You're telling me that you're depressed. If you could imagine the most depressed you could ever be, that's 10, and bright and sunny and not depressed at all is zero, where are you?". If they say "8", you say "I guess that means you've been thinking about dying". I use 7 as a cut out point. Then you take it from there.

I also usually say to the young person first up, "This is a difficult area and I'm aware this is very private information, are you comfortable if we go on with the interview? Do you really want to tell me this stuff? Because at some stage if I am concerned you might harm yourself I'm going to have to sit down and talk with somebody, like your parents, or somebody like that, to ensure that you don't die. I don't want you to die. So, now, do you still want to go on?" It is very rare that the young person then stops the interview.

RR: What are the aims of your study?

GM: How do you know if young people are at risk or not - that's what we're trying to identify. When you look at suicidal adolescents, 60 per cent of them never come anywhere near medical help

- they might take an overdose, sleep it off at a friend's house and not tell anybody. Very often, if they do that, they'll talk about it with their mates and resolve their set of problems, albeit temporarily, and they go on with their lives. This is a major problem for the professions - when you've only got 40 per cent of these young people coming anywhere near you, how do you help the others? I believe the answer is early detection and intervention.

The aim of our study is to seek out vulnerability at an early level - Year 8 - by asking questions about family life, past history, recent history, academic history, drug and alcohol abuse, preferences for TV and music, suicidal thinking and so on. By adding all these factors together we are able to obtain a clearer understanding of which young people are vulnerable and which aren't.

Whether we're talking about early detection studies or teenagers who have attempted suicide or postvention activities, all of these have to be considered in the context of educating the wider community about what the signs are and what we can do about them.

At this stage, at least in cross-sectional studies, the instrument we have devised appears to be very sensitive and quite surprisngly specific.

RR: What will you do with this information?

GM: We aim to work with a series of filters. The first filter is the questionnaire. Second, there is the school counsellor. We say to them, "15 per cent of your school's Year 8 students are more vulnerable than the rest. We believe that over the next 4 to 5 months you should have interviews with these young people, and with their parents. You make a further assessment. We'll help you with the assessment, with the interviewing techniques and with a mini-questionnaire which heightens the exactitude of it. Some of these young

people you will decide to work with we know you can, you don't need us and some of them you may feel are too hard."

The ones they can't work with go on to the third filter, our interagency process. This predominantly involves psychiatric nurses and social workers who have been trained specifically in working with wider groups. They go into the school and work with the principal or the assistant principal, the school counsellor, the family and the young person concerned. They also do individual one-to-one counselling at a much more skilled and trained level. If they can go on working or resolve the problem, they do, but if they can't they then refer them on to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service.

Through this series of filters I believe we will be utilising existing services and resources in a much more logical framework. If we can detect mental health problems early, rather than waiting for a young person to throw a chair at a teacher, or do something worse, I believe we stand a far greater chance of success. More importantly, we avoid placing all the emphasis on the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service. Young people look at our name, see the "mental" bit, and freak out - they don't want to go anywhere near us. However, if we take them through a filtration system, it reserves our Service for only the most serious cases and also, I believe, bolsters up the existing resources. For instance, school counsellors are very competent workers. Why should they not do the work if they believe they can?

RR: At what stage of the research are you in?

GM: We have gained approval from the Education Department to undertake the research, at least on a trial basis, and have commenced discussions with principals from approximately 18 high schools, including private schools and those in country areas. We are approximately three-quarters of the way through developing the questionnaire and hope to have a working draft of the questions by early December 1993.



Streetwize Comics national edition No. 19 provides young people with information about mental health and mental health services in an accessible and stimulating format. Phone Streetwize on (02) 552 3499.

RR: Given the sensitivity surrounding teenage suicide, do you forsee any opposition or barriers to the research?

GM: We are aware we will meet with reservations about the ethics of what we propose to do, and that schools will be concerned with potential parental backlash. This has been the most difficult process to work through.

Just think about his for a moment - if a student has eye problems or cholestorol problems, for example, and you approach their parents and inform them that their child has this particular health problem and needs to see a doctor, well, that's easy, they'll say "We'll make the appointment." But if you tell parents that their child may be vulnerable to committing suicide, they will more than likely call you all the names under the sun and possibly even take their child out of the school. We have to work out a way of approaching this issue very sensitively, so that the schools don't get a backlash, so that we don't get a backlash, but more importantly, so we can help young people that are vulnerable.

For further information contact Graham Martin at the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Flinders Medical Centre, SA on (08) 204 4556 or fax (08) 204 5465.

Introducing ... Youth Arts Queensland

Youth Arts Queensland (YAQ) -formerly known as the Queensland Youth Performing Arts Association - is a statewide organisation which promotes young peoples' involvement in the arts. More recently, the organisation's focus has evolved to incorporate the promotion of arts activities as applied youthwork strategies, as well as community cultural development issues. Our members include arts organisations, community workers, teachers and administrators.

Youth Arts Queensland aims to:

- develop and support a statewide network of both arts and non-arts organisations involved in youth arts activities and community cultural development;
- represent and advocate for youth arts organisations at appropriate forums;
- provide professional development for both arts and nonarts youthworkers;
- advocate for youth representation in policy and decisionmaking;
- promote access to the arts for young people in all Queensland communities.

Given the current focus on youth and the arts in Queensland (as evidenced by the identification of RECREATION as a major priority area at the 1993 YANQ Policy Forum and by recent interdepartmental meetings focussed on creating a strategy for youth community cultural development), Youth Arts Queensland is emerging as a peack community organisation in the state.

Youth Arts Queensland employs a part-time Executive Officer. Our office is open on Wednesday, Thursdays and Fridays of each week between 9.00am and 4.00pm. The organisation is currently undertaking research into the use of arts strategies to address the social and cultural needs of young people in regional Queensland.

Kaye Nunan

For further information contact Kaye Nunan, Metro Arts Centre, 109 Edward Street, Brisbane 4000 or phone (07) 221 5123, fax (07) 221 4375.



Tableland Youth Action Group

The Tableland Youth Action Group (TYAG) has recently formed in order to assist the local community to identify, assess and address young people's needs within the three shires of Atherton, Eacham and Herberton.

Andrea Porter has been employed by TYAG as a researcher to survey these needs. The survey will target all young people in the Tablelands district between the ages of 12 and 20 years. A wide range of issues will be covered including: access to education and employment; recreation; transport; housing; culture and ethnicity; and justice and the law.

Andrea believes that one of the most important aspects of the research is that it provides a unique opportunity for young people to give their views and have direct input to local and state government planning strategies for youth services through answering surveys and becoming involved in groups in each town.

Anyone interested in learning more about the study or in becoming involved can contact Andrea on (070) 910 631 (wk) or (070) 965 193 (α/h).

New Youth Network in Central Highlands

"Central Highlands Youthlink", a network of workers with young people, has been formed in the Central Highlands. Youthlink aims to be a support link between member groups, to provide information regarding planned projects and sources of funding and to provide facilitators from within the network to assist other groups and young people. The network is open to membership from all individuals, community groups and government departments who work in the youth field in the Central Highlands. The network meets every second month.

For futher information contact Michelle Hill, Youth Development Officer, DTSR, PO Box 346, Emerald 4720. Phone (079) 821 510 or (079) 824 489.

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For details contact
Zig Zag Young Women's Resource Centre
on (07) 843 1823.



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THE REGENERATION

3-5 November 1993 • Sheraton Hotel • Hobart

Summary of

RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

PRESENTATIONS

and Contacts



Overcoming self-destructive behaviour

A pilot project targeting self-destructive behaviour of young people was conducted with a group of 18 rural adolescents. Transformational leadership was used as a conceptual framework to explore the phases in the project which incorporated problem identification, creation of a vision and coordination of support from key stakeholders. Outcomes included a general severing of ties with occult practices, reduced substance abuse, increased emotional stability and increased social adjustment among the group as a whole.

Contact: Lyn Johnson, Senior Lecturer, School of Nursing and Health Administration, Charles Sturt University, Panorama Ave, Bathurst NSW 2795

The challenge of early detection (mental health problems)

This paper explored what is known about early detection in mental health and how such knowledge can be applied. The complexity of models of causality is examined and using suicidal behaviours as a paradigm, recommendations about community education in early detection, professional intervention and the future of research in this challenging area are made.

Contact: Graham Martin, Director, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Flinders Medical Centre, Bedford Park SA 5042

Constructing a sexual self: Sexual self conceptions, future time perspectives and their influence on sexual risk taking

For people to understand the possibility of sexual risks they must have an understanding of how their present behaviour has consequences in the future. The outcomes of a Future Time Perspective study were discussed (a

survey of approx. 800 year 10-12 students in Melbourne schools and 120 unemployed young people from a similar age group), as well as implications for sexual education programs and prevention.

Contact: Simone Buzwell, Centre for Study of STDs, Lincoln School of Health Sciences, LaTrobe University, Locked Bag 12, Carlton VIC 3053

Experiential learning programs for famillies with adolescents

The "Neways" program in central Queensland, funded to work with "at risk" adolescents and their families which uses traditional counselling, support and edcuation models in conjunction with other non-traditional programs, is discussed in its various stages. Contact: Narelle Burtenshaw/Bruce Lloyd, "Neways" Adolescent Services Careforce, PO Box 5156, Rockhampton Mail Centre, QLD 4702



Diversion from custody and rehabilitation of juvenile detainees: Management philosophies of the NSW Office of Juvenile Justice

A number of management strategies and programs which have been implemented to address the needs of young people in custody are outlined. There is good reason to believe that these are having the desired effect in terms of "the reintegration of young offenders as members of the community", in reducing the number of young people in custody, in reducing re-offending, and in providing a custodial environment which is humane and conducive to the development and personal growth of young people placed in custody.

Contact: Michael Cain, Office of Juvenile Justice, Level 5, Roden Cutler House, 24 Campbell St, Sydney NSW 2000

Community based program for young offenders

The presentation described the development of the South Sydney Youth Services project which is the first of its kind in NSW working with young offenders both in an institutional setting and in the local community. It also described ways of working with the government sector and the project's relationship with magistrates in both the adult and juvenile court system.

Contact: Shane Brown, South Sydney Youth Services, PO Box 501, Waterloo NSW 2017

> Nursing/health services, Juvenile Justice Centre the NSW approach

This presentation discussed the development of nursing/health services, and the current initiatives/services provided to juveniles in detention, including a multi-disciplinary method (ie. a team approach to health care).

Contact: Maureen Hanly, Manager, Nursing/Health Services, Office of Juvenile Justice, Level 5, Roden Cutler House, 24 Campbell St, Sydney NSW 2000

Offering community alternatives to young women offenders

This presentation examined the response by the NSW Office of Juvenile Justice to young women offenders. Using case studies it showed that it is possible to identify young women at risk of progression to detention, or of becoming entrenched in the justice system. Suggestions were made as to how we can try to divert young women from entering life in custody, and thus aim to maintain their life in the community.

Contact: Marie Cozens C- Michael Cain, Office of Juvenile Justice, Level 5, Roden Cutler House, 24 Campbell St, Sydney NSW 2000

Aboriginal young people get streetwize about education and careers

The presentation focused on the Streetwize organisation and in particular its national comic on education and careers for Aboriginal young people, Wize Up. It also focused on positive stories about young people heard while on research trips involved in creating the comic.

Contact: Anita Heiss, Aboriginal Editor/ Writer, Streetwize Comics, 3 Queen St, Glebe NSW 2037



Nyungar young people, police and substance abuse

This paper used ethnographic material from a recent project involving Nyungar (Aboriginal people of south-west Western Australia) young people to examine a number of popular ideas about Aboriginal young people and the nexus between alcohol and substance use and contact with police.

Contact: Dave Palmer, Youth Work Studies, Edith Cowan University, Joondalup WA 6027

What is deviant? Marijuana usage within ATSI and non-ATSI youth subcultures

This presentation, derived from two separate qualitative studies, compares marijuana use by a group of urban ATSI young people and a group of non-ATSI young people. The resesarch examined the dynamics of marijuana smoking behaviour in both groups and the role that marijuana plays in the two adolescent cultures.

Contact: Jeremy Davey and Glen Dawes, Dept Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Queensland, Herston Qld 4006

The place of "youth work" in a remote, central Australian traditional Aboriginal community

Issues raised include: understanding the local community and how best to develop that understanding; the role and place of young people in the community; employment, the Protestant work ethic and training; working with the local "law" and "business"; maintaining cultural integrity with the encroachment of western society; and the need to service all young people while also addressing issues such as petrol sniffing.

Contact: Craig Milburn, PO Box, Ringwood East VIC 3135

Dutch welfare state in transition: The case of youth policy

In a four-year research program for the Dutch government the presenter investigated and analysed current trends in welfare and youth policy against the background of changing characteristics of the "caring state". The development and implementation of a "program-based local youth policy" was discussed, which not only offers a new philosophy for local welfare (youth) policy, but also offers guidelines for the transition towards a semi-market regulated local welfare system.

Contact: Peter Kwakkelstein, Research Programs, Local Youth Policy, Faculty of Education Science, University of Amsterdam, Ijsbaanpad 9, 1076 CV Amsterdam, Netherlands

Achieving a fair society for young people

Debate on youth policy often loses sight of the principles of social justice. This presentation used a rights framework at its core, and addressed the justification and means for positive change, arguing that the right of young people to participate in a fair society

has been seriously neglected. The constitutional, legislative and public policy matrix must be enhanced to guarantee and deliver a fair society to young people.

Contact: Martin Attridge, Executive Officer, AYPAC, PO Box 519, Dickson ACT 2602

Statistical data on Australia's young people: Availability and limitations

This presentation pulled together output from a variety of surveys fielded by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the topics they cover, relating them specifically to people between the ages of 10 to 25 years. Presenters discussed various issues and limitations surrounding data about this age group and investigated some of the issues specific to young people which make the collection of accurate data difficult.

Contact: Jeff Carlton/Denise Barrett, Young People's Unit, ABS, 30 Terrace Rd, East Perth WA 6004



Young people and families

Based on a recent NYARS report the position of young people in Australia their living arrangements, family circumstances and participation in education and employment - was outlined through a series of graphics. The presentation then focussed on a discussion of issues of responsibility for young people in the light of social, cultural and family change in recent decades. Contact: Robyn Hartley, Australian Institute of Family Studies, 300 Queen St, Melbourne VIC 3000

Early school leavers - Making the break and making a life for themselves

This presentation documented some of the "success" stories from a Disaffiliated Early School Leavers study which has shown that policies, programs and practices at government and non-government levels create rather than dissipate barriers for young people. It also examined the "pathways" rhetoric about access to employment, training and further education for its applicability to real-life situations.

Contact: Elizabeth Holden, Youth Research Centre, University of Melbourne, Institute of Education, Parkville VIC 3052

Failure-avoidant strategies and student underachievement: Part of the cost of competition?

This presentation focused on variables which identify failure-avoidant students and made recommendations by which the achievement of these students might be enhanced. The potency of teacher evaluative feedback in influencing the manner in which students explain their success and failure outcomes is underscored and strategies advised whereby teachers may encourage productive explanations for students' success and failure outcomes. Contact: Ted Thompson, Centre for Behavioural and Education Studies, Dept Education, University of Tasmania, PO Box 1214, Launceston TAS 7250

Schooling and the marginalisation of students

The presenter outlined the philosophy and practice of St Augustine's School, Belmont, Victoria, which seeks to educate those young people for whom schooling has failed. Disruptive, oppositional, aggressive, assaultive, destructive, disturbed and abusive would describe most of the students who are

referred to the school, which has a strong commitment to thorough referral assessment, careful academic and psychological assessment and working with the student in a family context. It is a program that works for most where others have failed.

Contact: Peter Flint, St Augustine's Adolescent and Family Services (Barwon), PO Box 126, Belmont VIC 3216

What's a girl got to do? The development of safe sex health promotion for young women

As awareness of the complexity of issues associated with women and sex has increased, concerted efforts have been made to increase the sophistication of behavioural change strategies. The implications for young women of this "new" approach to the development of health promotion was the concern of this presentation. The development and modification of the slogan "tell him if it's not on, it's not on" was taken as a particular case in point. Contact: Fiona Stewart, Centre for Study of STDs, Lincoln School of Health Sciences, LaTrobe University, Locked Bag 12, Carlton VIC 3053

We're all too independent! Young rural women's discourses on career and marriage

All rural girls are supposed to think about is boys and marriage and "what they'll buy for their glory box this week". But how true is this story for young women growing up in rural Australia in the 90s? This presentation is based on findings of a research project into gender and identity in young rural women and analysed discourses on career and marriage from a sample of 30 young women, aged 16 to 22 years, growing up in rural Tasmania.

Contact: Glenda Jones, Education Dept, University of Tasmania, PO Box 1214, Launceston TAS 7250

"Growing up" to be women: Multiple and gendered "youth" transitions

This presentation draws on the findings of a feminist research endeavour undertaken with a small group of young women living in and around a housing commission estate in the Perth metropolitan area. The research demonstrated that for young women, who are involved in multiple, simultaneous and gendered transitions that often continue on into later life, adulthood has a different meaning than for young men. Contact: Jennifer Buchanan, C/- Dave Palmer, Youth Work Studies, Edith Cowan University, Joondalup WA 6027

Government coordination of local government and voluntary organisation projects for youth at risk in Sweden

This presentation covered the establishment of new programs aimed at risk prevention for vulnerable young people in neglected residential areas which involved municipalities and voluntary organisations working with vulnerable young people. It also reported on evaluation of the local projects.

Contact: Birgitta Sahlin/Anita Soederlund, Stockholm Institute of Education, Dept of Education Research, Box 34103, S-10025 Stockholm, Sweden

The "Sound of the Street" music program

This presentation outlined this music/ education course run by the Sydney City Mission which provides unemployed, homeless young people with opportunities to explore their feelings and issues through creative outlets and to have new educational experiences through an involvement with music, increasing self-esteem and self-confidence and encouraging goal setting and positive lifestyle changes.

Contact: Bob Ewing, Sydney City Mission, 28 Regent St, Chippendale 2008

Young people in motor sport: An employment, training and education program

This presentation described an innovative program which brings together Federal and State bodies, local councils, community groups and local businesses for the purpose of creating opportunities for young people living in the southern suburbs of Adelaide. This included the processes used to gain local support and financial commitment, the research behind the decisions to proceed and expand the program, the problems involved with developing a joint venture, and how they have been overcome.

Contact: John McGowan, Manager, Southern Youth Strategy, 111 Beach Rd, Christies Beach SA 5165



What we know about homelessness: A sociological perspective

This presentation reviewed sociological knowledge of youth homelessness by focusing on four major topics: 1) youth homelessness as a socially constructed social problem; 2) a "cultural" perspective for defining homelessness; 3) the controversy about the extent of the problem; and 4) the notion that homelessness is a temporal "career" process was advanced as a key variable for understanding the various dimensions of the homelessness population.

Contact: David Mackenzie/Chris Chamberlain, Faculty of Social Sciences and Communications, RMIT Coburg Campus, PO Box 179, Coburg VIC 3058

Housing difficult young people (part 1)

The debate over whether or not young people with disabilities should be housed in generic youth accommodation facilities is over: they are. This presentation summarised findings of research undertaken to gauge the incidences of self-reported behavioural and mental health problems amongst homeless young people residing with youth accommodation services in North East Melbourne in 1992. It also covered other recent Victorian research findings concerning "difficult young people" in housing.

Contact: Ric Pawsey, Dept of Child, Adolescent and Family Psychiatry, Marion Drummond Building, Austin Hospital, Heidelberg VIC 3084

Housing difficult young people (part 2)

This presentation described an innovative response to the needs of homeless young people with disabilities by the Melbourne City Mission. The Community Integration and Accommodation Options (CIAO) program was outlined, a program which has successfully worked in housing "difficult" young people - those with intellectual, emotional, psychiatric and physical disabilities-and working with them to achieve independence, in a flexible program tailored to the needs of the individual. Contact: Ed Banks, Melbourne City Mission North East, 152 Plenty Rd, Preston VIC 3072

Cultural action in adolescent health

This presentation explored an innovative model for working with young people which draws heavily on the work of educationalists and cultural action workers from Latin America and the Philippines, and which has direct application to youthwork theory and practise in Australia. Cultural action

involves a process of learning together rather than one-way education and aims to stimulate debate in the form of action (and not just words) to show people alternatives so that they may become the protagonists of their own lives.

Contact: Paul Spooner/Justine Davis, Hands on Project, Youth Accommodation Assistance NSW, Box 8, Trades Hall, 4 Goulburn St, Sydney NSW 2000



Youth generated cultures in Western Sydney

This presentation addressed the types of cultural practice that are generated by young people, including graffiti, skateboarding, street machinig and street dancing. It was argued that these particular youth generated cultures are not rebellious or destructive subcultures, but are creative in nature and have been established primarily to produce and display their creative cultures.

Contact: Linda Forrester, 84 Blaxland Rd, Wentworth Falls NSW 2782

Girls and boys talk about "self" agency and knowing

Drawing on recent Australian research the presenter addressed the following questions: How do the voices of young people reflect a developing sense of identify? What does their talk and their writing reveal about how they are positioned in relation to knowledge? What is their conception of what knowing entails? Indeed what "role" does knowledge play in their lives? How do young people make education meaningful to themselves? and What voices do they speak as knowers?

Contact: Dr Marjorie O'Loughlin, School of Social and Policy Studies in Education, University of Sydney, Sydney NSW 2006

The paradoxes of disability: Students in post-compulsory education in Tasmania

This presentation reported on what appear to be paradoxical results of a recently completed study of students with disabilities in post-compulsory education in Tasmania. First, the students with disabilities perceived themselves as healthy, and second, the more severe the disability the better their academic performance. The presenter also speculated on why these results occurred.

Contact: Gary Easthope, Dept Sociology, University of Tasmania, GPO Box 252C, Hobart TAS 7001

Towards a principled youth incomes policy

This presentation noted the current inconsistencies and inadequacies of government youth incomes policies and discussed specific policy proposals encompassing the five major principles. The prosand consofthe current age-based approach to youth incomes and the feasibility of increasing wages for the most disadvantaged early school leavers were taken into account.

Contact: Dr Bev Blaskett, Brotherhood of St Laurence, 67 Brunswick St, Fitzroy VIC 3065

Tertiary selection within Australia (or) let's go bungy jumping

The presentation presented an overview of the current State tertiary selection systems and exposed the "controls" they have on the eudcation of young people and the pressures they bring upon them as they attempt to negotiate the tertiary and TAFE selection minefield.

Contact: John Hendry, Geelong Grammar School, Geelong VIC 3220

Young people, full-time in new working environments

This paper reported on a research project which has investigated the experience of a sample of young workers drawn from enterprises which have been at the forefront of change in their industry. A selection of case studies were presented which illustrated a number of key issues which have emerged about the changing circumstances of young workers in Australia in the 1990s. Contact: Bruce Wilson/Monika Engelhard, Youth Research Centre, University of Melbourne, Parkville VIC 3052



Breaking the cycle: Taking responsibility for independence

This presentation outlined the Transition from Care (TFC) program developed within the Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs to build up the skills of the young people towards independent living, as well as making and/or keeping supportive networks. TFC was found to be a cost-effective program that dealt with the developmental issues of young people under State guardianship in a sustainable manner.

Contact: Merrin Waterhouse, DFSAIA, GPO Box 806, Brisbane QLD 4001

Keeping juveniles out of prison

This presentation discussed the importance of integration or reintegration into the community, as well as strategies to reduce the need for custody through prevention. Alternatives to custody need to be encouraged, such as "Outward bound" and station place-

ment schemes. The issue of Aboriginal over-representation in the justice system was also addressed, with a view towards Aboriginal-specific alterations and Aboriginal solutions.

Contact: Judge Hal Jackson, President's Chambers, Children's Court of WA, 160 Pier St, Perth WA 6000

Our wilderness experience

This presentation described an adventure-based counselling program where students have the opportunity to face and challenge fear in a safe environment and to realise that they can do many things that they didn't believe were possible. Students not only experience individual challenge and growth, but also have the chance to learn of the importance of collaboration, cooperation, group commitment and successful team membership.

Contact: Nerida Bowling/Mary Williams, Gold Coast South School Support Centre, PO Box 117, Burleigh Heads QLD 4220

Experiential learning in the wilderness - illuminating the third dimension

This presentation discussed a research study, now in the final stages of data collection, which focuses on the qualitative analysis elements of risk-recreation programs using videotapes, participant journals, and leader/participant debriefing and follow-up procedures. The focus of the research moves from exploration to interpretation.

Contact: Robert Sveen, Walton St, Ranelagh TAS 7109

Empowering young people in tertiary education taking responsibility and taking control

Young people in tertiary education experience great pressures to succeed and perform, as well as experience problems with income support, accom-

modation, employment and other issues faced by all young people in a recession. The presenter outlined a system of support services offered by the Queensland University of Technology's Student Guild which helps students to utilise existing resources, as well as take an active role in developing constructive change within the university through a system of student representation.

Contact: Sheridan Power/Chris Simpson, Education Research Officer, QUT Student Guild, GPO Box 1545, Brisbane QLD 4001



Young people and the anti-violence project

In January 1990 a gay man was murdered by a group of eight young men in a Redfern park, all from a local innnercity high school. Shortly after this a teacher from the high school was found murdered in his home! This presentation described the reaction of young people at the school and in the community, the work of the South Sydney Youth Services anti-violence project, the project's joint working relationship with police to run anti-homophobia workshops with the high school, and changes that occurred in the community.

Contact: Shane Brown, South Sydney Youth Services, PO Box 501, Waterloo NSW 2017

Making it work: Involving young people in management

This presentation highlighted the development of CanTeen-the Australian Teenage Cancer Patients' Society which has evolved from a small peer support group in 1985 to a national company managed on a regional, state and national level by young people. Throughout this development CanTeen has learnt much about the nature of youth participation which will

be of benefit to those interested in empowering young people to participate in service delivery and management.

Contact: Chris Cunliffe-Jones/Fiona Taylor, Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick NSW 2031

A narrative approach to resource production and education with young people from a community base and perspective

This paper presented an overview of the processes involved in the development of two health promotion strategies recently conducted in NSW. These strategies were created using a multidisciplinary approach in working with adolescents that focused on creating cultural artefacts that are reflective and educational. Young people were paid by the project as creative consultant and their stories and experiences contributed conceptually to the development of resources for both projects.

Contact: Julia Tresidder, Cellblock Youth Health Centre, Dept Adolescent Medicine, Children's Hospital, PO Box 34, Camperdown NSW 2050

The Penrith Streetwork Project targets alcohol or drug affected chronically homeless young people

This presentation described the project which started in June 1993 and offers food, showers, storage space, a mailing address, a full-time nurse and access to specialist services through either referral or visiting services utilising Penrith Streetwork space. The adopted philosophy is to provide an environment that accepts the young person as they are, leading to trust-building between staff and clients. Once trust is built, referrals can result.

Contact: Geoff Toole/Martin Robinson, Penrith Streetwork Project, Penrith Citizens Club, PO Box 869, Penrith NSW 2751

The Warehouse: Health education at the edge

The conference themes of competence and resilience, collaboration and innovation reflect the shared values of the The Warehouse team, which provides a broad range of health education to young people, their families and others that work with young people. This education is provided within a diverse range of settings and a variety of educational strategies and approaches are used, including peer education, working with specifically targeted populations and youthworker training.

Contact: Jeni Pollard, Coordinator, Education Services, The Warehouse, Youth Health Centre, 20 Belmore St, Penrith NSW 2750

Cellblock Youth Health Centre: An innovative model of health care for vulnerable young people

This presentation describes the Cell-block Youth Health Centre, an innovative multidisciplinary health service that seeks to identify the strengths and build the resilience of the young people it sees. The model of health care currently being developed is an attempt to break down the institutionalised constraints of traditional health services by providing a community based setting with an environment that is attractive and easily accessible to young people. Contact: Peter Chown, 1st Floor, 157 St John's Rd, Glebe NSW 2037

The needs of "independent" refugee Indo-Chinese students in school

This presentation examined the needs of "independent" (homeless) school students of Indo-Chinese background, and the relative importance of education/curriculum needs versus welfare/support needs.

Contact: John Byrne/Brian Corbitt, 66 Benga Ave, Dandenong VIC 3175 It's time for a YARN:
A discussion of the
Youth Action Research
Network as a participation
model for primary health care

This presentation described the work of the YARN project and critically reflected on the conceptual base and program models still being developed. YARN emphasises young people taking action on their identified issues in their own self-defined communities. Contact: James Boyce, Project Officer, The Link Youth Health Services, 133 Bathurst St., Hobart TAS 7000

An investigation
of the maintenance of
minority cultures with special
reference to Australian young
people of Slavonic origin

This presentation provided a summary of a long-term research and theoretical investigation into the maintenance of minority cultures in relation to multicultural values and the principles of equal opportunity adopted by educational institutions, with special reference to Australian young people of Slavonic origin. The results of the research highlight the issue of preservation of ethnic cultures, especially languages, and the educational implications.

Contact: Krzysztof Batorowicz, Equal Opportunity Officer, Victorian College of Agriculture and Horticulture, PO Box 317, East Melbourne VIC 3002

Hearing from the hidden homeless

This presentation discussed a peer interviewing approach study with homeless young people on the Mornington Peninsula which informed and educated the broader community about their social-emotional health needs. The barriers facing these young people in trying to access health services as

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well as the challenges facing those providing health care were assessed. In particular the study highlighted the appropriateness of decentralised and outreach models of service delivery. Contact: Jill Langford/Robert Curnow/Verena Ross, Peninsula Community Health Service, PO Box 456, Mornington 3931

The needs of refugee/non-English speaking background young people

As mainstream workers the presenters shared some of their experiences in working with refugee/NESB young people. A number of community-based groups in Melbourne within culturally diverse communities have started to target specific cultural groups and training options have been developed for services keen to address the needs of refugee/NESB young people. Contact: Pauline Neill/Barbara Land/Peter Jarrett, Springvale Youth Housing Group, Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau, 5 Osborne Avenue, PO Box 312, Springvale VIC 3171

Fish in different waters: An ecological study of the health and wellbeing of young people of Latin American background living in Springvale

A major strategy in promoting the health and wellbeing of young people is ensuring that the social environment in which they live is sufficiently supportive and cohesive. However, this aim is better advanced if one has a baseline

of the strengths and level of resilience already existing in the target group. This paper presents an outline of a very preliminary attempt to develop a methodology in this regard by targeting a gruop of migrant young people of Latin American background.

Contact: Bala Mudaly, Springvale Community Health Centre, PO Box 90, Springvale VIC 3171







AGM

The election of two new members to the National Representatives Board (NRB) was one of the main outcomes of AYPAC's 1993 AGM held in Canberra on 16 September. The NRB now includes representatives from Streetwize Comics and Fusion, as well as existing members: Girl Guides, Rural Youth, FECCA, Scouts, YWCA, NUS and AAAH, together with a representative from each State and Territory. Paul Turley was re-elected as Chairperson. Guest speaker Robert Ludbrook, Director of the National Children and Youth Law Centre, outlined the role of the Centre and some of the challenges it is facing.

AYPAC CHALLENGES LIB'S ABOUT-FACE ON CROC

AYPAC engaged in a strong campaign over the last two months to challenge the Liberal Party on its opposition to legislation on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CROC) and the role of the Convention in the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. AYPAC and YANQ worked together to lobby for the passage of the legislation in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Federal Opposition's motion to disallow the legislation was defeated in both Houses. The Liberal Party had been strongly lobbied by conservative groups and had demanded that the government include a statement on "the rights of the family" in the legislation. The legislation passed through the Senate with the support of the Greens and the Democrats

1994 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

An important date in your diary for 1994 is the 1994 AYPAC National Conference on 7-9 July. The conference will be held at Sydney University and will aim to involve young people from across the country. The agenda for the

conference will aim to provide an interesting and informative three days. Travel subsidies will be available and it is likely that charter buses will run from several states to the conference. See you there!

YOUNG SPOKESPERSON

AYPAC will select a young spokesperson to work in conjunction with its Chairperson on the media front. Member organisations were asked to secure the nominations of young people. A decision on the selection of a young person for the position will be made during November. The Young Spokesperson will attend all National Representatives Board meetings and will work closely with AYPAC's Youth Participation Working Party.

AYPAC NEWSLETTER

AYPAC produces a monthly newsletter "UP2DATE" covering information and events on national youth affairs. For your copy contact Daele Healy, Publications Officer, AYPAC, PO Box 519, Dickson ACT 2602 - ph: (06) 241 8055.

Lindsay Granger

ARE YOU HAVING SEX

For Money, Food, Accommodation, Drugs, Security ...?

Youth and Opportunistic Sex Survey

Brisbane Youth Service is currently conducting a 3-month community needs assessment project looking at the issues surrounding young people who are involved in "opportunistic prostitution" in the Fortitude Valley / Brisbane City area. The target group has been loosely defined as young people who are (or have been in the past) swapping sex for food, accommodation, money, drugs, security and so on, but who don't identify as workers in the commercial sex industry.

A participatory research process is being used to conduct the needs assessment; we have employed a project coordinator and four young people as researchers (three young women, one of whom is from a Murri background, and one young man). The researchers are young people who have been homeless at some stage of their lives and who have a personal understanding of the issue of opportunistic prostitution. They have received training to undertake the research and have a good understanding of issues such as confidentiality.

HELP US WITH OUR RESEARCH - ALL INTERVIEWS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

If you know of anyone who may fit our target group can you please let them know about the project or ask them if a researcher can contact them to arrange an interview. All participants will be paid \$10 for their time.

For further information on the project contact Susan Ferguson, Brisbane Youth Service on (07) 852 1335.

Free Information For Workers On ...



HIV/AIDS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Brisbane Youth Service has just completed a report on HIV/AIDS prevention with homeless young people, and will soon distribute it free of charge.

The report, "It's Better Than Just Listening to Someone Talk", documents the first five years of the BYS HIV/AIDS Prevention Project, from 1988 to 1992. It discusses the risk of HIV/AIDS among homeless young people, the history of the project, the effectiveness of the project's strategies, and their evaluation. With HIV/AIDS a risk for all young people, insights gained on the project are relevant to all youth service providers, not just those with a health focus or working with homeless young people.

The project has developed innovative strategies for HIV/AIDS prevention. In particular, it has developed two games: the Saucy Sex Scale and the STD Game, which are fun ways for young people to learn about safe and unsafe behaviours, and the transmission and treatment of STDs. Copies of the STD Game are currently in production and are on sale from BYS. (See Resources section).

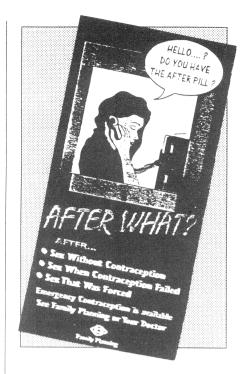
The project has also made extensive use of community arts, supporting young people to produce t-shirts, postcards, badges, posters and other resources with an HIV/AIDS theme. Many of these resources have been mass-produced and used to educate other young people. Some are illustrated in the report.

In all its work, the HIV/AIDS Prevention Project has consulted closely with young people, and the report spends some time discussing effective peer participation.

Two versions of the report are available. The short report is around 30 pages long and will meet the needs of most readers. The full report is around 60 pages and contains more detail, particularly about the activities of the project and the games it has developed. Workers employed in, or wanting to establish, an HIV/AIDS project may find the full report useful. Both reports were written by Corrie Macdonald.



If you would like a free copy of "It's Better Than Just Listening to Someone Talk", phone Vivian, Cindy or Bettina at BYS, on (07) 852 1335. Please specify if you want the short or the full version of the report.



Emergency Contraception Awareness Campaign

Family Planning Queensland have developed a promotional campaign to raise both community and professional awareness of Emergency Contraception, a form of contraception which can be used after sexual intercourse has occurred. Emergency Contraception is useful in cases of sexual assault and when other contraceptive methods are likely to fail or have not been used.

A poster, brochure and sticker, together with a fact sheet for Health Educators which contains more detailed information, is being distributed to a wide range of agencies, including all Queensland high schools, community health centres, youth agencies and women's health centres. The campaign is also targeting medical practitioners.

For a free copy of the information kit (by donation) or for further details contact Wendy Darvill, Education Officer, Family Planning, 100 Alfred St, Fortitude Valley 4006 or phone (07) 252 7922, fax (07) 854 1277.

Dr Peter Kwakkelstein
is a Senior Social Science
Researcher of the Faculty of
Educational Science of the
University of Amsterdam.
Peter was a keynote speaker at
the recent 1993 ReGeneration
Conference held in Hobart and
presented a paper on "Local Youth
Employment Initiatives in the
Netherlands". The following is
an extract from his paper.

Employment is a vital condition for the participation of young people in society. Work and income are keys to an independent life. They give access to a fulfilling social life, housing, leisure facilities, consumer goods and so on. This increases their options in designing their own future. Unemployment not only affects technical and social skills of young people, it also affects their motivation to participate. Unemployment seems to foster indifference and non-involvement, while work and income create basic conditions for participation and involvment. Youth employment initiatives and policies are therefore essential.

What follows is a review of a vocational training project, set up by an independent, non-government organisation for professional youth welfare work in Holland, in cooperation with local government. This review serves as an example to illustrate how the autonomous position of local welfare work, a characteristic element of the Dutch welfare policies, can be used to develop new and successful initiatives, with a European dimension.

Organisers of the Project

The Organisation for Municipal Youthworkin Haarlem is a private foundation that has existed since 1985 and was founded with financial support from the local government. The budget is about 1.2 million Dutch guilders, half

Local Youth

in the Netherlands

The Case of Haarlem

of which is structurally funded by the local government. The remaining budget, acquired for different projects, is supplied by the regional and national governments, the local employment office, all kinds of private funds and the European Community. The six members of the board are active volunteers with an interest in young people, and often deal with youth issues in their professional life. The foundation employs around 15 well educated and experienced youth work professionals and has a two member professional management. The services of the organisation comprise professional assistance for young people with psychological and social problems, vocational training projects for unemployed young people and support for other youth welfare organisations.

The Boat-building Project

In 1987, discussing the necessity of taking a new initiative for unemployed young people in Haarlem, the board decided to start a vocational training project where unemployed young people could learn various technical and social skills. The main objective was to give them a greater access to the local and regional labor market.

The choice was made to build a seagoing, 13 metre, steel sailing boat. This choice was based on the following considerations:

- there were good prospects for qualified steelworkers on the (regional) labor market;
- building this type of boat comprises many different techniques;
- in the building process, individual achievement as well as teamwork is demanded;
- a lot of specific expertise was available in industrial companies in the region;
- itiseasy to demonstrate the progress made at every stage of the building process;
- the project would produce a tangible and useful product;
- after completion; the boat could be used for developing new youth welfare and training projects;
- building a sailing boat stimulates the imagination, not only of young people, but also of persons and organisations whose support is vital.

In discussing the positions of participating young people and professionals in the project, it was decided that the young people had to be treated in an open and respectful manner, and as fully-fledged participants. Any attitude or action that could stigmatize them as an "indigent client" had to be avoided. Their self-respect was considered a central value in the project. For the professional, this meant an advi-

sory attitude rather than an attitude of the expert "who already knows how things can be done faster, more efficiently and better". They had to be available, at all times, for specific help (technical and pedagogical). Nevertheless, where the building process and work discipline were concerned, the agreed upon time-tables and demands of quality were maintained.

The idea was elaborated in a projectpaper, with a detailed calculation of the necessary budget. Another closely related foundation was created to provide a legal framework for the project. A youth work professional with the appropriate skills for building such boats together with untrained young people was appointed. Initial funds were acquired from the local employment office, covering about a quarter of the total cost. The strategy was to start the project with limited means and to convince other potential financiers by demonstrating the progress and success of the project. This strategy worked well. Mainly because once the building process was underway and the first results could be shown, the local, regional and national governments started to fund the project substantially, and the project applied successfully for EC funding. The European Social Fund finances around 50 per cent of the boat building project.

Outcomes

A lot of support was (and is) given free of charge by industrial companies in the region: specialist advice, transport, machinery, cranes, a free engine for the boat and so on. After 18 months the boat was finished, built by 20 young people, unemployed but proud. About 60 per cent of the young people involved found regular jobs during the project or afterwards. In applying for jobs their participation in this project proved very helpful for them. The high technical and social standards maintained with the project made them credible to employers. Some employers even sent representatives to the project to convince themselves, and in these cases the young unemployed could show very practically what they had accomplished in the project.

When the boat was finished the wife of the Minister of Welfare was invited to launch the boat. This guaranteed not only a wide press coverage of the project, but also was of great assistance in gaining wider recognition and support. The completion of the first boat marked the end of the experimental stage of the project. A lot of extra energy and work had to be invested to accomplish this, but it resulted in a well-established project, widely recognised and supported. A new and modern production hall was found with the help of the local government. The second boat will be completed this year.

"Any attitude or action that could stigmatize [young people] as an "indigent client" had to be avoided. Their self-respect was considered a central value in the project."

The board decided to create a new, self-supporting, project for the use of the boats. The first this year will be sailing for its third season, making trips with disadvantaged young people. Being together in a small group in the confined space of the boat for several weeks, with no other choice than to cooperate in order to manage the boat, will help these young people develop social skills necessary for their re-socialisation in society. The boat is also used for international exchange programs.

European Network

In the first year of the project the board decided to look for similar projects in other European countries and estalish a European network. The main objectives were:

• the exchange of young people between the participating projects;

- the exchange of expertise between the projects;
- the coordination of European fundraising and support;
- the expansion of the network with maritime vocational training projects for unemployed young people in European countries.

An intensive exchange program has been established with participating countries including (West) Germany, Belgium, Denmark, England, Spain, Ireland, Italy, Poland and Portugal.

Evaluation

The following is a summary of conditions that seem to be important for a successful development of similar projects for unemployed young people:

- It is necessary to have access to relevant expertise and advice of private companies in the region. Their support is vital for this type of project, not only because of their direct material support, but also because of their access to the labor market mechanisms. Therefore, the chosen object for the project should be related to the industrial/commercial tradition of the region.
- The active and positive support of local (ie. regional and national) government bodies and officials is essential to the development of these projects.
- It is important to look for comparable projects elsewhere in order to profit from their expertise and experience and, if possible, to use their networks and combine efforts.
- Support for the project must be obtained through negotiations. Therefore, it is essential to write a detailed project-plan, with realistic planning and budget information.
- ♦ An overall mentality of cooperation is essential.
- ♦ The supporting network should be maintained through regular meetings and encounters.

- Small-scale projects like this should be embedded in an organisation located close to the environment where unemployed young people live.
- It is of great advantage if the project is embedded in an existing (professional) organisation because of the availability of networks, expertise and professional routines.
- Professional management is vital for these projects.
- Technical know-how and expertise within the staff of the project, as well as good equipment and a professional working place, are essential: no concessions to quality should be made only proven high quality can convince skeptics. (The boats are built under the supervision of recognised agencies like Lloyds).
- The highest professional standards for the product should be maintained.
- The production of a tangible, recognisable and useful end-product is essential.
- It is important that the project stimulates the routines of private companies in the organisation of the labor process. But it is also vital that within the project, pedagogical support is available for the participating young people, because usually problems that they experience in other areas (housing, family life, psychological problems) affect their performance in the project.
- ♦ The selection of young people and their access to the regular labor market deserve serious attention; this often claims much valuable time from the professionals. Assigning these activities to specialised institutions should be considered.
- A project should never neglect its public relations and it should be actively advocated in relevant networks.
- Participating young people should be treated in a respectful, non-stigmatising manner. An atmosphere of companionship within the project is of great value.

• International cooperation with similar projects can be very stimulating for everyone involved. It adds to the status of the project and gives it easier access to the European funds. But more importantly, the exchange of young people between projects in other countries adds to their motivation, their mobility and their social skills.

Benefits and Problems

Local initiatives taken by independent professional welfare organisations, with direct links to target groups of young people and usually well rooted in the local community networks, can find support and, provided that they are well prepared and professionally managed, can develop successfully. The use of experimental projects for the innovation of welfare practices and policies is a widely accepted and proticed method in the Dutch welfare system, and has proved to be an effective approach. The method has some particular benefits:

- "Technical know-how and expertise within the staff of the project, as well as good equipment and a professional working place, are essential: no concessions to quality should be made only proven high quality can convince skeptics."
- Projects are based on a well-considered plan, with the opportunity to establish clear goals. Projects usually can be established much faster than regular services, and operate more flexible and less bureaucratic.

- Projects usually operate for a limited period of time, after which the results can be evaluated.
- The project design, with its specific goals and time planning can be used as a basis for contracts between the (executing) NGO and the (financing) authorities.
- Separate project funding often offers the opportunity to appoint professionals with appropriate skills, who are of immediate relevance for the project.
- An experimental project can often create a somewhat independent status from the regular services, institutions, rules and regulations and bureaucracy. This status apart establishes its operational (experimental) space.
- Although experimental projects may exist with an independent status, their results and recommendations can have considerable and meaningful impact on the traditional methods, institutions and networks.

The main problem with this application of projects as an innovative strategy in welfare practice and policy in Holland, is that the Dutch system does not provide a regular arrangement for the transition of successful projects with long term perspectives into regular programs with structural funding. Even projects that have proved to be of great value to the local community, and that are widely recognised as such, still have to apply for project-based funding each year. This can easily frustrate the people involved and endanger the continuity of the project.

In the case of Haarlem, the support from the local government is essential and is given liberally. Given the circumstance that they see no opportunity to arrange structural funding for the boat project, they provide a lot of support, both financial and political.

Altogether, the Haarlem boat project shows the results of an innovative local youth policy creating the conditions for fully-fledged participation of unemployed young people.

Peter Kwakkelstein



Regional Interagency Meetings

November / December 1993



Cairns Region Youth Services Network

25 Nov 1993 at 3:30pm Dept Family Services 130 McLead St. Caims

Contact Karen Fasano

C/- Youth Access Centre PO Box 1108 Coirns 4870 PH: (070) 525 517 Magnetic North Youth Service Providers

21 Dec 1993 at 10.00am (Venue to be determined)

Contact Leslie Mackay

C/- Open Youth Project PO Box 573 Townsville 4810 PH: (077) 713 648 Rockhampton Youth Interagency

14 Dec 1993 at 12.00pm (Venue to be determined)

Contact Cheryl Greene

C/-Skillshare Capricomia Customs House/Quay St Rockhampton 4700 PH: (079) 222 352

Mt Isa Youth Forum

(Not available)

Contact Tim Berryman

C/- Community Dvpt Assn PO Box 345 Mt Isa 4825 (077) 436 541 Gladstone Youth Alliance

21 Dec 1993 at 12.00pm Community Advisory Service

Contact Gail Law

C/- Community Advisory Service, Suncorp Bidg 141 Goondoon St Gladstone 4680 PH: (079) 724 855 **Bundaberg Youth Forum**

2 Dec 1993 at 9.30am Ed Centre, 78 Woongarra St Bundaberg

Contact Genevieve Houston

C/- Youth Employment Service PO Box 935 Bundaberg 4670 PH: (071) 537 150

Sunshine Coast Youthworkers
Forum

9 Dec 1993 at 10.00am One Stop Youth Shop Collins Place, Duporth Ave

Contact Kathy Brook

C/- Youth Access Centre PO Box 1174 Maroochydore 4558 PH: (074) 439 661 Gold Coast Youth Network

24 Nov 1993 at 10.00am Gold Coast Youth Service 15 Oak Ave. Miami

Contact Janette Green

C/- Stephens Community Centre PO Box 881 Burleigh Heads 4220 PH: (075) 937 006 Beaudesert Interagency

24 Nov 1993 at 10.00am Illoura Centre 31 Duckett St, Beaudesert

Contact Margaret McDonald

C/- Beaudesert Community House, 4 Davis Street Beaudesert 4285 PH: (075) 413 762



Regional Interagency Meetings

November / December 1993



Western Suburbs Interagency

30 Nov 1993 at 10.00am (Venue to be determined)

Contact Graeme Aut

C/- Youth Access Centre PO Box 67 Indooroopilly 4068 PH: (07) 878 1999 Brisbane Youth Interagency

(Not Available)

Contact Eric Moes

C/- Brisbane Youth Service PO Box 1389 Fortifude Valley 4006 PH: (07) 852 1335 Logan Youth Interagency

30 Nov 1993 at 3.00pm C'wealth Centre Ewing and Carmody Sts Woodridge

Contact Deidre Foreman

C/- Youth Access Centre PO Box 645 Woodridge 4114 PH: (07) 808 7242

Wynnum Youth Interagency

10 Dec 1993 at 2.00pm Community Corrections Clara Street, Wynnum

Contact Bev Cooper

C/- Youth Access Centre 7 Ross Court Bloomfield St Cleveland 4164 PH: (07) 821 2887 Caboolture Youth Network

1 Dec 1993 at 1.00pm Caboolture Community Care Services, King Street

Contact Carmel Sheehan

C/- Youth Access Centre PO Box 1180 Caboolture 4510

PH: (074) 957 588

Annerley Youth Interagency

6 Dec 1993 at 2.00pm Catholic Youth Office 44 Leopard St, Kangaroo Pt

Contact Tracey Rimes

C/- Youth Access Centre 7 Ross Court Bloomfield SI Cleveland 4164 PH: (07) 821 2917

Inala Youth Interagency LARGEFLY

9 Dec 1993 at 1.00pm Inala Youth Access Centre Inala Plaza

Contact Tony Kelly

C/- Inala Youth Service PO Box 265 Inala 4077 PH: (07) 372 7270 Ipswich Youth Focus

24 Nov 1993 at 12:00pm Conf Ro. 3rd Floor C'Wealth Bidg, Chr South and East Sts

Contact Theima Atwell

C/- Youth Access Centre PO Box 188 Ipswich 4305 PH: (07) 281 8200 Beenleigh Youth Interagency

26 Nov 1993 at 1.30pm DFSAIA 100 George St, Beenleigh

Contact Gary Bourke

C/- Beenleigh Community Health Centre PO BOx 223 Beenleigh 4207 PH: (07) 287 5344

(Story continued from page 1)

The report discusses a number of factors which inhibit young people's access to appropriate treatment and support, including young people's limited knowledege of mental illness, the irrelevance or inappropriateness of existing services, and the stigma associated with mental illness. However, the major factor impeding young people's access to treatment is simply the absence of specialist services.

Without exception, every witness presenting evidence about child and adolescent mental health referred to the appalling lack of provision for training, staff, facilities and services to assist children and adolescents in need of special care. (p.618)

The report identifies particular types of services for young people which are lacking. They include:

- Community crisis teams and support services to provide young people and their families with treatment and support in their own surroundings.
- Inpatient assessment facilities for those who become seriously disturbed or psychotic.
- Inpatient acute beds. Queensland has only 16 acute inpatient beds for young people, all of which are in Brisbane.
- Community centre-based services which provide a range of services both mobile and centre-based, so that young people can stay in their homes and schools and take part in normal daily activities as far as possible, while still obtaining appropriate therapy. The inquiry was told that Queensland's child mental health clinics in Brisbane have waiting lists of at least a month, and up to 6 months in some areas.
- Day treatment programs where young people can receive substantial care and treatment without the dislocation of being admitted to an inpatient facility.

In the absence of appropriate specialist services, young people have been placed in children's general medical wards, adolescent acute wards, adult psychiatric hospitals and temporary foster care, and in some cases, in remand centres and lock-ups. Some of these placements, particularly in adult facilities, place young people at great personal risk.

In those services which do exist, staff are typically few in number, and inadequately trained. Every state reported an acute shortage of child and adolescent psychiatrists and of training positions for child psychiatric staff. There is also a shortage of allied health profes-

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ing, staff, facilities and

services to assist children

and adolescents in need

of special care.

sionals with training in mental health; nurses, social workers, family therapists, counsellors, specialist clinical psychologists, remedial education teachers, and occupational therapists. Training for workers in other professions who

have contact with young people with a mental illness, such as youth workers, police, teachers, welfare workers and court officers, is limited.

The report bemoans the lack of preventative services, particularly within schools, to identify young people and children experiencing difficulties and intervene at an early stage. It argues that the education system has shunned its responsibility to these young people, by not providing adequate professional support staff in schools to carry out casework and act as a resource for teaching personnel.

Disturbed and mentally ill young people often end up in the juvenile justice system because no-one has identified or dealt with their underlying problems.

The number of young people who have thus been consigned to incarceration rather than treatment is in the thousands. (p. 634)

Once a disturbed or mentally ill young person enters a correctional facility they have little chance of receiving assessment and treatment. In addition the facility itself can exacerbate pre-existing mental health problems. Few states have services to deal with the mental health needs of young people in detention.

Over recent years there has been an alarming increase in rates of suicide by young people. The rate amongst 15-19 year old males has increased from 7.3 per 100 000 population to about 21 per 100 000 in 25 years. The most staggering increase in male youth suicides has occurred in rural areas and small towns, where families have been affected by the economic downturn and where access to services is minimal. The report calls for the expansion of prevention and intervention services, and of criti-

cal incident counselling to assist in dealing with the aftermath of a suicide.

The report paints a picture of "inadequate funding, inadequate provision of facilities, inadequate staffing, inadequate training of health and other workers, inadequate

inpatient care, inadequate community and home-based care, inadequate coordination between agencies, inadequate knowledge, inadequate research, inadequate data collection and inadequate commitment to the establishment of prevention and intervention services."

Health Minister, Mr Ken Hayward was quick to respond to the report, pointing out that it documented the state of services two years ago, but that Queensland had increased spending since that time. He pointed to planned capital works spending for acute psychiatric units. However, the 1993/94 State budget shows a dcrease in spending on mental health-related inpatient care, from \$91.583m to \$91.441m. Grants to community-based mental health services have been increased by \$0.5m, mostly from Commonwealth funds.

YANQ will keep members informed of developments in programs for young people which result from the report.

Tim Wilson

The report is available from the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission on (02)229 7600, or from the Australian Government Bookshop.



INVITATION TO MAKE SUBMISSIONS

National Review of Education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

Written Submissions are being invited from providers of education. Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups and all interested persons and organisations to a national review of the progress in education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the full spectrum of education, namely preschool, school, technical and further education, adult and community education, and higher education.

The Commonwealth Government has established this review with the support and co-operation of all State and Territory governments.

The terms of reference of the review are to address, against the goals of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Policy (AEP), progress in achieving access, participation and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

In particular, the review will focus on educational strategies which have proved to be affective in developing good practice, and the development of strategies for the achievement of further progress in the future.

A public discussion paper will be published early in 1994 which will include an analysis of statistics on the state of progress in the education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Those wishing to make submissions can obtain further details of the review, including the Terms of Reference and the Guidelines for preparation of submissions, either by writing to the:

Aboriginal Education Policy Task Force Department of Employment, Education and Training

GPO Box 9880

CANBERRA ACT 2601

OR by fax to (06) 276 8855

OR by telephoning (06) 276 8833

Submissions can be made either before the issue of the Discussion Paper or arrenwards and should be made in accordance with the Guidelines and be received by no later than 11 March 1994.

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT, EQUICATION AND TRAINING



ATSIC

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER COMMISSION

Important Notice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Service Organisations

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) provides grant funding to organisations who provide services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Commission is refining its budget development process and is now accepting applications from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporations, or other incorporated bodies and State and Local Government Agencies, for grant funding in the financial year 1994-95.

Applications will be considered under the following program areas. Note: Applications for Housing and Enterprise Loans and for Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) are not included in this exercise.

The Economic Program incorporates sub programs targeted at enhancing participation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the areas of:

- ☐ Community Training
- ☐ Land Acquisition and
- Management
- ☐ Community Economic Initiatives

☐ Youth Employment

Regional and Community
Planning

The Social and Cuitural program incorporates sub programs targeted at enhancing participation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the areas of:

- ☐ Health
- ☐ Recreation and Sport
- ☐ Women's Initiatives
- ☐ Community and Youth Support
- ☐ Broadcasting and Culture
- ☐ Substance Abuse
- ☐ Law and Justice
- ☐ Land, Heritage and Environment
- ☐ Housing and Infrastructure

The Public Awareness program aims to contribute to selected initiatives that have a significant public awareness value in the wider community in relation to knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs.

Application forms and terms of reference (including program guidelines) are available from the local ATSIC Regional Office.

Applications will be assessed in accordance with Commission guidelines and Regional Council priorities, and the availability of funds. Applicant organisations will be expected to fully justify their applications and the level of funds sought.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 17 DECEMBER 1993.
TO BE CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING IN THE 1994-95
FINANCIAL YEAR.



COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Project Funding

The National Mental Health Strategy is a five-year initiative to encourage national reform in mental health services.

The Strategy has been developed in response to the challenges raised by the new directions in mental health care. It aims to strengthen and promote community-based services and the links between the mental health sector and other health, housing and community services.

Specific funding has been allocated by the Federal Government under the Strategy to support innovative projects of national significance.

Interested organisations, including non-Government organisations, are encouraged to apply for national project funding. Priority will be given to service delivery proposals which have national significance and the potential for application across the nation.

For example, projects could relate to the following areas:

- the links between hospital and community-based services:
- the provision of community-based services, such as accommodation, employment, health and welfare services; and
- mechanisms to increase consumer and carer involvement in service delivery.

Funding of approximately \$2 million is available in 1993-94 to support projects.

Applicants should apply in writing by no later than 26 November 1993 to:

The Director
Mental Health Section
Department of Health, Housing, Local
Government
and Community Services
GPO Box 9848
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Application forms and supporting information can be obtained by phoning 1 800 624 065 (24 hour answering service). If you need further information, please call (06)-289 8672 or (06) 289 8596 during business hours.

Organisations should note that a second round of national project funding will be advertised in January 1994 and applications will close in late February 1994.

QUEENSLAND HEALTH YOUTH HEALTH POLICY UNIT YOUTH HEALTH SEEDING GRANTS PROGRAM 1994

Do you have a project in mind which:

- addresses an unmet health need for young people?
- uses a new approach in encouraging young people to use your youth/health service?
- provides information/education for young people about health issues?
- provides training to support the health and wellbeing of young people in your community?
- tackles the problem of making a health service/ information more "user friendly" for those "difficult to reach" young people?

Youth Health Seeding grants of approximately \$1,000 and \$3,000 will be available for "one-off". projects which target unmet health needs of young people. These grants are **not** for recurrent or ongoing funding.

This is an opportunity to "try something new" in providing youth health services, developing suitable information/education resources, doing a needs analysis, or tackling those areas/issues/groups which are usually in the "too hard basket".

For further information and funding guidelines contact:

Youth Health Policy Unit Queensland Health GPO Box 48 Brisbane Qld 4001 Phone: (07) 234 0759

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 16 DECEMBER 1993

conferences

workshops

conferences

HEALTH AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Australian Association for Adolescent Health invites you to register your interest in presenting a paper at the their National Youth Health conference. The Organising Group is especially interested in ideas from young people and workers with young people which promote the health of young people and reflect the theme of the conference - "Together and Moving".

20-22 April 1994 DATE: VENUE: Adelaide

Contact Coral Atkins on (08) 232 0233 or Tony Straccia on (08) 204 7488.

FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

The conference theme, "Developing an Integrated Response to the Management and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse", will enable professionals from a range of disciplines to discuss issues, share ideas and contribute to the development of a more coordinated and effective response to child sexual abuse.

DATE: VENUE: Radisson Hotel

16-18 March 1994

Melbourne

COST:

\$500/\$400

Contact Dulcie Stretton, PO Box 1006, Double Bay NSW 2028 or phone (02) 328 6115.

7TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPROVEMENT

DATE: 3-6 January 1994 VENUE: Melbourne

Contact ICSEI Secretariat, PO Box 527. Frankston VIC 3199.

WORLD INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S **EDUCATION CONFERENCE**

DATE:

11-17 December 1993

VENUE: University of Wollongong

Contact the Conference Secretariat, PO Box 872. East Wollongong NSW 2520 or phone (042) 261 522.

AUSTRALIAN FAMILIES IN THE **NINETIES**



The Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA) presents its 14th national conference in recognition of 1994 being the International Year of the Family. Major issues to be discussed include: young people, women, disability, ageing and regional perspectives.

9-11 December 1993 DATE:

VENUE: Esplanade Hotel Freemantle, WA

\$295 - \$70 COST:

Contact the Ethnic Communities Council of WA on (09) 222 2967.

VOICE FROM THE MARGIN

This conference is for all disadvantaged groups and will feature workshops on sexuality, mental health, disability and human rights.

DATE:

8-11 December 1993 VENUE: University of Central

Queensland

Rockhampton

Contact Jan McNamee on (079) 309 777.

SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS WORKING TOGETHER

Of importance to teachers, administrators, guidance counsellors, youth-workers, community workers, social workers and other interested persons this half day workshop will examine:

- what is the purpose of schools and community agencies working together?
- barriers to the effective networking of schools and community groups;
- methods of resourcing supportive school environment programs by schools and community groups working collaboratively;
- accessing resources for joing school/ community projects;

DATE:

8 December 1993

VENUE: O'Shea Inservice Centre

19 Lovedale St, Wilston

COST:

\$10 (incl. afternoon tea)

Contact Fiona Muirhead, Jabiru Community Youth and Children's Services Assn, NBHD Centre, Bracken St. Bracken Ridge 4017. Phone (07) 356 8205 by 1/ 12/93.

NATIONAL YOUTH HOUSING STRATEGY CONSULTATION

SEQYAC is organising this consultative meeting of its members to:

- 1) provide an opportunity for initial input into the process of developing a national youth housing strategy; and
- 2) brief delegates to the December NYCH Council on the field's thoughts on the strategy.

DATE:

25 November 1993

VENUE: YANQ, 36 Baxter St

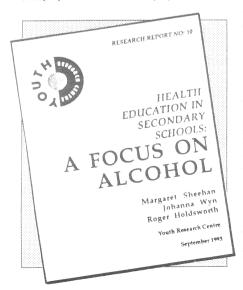
Fortitude Valley

Contact SEQYAC, PO Box 324, Fortitude Valley 4006 on (07) 252 2555.

HEALTH EDUCATION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS: A FOCUS ON ALCOHOL

In 1992-93 the Youth Research Centre commenced a 'mapping' investigation into current practices in 'alcohol education' in Australian secondary schools. Research Report 10, "A Focus on Alcohol", outlines the main outcomes of the investigations. The report summarises the main positions currently held in the broad field of health and alcohol education, based on a comprehensive survey of the available literature on alcohol education in Australia. It also describes the nature of the 'alcohol curriculum' throughout Australia, with specific reference to content and coverage across schools, similarities and differences between state policies, and general comprehensiveness of alcohol education in Australian schools. It addresses some of the issues which influence the effectiveness of alcohol education in schools, in particular: teacher professional development; availability of resources; the confusion surrounding the notion of harm minimisation; and the marginal-isation of alcohol and drug education.

The report is available for \$5/\$10 (postage included) from the Youth Research Centre, Institute of Education, University of Melbourne, Parkville VIC 3052. Ph: (03) 344 8251 or fax (03) 344 8256.





RUNNING TO? RUNNING FROM?

A new runaway prevention and safety education resource for teenagers produced by the YWCA as a resource for youthworkers, teachers, parents and counsellors. In a comic format aimed at 12 to 16 years olds, the package examines the personal, family and social consequences of running away. The Educator's package contains background information, resources and suggestions for discussion of issues in an easy-to-read format.

Other comics in a series of life-style comics produced by the Australian YMCA include:

Secrets and Feelings: A comic for 12 - 13 year olds about good secrets (eg. surprise parties) and bad secrets (eg. bullying, threats, sexual abuse).

Thinking About Drinking: Examines the themes: safety is most important, talking with adults is OK and there are alternatives to alcohol use for coping with stress and in leisure time.

These comics are available for \$6 (plus postage) and additional comics for \$2 from the National YMCA, 196 Albert Rd, South Melbourne VIC 3205. Phone (03) 699 7655 or fax (03) 690 2835.

THE STD GAME

The STD Game is an educational resource produced by the HIV/AIDS team at Brisbane Youth Service. The Game was developed by homeless and "at risk" young people and staff to ensure it would be a culturally relevant learning tool in the communication of information on HIV/AIDS, STDs including Hep B and Hep C, and safe/ unsafe behaviours related to sex and injecting drug use. It also follows a harm minimisation philosophy, acknowledging that young people will indulge in behaviours that place them at risk, and therefore need to know about safer choices and options. Some of the information contained in the game is presented in an explicit format and to this extent will not be suitable for all groups of young people.

The STD Game is a relatively simple game to play, drawing on scenarios young people have found themselves in and relating these situations to questions on HIV, STDs, and sex and injecting behaviours. The various scenarios presented are designed to promote discussion on the issue raised at that particular time.

The Game is available for \$75 and can be obtained from Vivian, Bettina or Cindy at BYS, PO Box 1389, Fortitude Vally 4006. Ph: (07) 852 1335.



YOUTH AFFAIRS NETWORK OF QUEENSLAND INC

WHAT IS YANQ?

The Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ) Inc. is the independent, non-government umbrella organisation of groups and individuals from Queensland's youth sector.

Operational since 1989, YANQ was incorporated in January 1991. The Network acts to promote the interests and well-being of young people in Queensland, especially disadvantaged young people. It advocates for them to government and the community and encourages the development of policies and programs responsive to the needs of young people.

YANQ also supports the development of regional networks in the non-government youth sector. It is YANQ's view that the development of stronger networks will lead to better services for young people as information and skills are shared.

YANQ consists of over 400 individual and organisational members throughout Queensland, including youth services, advocacy groups, church groups and community organisations with interests in areas as diverse as juvenile justice, housing, health, rural issues, young people with disabilities, young women's issues and young people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-English speaking backgrounds. Associate members are drawn from federal, state and local government bodies.

WHAT DOES YANQ DO?

YANQ employs three staff in its Brisbane-based secretariat. It undertakes a variety of activities designed to raise the profile of and encourage action on issues affecting young people. Activities include:

• submissions to government reviews • making representations to government/other influential bodies • undertaking campaigns and lobbying • consulting and liaising with members and the field • publishing newsletters and journals • initiating projects • disseminating information to members and the field • providing training and • cooperating with interstate and national youth affairs bodies.

HOW DOES YANQ WORK?

YANQis managed by a Coordinating Committee elected by the Ordinary (non-government) membership to oversee its day to day operation and supervision of staff.

YANQ holds a Policy Forum at least once a year at which delegates representing the membership give direction for YANQ's policy-making and activities for the next twelve months. Delegates to Policy Forum must be Ordinary members.

YANQ working parties on specific issues may be formed at any time during the year. Any interested member may participate in such working parties.

YANQ's decision making processes are based on a consensus model.

YANQ PUBLICATIONS

NEWSLETTER

Network Noise is the bi-monthly newsletter of YANQ. Members are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter which is ideal for communicating news on: • training events • youth programs; • interagency or youth forum meetings • publications and resources • positions vacant • changes of address. Network Noise is distributed to subscribers and YANQ members only.

JOURNAL

transitions is the YANQ journal published three times per year. It presents in-depth articles on research and topical issues of relevance to youth affairs, both in Queensland and nationally. It is an ideal forum for youth service providers to describe and analyse their work. transitions is distributed to subscribers and members only.

WHO CAN JOIN?

Membership of YANQ is open to anyone with a proven interest in youth affairs.

ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP

Is available to individuals and organisations from the *non-gov-ernment* sector and entitles you to: • nominate for the Coordinating Committee & Policy Forum • full voting rights • six newsletters and three journals per year • information on campaigns and reviews • opportunities to participate in YANQ workshops.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Is available to individuals, departments and services from local, state or federal *government* and entitles you to: • six newsletters and three journals per year • information on campaigns and reviews • opportunities to participate in YANQ workshops. Associate members do not have voting rights and cannot nominate for the Coordinating Committee or Policy Forum.

SUBSCRIBERS

Subscribers receive six newsletters and three journals per year.

MEMI	BERSHIP FEES PER ANNU	JM		
Young Person	Income < \$16,000	\$5.00		
Individual	Income < \$16,000	\$10.00		
	\$16,000 - \$50,000	\$25.00		
	Income > \$50,000	\$40.00		
Organisation	No funding	\$10.00		
	Funding < \$ 100,000	\$40.00		
	Funding > \$100,000	\$60.00		
Government	Department or Service	\$75.00		
Subscribers	transitions & Network Noise	\$60.00		
Membershin fees are due and naughle on a calendar year basis				

Membership fees are due and payable on a calendar year basis (covering the period 1 January - 31 December)

YANQ MEMBERSHIP /	SUBSCRIPTION FORM	1			
(Contact) Name:					
Organisation / Dept:					
Postal Address:	Code:				
Street Address:	Code:				
Ph: ()					
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY APPLIED FOR					
Individual Income < \$16,000 N-G Govt \$10.00 \$16,000 - \$50,000 N-G Govt \$25.00 Income > \$50,000 N-G Govt \$40.00	Organisation No Funding Funding < \$ 100,000 Funding > \$ 100,000	\$10.00 \$40.00 \$60.00			
Young Person Income < \$16,000 \$5.00	Government Department or Service	\$75.00			
SUBSCRIBERS Transitions & Network Noise only		\$60.00			
I hereby subscribe to the aim and objectives of YANQ and enclose a cheque/money order for the prescribed membership/subscription fee.					
Signed	Date				
Membership applications must be approved by the YANQ Coordinating Committee					
Please return Membership/Subscription Form to: YANQ, PO Box 116, Fortitude Valley Qld 4006					