Newsletter

December 94/January 95

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### ... and a whole lot more!

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# Migrant networking project gets off the ground

A new project at YANQ, focusing on non-English speaking background (NESB) youth issues, is now under way with the appointment of Susan Ferguson to the position of Project Officer.

On starting the job, Susan said that she hoped her work would show tangible changes for young people from NES backgrounds in terms of access to services.

Susan commenced at YANQ in late November and will be working closely with the NESB Youth Issues Network (NESBYIN) on a twelve-month project funded by the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

The project's two primary objectives are to develop a model for ongoing community action on identified NESB youth issues, and to raise the profile of NESB Youth Issues with stakeholders in South East Queensland.

Susan's primary role will be to resource the ongoing development of the NESBYIN and, along with network members, consult, research, write and advocate in the interests of young people from NESB. Susan has taken up the position with great enthusiasm and has already met with various community groups to introduce the project and discuss the role of NESBYIN within the youth sector.

For more information about NESBYIN and other developments in the NESB youth issues field, please see the article on page 11.



# Network Noise

is the bi-monthly newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ) Inc. ISSN 1320-2588

# CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

Ring, write or fax your latest news on

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

to Judith Wootton, YANQ PO Box 116 Fortitude Valley 4006 PH: (07) 852 1800 PH: (07) 852 1441

# **COPY DEADLINE**

February/March Issue 10 February 1995

# YANQ STAFF

Network Development Coordinator Lindsay Granger

Policy and Research Officer
Vacant

Administration and Publications Officer
Judith Wootton

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



# Coordinating Committee Update Nov - Dec 94

Lindsay, Judith and Susan and the members of YANQ's Coordinating Committee would like to wish all members a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.



Thank you for all your support in 1994.

See you in 1995!!

YANQ'S office will be closed during the Christmas / New Year Break, from Friday 23 December 1994 until Tuesday 3 January 1995.

# Aboriginal Juvenile Justice Forum calls for improved services

Aboriginal youth workers attending the recent Juvenile Justice forum hosted by YANQ's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Working Party called for improvements in court services, legal representation and penalty systems.

Working Party convenor, Tong Galiki, said the forum was an opportunity for the Working Party to develop policy positions on a range of justice issues for Murri young people.

The Forum was held in Brisbane on 25 November and attracted 28 representatives of services from as far afield as Rockhampton and Barcaldine.

The over-representation of Aboriginal and Islander young people in detention centres provided a focus for much of the discussion at the forum. Nearly 60 per cent of young people sentenced to detention in Queensland are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background. Those attending the forum developed potential strategies to reduce this proportion and to provide more appropriate services for young people in detention.

Among the strategies called for were the provision of culturally appropriate alternatives to detention, improvements to the cautioning and reporting aspects of the Juvenile Justice Act and a separation of the security and support roles of detention centre staff. The employment conditions and career structure of Aboriginal staff in detention centres was also seen as an area requiring change.

For further information about this or future forums, contact Tong Galiki on (079) 226 180 or Lindsay Granger on 852 1800 or 1 800 177 899.

Telecom recognises young people as consumers

Did you know that YANQ has a representative on the Telecom Regional Consumer Council?

The TRCC exists to discuss and advise Telecom of residential consumers' needs. The Consumer Council is concerned with telecommunication services to people's homes (not business or commercial telecommunications), and advises Telecom directly about residential consumer's communication needs. The TRCC endeavours to ensure that there is a balanced membership which reflects the needs of a wide cross section of Telecom consumers. Membership is currently representative of groups such as the aged, rural and remote communities, low income earners, Aboriginal and Islander people, non-English speaking people, women and disabled people.

YANQ viewed the TRCC as an opportunity to advocate for the consumer issues of young people and YANQ has had a representative on the Council since 1992. Queensland was

proudly the first TRCC to elect a consumer representative for young people and most state councils have followed suit. Earlier this year, AYPAC produced a report on telecommunications and young people and this has also raised awareness of young people's roles as consumers of telecommunications.

YANQ's participation in the TRCC has provided a means for achieving effective input into the policy, planning and service decision making processes of Telecom that are relevant to young people as consumers of telecommunications. Participation in TRCC has meant that Telecom has had to consider young people as consumers whose needs require effective responses.

Participation in the TRCC involves contact meetings three to four times a year, and teleconferencing in between meetings or when issues need to be discussed or acted upon.

Donna Densley



# Are you interested?

If you are interested in participating in the TRCC as a YANG representative or would like further information about the benefits of YANG's representation on the TRCC, please contact YANG on (07) 852 1800 or 1 800 177 899.

# YANQ responds to Review of the Mental Health Act

YANQ has submitted its second response to the Director of Mental Health in the current review of the Mental Health Act. This time around, we responded to the Green Paper which broadly outlined proposals which would constitute the new Mental Health Act.

The complexity of the Green Paper is partially due to its primary focus on involuntary admissions to treatment. Involuntary admissions apply to the assessment and treatment of people suspected of being mentally ill who present a danger to themselves or to others. This includes young people in detention and others within the criminal justice system.

Despite the complexity of the issues involved, it was evident that the Green Paper gave no consideration to how proposals would affect young people.

This is extremely disturbing, given that the legislation will have a considerable impact on the lives of some young people, their families and significant others.

Perhaps the greatest concern for YANQ was that the Green Paper proposed no age limit for the use of involuntary admission. In effect, this means that anyone from age 0 onwards can be admitted as an involuntary patient. YANQ maintained within its submission that as children and young people are relatively socially powerless and vulnerable, the implications for

children and young people of this and other proposals would be disturbing.

Proposals within the Green Paper also do nothing to ensure that young people have access to facilities separate from adults to meet their needs. Thus children and young people could be inappropriately placed with adults in facilities which do not consider their needs. Young people under involuntary orders could also be placed in watchhouses if no other facilities are available. This means that in areas less likely to have proper health facilities the

likelihood is that watch-houses will be used to 'hold' people detained under involuntary orders.

The Green Paper also endorses the use of force in detaining people under involuntary orders. This, coupled with the lack of an age limit, means that children/young people may be subject to physically demeaning situations over which they have no control. This may ultimately prove to be more emotionally and physically damaging to them than their actual or suspected mental illness. YANQ also stressed the point that

Graphic courtesy of BYS

mental illness is only suspected and has not been confirmed at the stage of detention.

YANQ also noted that children and young people are particularly vulnerable in cases of sexual and physical abuse. Proposed safeguards would not serve to guard against perpetrators of abuse (particularly family members) admitting their child to involuntary treatment. This is of particular concern as the proposals give no consideration to the fact that family members as advocates do not always

necessarily work in the best interests of the child.

The constant use within the Green Paper of terms such as 'as far as practicable' and 'where possible' water down any proposed commitment to rights. This is particularly disturbing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, given that the Green Paper proposes that seclusion (lock and key) should not be used for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 'where possible'. Therefore it is still possible, despite the findings of the Inquiry into Deaths in

Custody, that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will find themselves in situations which may severely compromise their safety.

YANQ also suggested that the proposals regarding searches were inappropriate. Again, this relates to the lack of an age limit. Furthermore, there is no commitment to searches being undertaken in a manner which recognises gender, social and cultural factors. The lack of guidelines concerning searches could permit situations of sexual, physical and emotional harassment to

continue unchecked.

Given the lack of awareness of youth issues apparent in the Green Paper, YANQ has suggested to the Director of Mental Health that further urgent discussion occur in regard to the points raised.

YANQ raised a number of other concerns in regard to the Green Paper. Any member wishing to obtain a copy of YANQ's submission should phone YANQ on (07) 852 1800 or 1800 177 899.

Sue Wright

# AYPAC responds to The Health of Young Australians

The Australian Youth Policy and Action Coalition has submitted a formal response to a draft policy paper on the health of children and young people in Australian.

The draft paper, entitled "The Health of Young Australians", was prepared for the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council, and is an early step toward the development of a national youth health policy.

AYPAC's response commends the ministers for addressing the issue of young people's health, but criticises many elements of the draft paper. Key criticisms include unmeasurable outcomes, poor substantiation of claims and a failure to deal with broader issues affecting health such as unemployment, environmental issues and violence. Whilst the focus of the actions outlined in the draft policy are framed in terms of health care service delivery, AYPAC

argues that the policy needs to address a holistic response in much the same way as the Innovative Health Service for Homeless Youth program has worked with its target group. The draft policy should look beyond direct health and medical services in order to address young people's health issues and needs.

Other AYPAC recommendations include the use of non-judgemental responses to young people's health issues and the promotion of harm minimisation strategies using methods such as peer education and support.

AYPAC is also critical of the population based funding proposal for youth health services. Population based funding

greatly disadvantages children and young people in rural and remote communities. This contradicts the equity principles outliend in an earlier document, the *National Youth Policy*.

The draft policy is an important step in forumlating a national youth health policy, but leaves much to be desired if it is going to address the primary issue outlined in the Foreword; children and young people experience significant inequalities in their health status.

Lindsay Granger

Copies of the AYPAC submission are available from YANQ on (07) 852 1800 or 1 800 177 899

# Adventure at sea for young Australians

In 1995, Young Endeavour, Australia's national sail training ship, will embark on a circumnavigation of Australia to participate in Sail Indonesia '95.

Young Endeavour will join tall ships from around the world in celebrations commemorating Indonesia's 50 years of Independence.

Applications are now being invited from young Australians between the ages of 16 and 24 with a spirit of adventure to be part of this historic voyage.

The Young Endeavour's circumnavigation and participation in Sail Indonesia '95 will take six months, with visits to more than 30 ports in Australia and Indonesia. The itinerary is divided into ten voyages of varying lengths from ten days to four weeks. On each voyage, the Young Endeavour will be crewed by 24 young men and women together with nine Royal Australian Navy personnel.

A highlight of the program will be in late July when the Young Endeavour departs Australian waters to participate in Sail Indonesia '95. The ship and its selected crew of young people will join a fleet from around the world in a tall ships' race from Bali to Jakarta.

Applications are available by contacting the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme 2008 267 909, Friday 24 February, 1995.



Youth Scheme 2008 267 909, and should be returned no later than Eriday 24 February 1995

# Are you interested in Community Grievance Procedures?

The housing co-op sector in Queensland is looking for interested people throughout the state who would like to be involved in the sector's Independent Appeals Mechanism, known as the Independent Co-operative Appeals Committee. The Coalition is looking to fill the following positions:

- Chairperson (set remuneration)
- Deputy Chairperson (remuneration/appeal)
- Independent community members (remuneration/ appeal)

If you are interested in any of these positions, please call us before 20 January 1995. For more information and copies of the role descriptions of the above positions, please call Melissa Morris at the Queensland Community Housing Coalition **2** (07) 844 9947



# TENDER FOR EVALUATION OF YOUTH INITIATIVES

Tenders are called for the evaluation of Commonwealth Youth Initiatives administered by the Youth Bureau of the Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET).

Available funds have allowed government and community organisations to develop a wide range of both programs and projects in response to particular needs. To date over 300 projects/programs have been funded and a number of individual evaluations have been undertaken.

The future directions of the funding program now need to be developed. DEET therefore wishes to conduct a thorough evaluation of the whole funding program, beginning at the individual project/program level and working through policy implications for mainstream program development, to an examination of the overall rationale for the youth programs and projects.

# Requirements

### General

• Proven record in undertaking social research and a sound understanding of the policy development process.

### Specific

- consultancy experience in the youth sector especially with youth at risk
- ability to analyse demographic information
- ability to relate to young people and community representatives
- ability to understand and work with young people in context of their communities and families
- understanding of human services and economics issues
- understanding of DEET service delivery issues.

Tenders (original documents only not faxed or telephoned) will be accepted until 4pm on 9 January 1995. Copies of the consultancy brief, and additional information about the tender, are available from:

Director or Project Officer Youth Services & Co-ordination Youth Bureau (location code 754) DEFT

Phone: (06) 240 8560 Phone: (06) 240 9553 Fax: (06) 240 8227

5/16 Mort Street/GPO Box 9880

CANBERRA ACT 2601

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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# **AYPAC Update**

# AYPAC prioritises 1995 campaigns

A campaign to lower the voting age to 16 is one of the priorities for AYPAC for 1995 according to Lindsay Granger, YANQ's delegate on the AYPAC Board.

Other priorities are a continuation of AYPAC's Income Support and Rural/Remote campaigns, the development of a consistent national government policy on youth suicide, and the promotion of job creation strategies as a key component of the government's employment programs for young people.

The voting age campaign got under way as an outcome of AYPAC's July conference, Youth Gathering '94. The proposal envisages young people being able to register to vote at any time between their sixteenth and eighteenth birthdays. By the age of eighteen, they must be enrolled, which should encourage young people to exercise their right to vote. The campaign will be promoted in conjunction with the next Federal election and 1995 state and territory elections in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales and Queensland.

AYPAC is also campaigning for job creation programs. The recent announcement by Prime Minister Paul Keating that the government's unemployment target is five per cent by the year 2000 means that job creation must be used if young people are to be included in that target. Previous high growth periods in the Australian economy have not directly flowed on to increased employment for young people, especially those in the 15 to 19 years age group. Job creation must be kept on the political agenda if young people are to get fair employment opportunities.

For further information about AYPAC's campaigns, ring their office on (06) 241 8055 or contact Lindsay Granger at YANQ on (07) 852 1800 or 1800 177 899.

# Young people at risk: Access, prevention and action

Young people at risk: Access, Prevention and Action is a young people's program aimed at the prevention of self harming and suicidal behaviour amongst young people. The program has been developed by Queensland Health in response to a clearly identified community need. Suicide is one of the leading causes of death amongst young people and an issue of great concern to the community.

Statewide consultations conducted in October - November 1992, to support the development of a health policy for young people in Queensland, revealed that in all 13 Queensland Health Regions, there was a consistency in the priority placed on mental health issues and suicide amongst young people. In fact, mental health (including suicide and self harming behaviour) was rated as the most important issue for young people in Queensland.

As a Government new initiative, this program receives funding for three years, with \$1.5 million allocated in 1994/1995. The funding will be directed to the four Regional Health Authorities participating in the project - South West, Wide Bay, Brisbane South, and West Moreton. These four regions will establish pilot programs, which will provide the opportunity for the development of a number of different intervention models to address diverse community needs.

The program plans to use an approach which will empower and resource local communities to respond to their young people at risk or in crisis. It aims to increase young people's access to early intervention and support services, before a crisis situation arises; ensure that local communities respond effectively to young people at risk; and reduce suicidal and self harming behaviour amongst young people.

Suicide is a complex issue, and can't be brought down to a basic checklist for determining who is at risk. For this reason, the program will target young people at risk who may be vulnerable, in a condition of confusion, feeling helpless, isolated and contemplating suicide as an option. Ultimately however, for any program of this nature to be successful, it must be accessible to all young people.

A primary health care approach which promotes active community involvement in the prevention of self

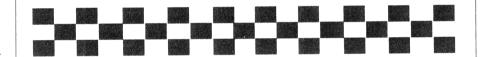
harming and suicidal behaviour amongst young people has been adopted with this program. Participation by local people is an integral component. The program will complement existing mental health services for young people in Queensland, and will strengthen links between mainstream and community

based services, and promote early intervention and referral.

Steven Drew - Queensland Health

For more information about this program, please contact Steven Drew, Senior Policy Officer with the Youth Health Policy Unit on (07) 234 0759.

# Young People and the Police: Research and Consultation Project



"Young People and the Police" is a national research project initiated and funded by the Australian Youth Foundation. The project's aim is to devise minimum safeguards for young people who come into contact with the police. Although it is widely accepted that young people are vulnerable and require special protection when under police control, existing laws and policies have been criticised for lacking rigour, being loosely framed and difficult to enforce. There are also concerns about the adequacy of current arrangements for making complaints against the police when the rights of young people are abused.

The Australian Youth Foundation is committed to promoting young people's rights through the adoption of legislation based upon the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Australia is a signatory to this Convention.

Two papers are available which are intended to prompt debate on the subject of young people and the police. The first invites readers to give their views on how best to provide protection for young people when undergoing procedures such as questioning, searches and name checks. The second paper sets out some possible draft laws to cover these different areas of concern. The draft laws are modelled on the Convention on the Rights of the Child but also take into account some "best practice" examples from Australian and overseas legislation and the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

Copies of the papers are available in hard copy, Braille, audiotape and on IBM compatible disk.

Contact Harry Blagg or Meredith Wilkie, Research Consultants, Youth Legal Service, PO Box 8505, Perth WA 6000 ☎ (09) 227 4140

# Who is treating the Dependent's Dependents?



The family environment has a very powerful influence on a young person's development. Society relies on the family unit to provide children with their essential physical, emotional, social and psychological needs. Not all families provide these needs. Whilst society recognises the importance of family and of children there are not enough services which cater for children, and those that do exist are often limited by their resources.

Holyoake: The Queensland Institute on Alcohol and Addictions established the Young People's Program to provide an ongoing commitment to the treatment and counselling of young people who have been or are being affected by the alcohol or drug misuse of a family member or significant other who plays an important role in their lives.

Clinical evidence and statistics indicate that more than 50 per cent of alcoholics or partners of alcoholics come from a family situation where there was an alcohol or drug dependency problem. Holyoake believe that every member of these families has a right to be helped to understand, to cope and to overcome this history. The Young People's Program can break the cycle and give young people a chance for a positive and productive future.

The program caters for people between 5 and 18 years. It is designed to provide information and link it to the young

person's own experiences, feelings and issues. The focus is on increasing the young person's understanding of alcohol or other drug misuse and the effects this misuse has on a family dynamics, and on the role the young person plays in the family. Through the facilitation of a counsellor, the young people are assisted to develop appropriate coping strategies, problem solving skills and stress management techniques in a safe and supportive peer structured environment. The group context aims to enhance the young person's self esteem, self perception and to provide support. The young people are also encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour at an appropriate development level.

The inaugural Queensland Holyoake Young People's Program commenced in October 1994. The program runs for a period of ten weeks, with individual counselling also available. The next program is scheduled for February 1995. Holyoake also offers a co-dependency program for those who are over the age of 18.

Darren Armitage

If you would like further information about the program contact Darren Armitage, Program Coordinator, Young People's Program, or Joan Quinn, Program Coordinator, Codependents Program (07) 356 0686



A new publishing, marketing and distribution business has been launched on the Sunshine Coast. Prodigal Press is unique in that it is actually an arm of an existing welfare based service.

Established through Sunshine Coast Youth and Family Service (SCYFS), all profits from the operation of Prodigal Press are used to help needy families and young people on the Sunshine Coast. Currently SCYFS provides education, employment placement, counselling, crisis accommodation and medium to long term accommodation for young people and young families on the Sunshine Coast.

A special grant scheme will also be set up to allow other services and young people to access a portion of these profits for innovative projects outside the ambit of traditional government funding sources.

The service has access to the latest expertise in print and computer technology and will also act as a conduit for many of the gifted young artists and writers on the Coast.

For more information about Prodigal Press, contact Richard Valentine, Coordinator at SCYFS Media and Education Unit, PO Box 271, Maroochydore 4558 (074) 439 329

# ACOSS calls for payment reforms for young people

ACOSS has called for a thorough reform of payments to young people and students, and this has been endorsed by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Community Services in its recent Discussion Paper on Homelessness. ACOSS agrees with the Committee's view that tighter eligibility requirements for the proposed Youth Training Allowance. for homeless and independent young people, have not been adequately justified by the government.

The Discussion Paper was released in anticipation of government legislation to replace unemployment allowances for 16 and 17 year old people with a new Youth Training Allowance. ACOSS President, Robert Fitzgerald, said that 'the Committee agrees with ACOSS that inconsistencies with payments for young unemployed people and students leads to confusion and disincentives to study, and that the proposed Youth Training Allowance will not resolve these problems'.

The government's proposal would:

- establish a Youth Training Allowance to replace unemployment allowances for 16 and 17 year olds;
- restrict additional payments of this allowance for homeless and independent young people by introducing stricter tests of "homelessness" and "independence". This would mean that many unemployed young people would have their benefits cut by \$43 per week down to \$66 per week (the Youth Training Allowance rate for young people living at home):
- remove some of the anomalies between unemployment allowances and AUSTUDY, particularly by paying rent assistance to homeless students;

speed the processing of AUSTUDY claims.

The Committee's Discussion Paper expresses concerns about a number of issues. It is concerned at proposals to tighten up the eligibility requirements of "homeless" or "independent" rates for unemployed young people under the proposed Youth Training Allowance. The anomalies between youth payments would still remain. It is also concerned over the transfer of legislative responsibility for the payment for unemployed young people from the Department of Social Security to the Department of Employment, Education and Training.

ACOSS also has a number of concerns, including:

- students who are fully independent of their parents will still not receive Rent Assistance;
- the government is unrealistic in expecting young unemployed people, who have left home, to wait for 26 weeks and to have found employment for at least 20 hours a week for at least 13 weeks before they will be regarded as "independent";
- many part-time students will still not be entitled to either AUSTUDY or Youth Training Allowance;
- administrative arrangements for the Youth Training Allowance are complex and confusing. It will be paid by the Department of Social Security under legislation and guidelines drafted by the Department of Employment, Education and Training;
- young people leaving home would not be regarded as "homeless" unless they can demonstrate that they have actually experienced domestic violence or sexual harassment or similar harsh

treatment. Young people at risk of domestic violence should not have to wait until they actually experience it before they can leave home. It is also unreasonable to expect young people to continue to live with their parents where there is a long history of intense conflict within the family.

The government has tinkered with the system of youth payments for a decade now. The Youth Training Allowance will not remove all of the anomalies and inconsistencies between youth payments. AUSTUDY payments should be transferred to the more efficient and effective social security system, as called for by ACOSS, student groups and two previous parliamentary inquiries. At the very least, Rent Assistance should be extended to students living independently of their parents, and AUSTUDY should be opened up to part-time students.

The existing social security guidelines for homeless payments strike a reasonable balance between the needs of young people, the rights of their parents, and the interests of taxpayers. These guidelines should continue under the Youth Training Allowance and be extended to AUSTUDY payments, with the following changes:

- a temporary payment should be made to young people who state that they are homeless (for, say, six weeks), to give the department more time to investigate claims thoroughly and the young person more time to reconsider;
- entitlement to homeless payments should not cease as soon as a parent provides some financial support, so that there is a better chance of reconciliation where that is desired

Reprinted from *Impact*, the ACOSS newsletter, October 1994



INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS TO BE APPROVED AS

# Community **Activity Program** Providers

The Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) is implementing a labour market program the Community Activity Program (CAP) to assist unemployed people.

CAP helps unemployed people by providing an opportunity for them to undertake a part-time work placement. Eligible jobseekers are referred by the CES to positions of 15–20 hours for 26 weeks. Many CAP participants will be working with a case manager to improve their motivation skills and help them back into employment. Positions involve hands-on, supervised work placements with not-for-profit community based organisations. Participants continue to receive their Social Security income support during participation on the program and are paid a CAP allowance. Providers are paid a payment of \$10 per participant per week for the duration of the placement.

Applications are invited from not-for-profit community based organisations to provide CAP positions.

Organisations must be prepared to provide positions within their own organisation. The payment to providers is to assist with costs related to providing CAP positions and is paid directly to the providers.

Proposals from organisations will be assessed by DEET according to specified criteria.

Organisations who wish to be considered for approval as a provider for 1994-95 can obtain further information and a Provider Proposal form by contacting:

> Ms Dale Farnell/Ms Bev Crosby **DEET Area Coastal Qld** PO Box 6068 Upper Mt Gravatt QLD 4122 Ph (07) 360 1669/213 1801 Fax (07) 231 1899

> > Mr Joe Leggett DEET Area Central Qld Locked Bag 1325 GPO Brisbane QLD 4001 Ph (07) 226 9505 Fax (07) 226 9622

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT. **EDUCATION AND** TRAINING

# New Committee member...

Name:

Denise McKeon

Occupation:

Training Development Executive

Place of Work:

Youth Sector Training Council

Star Sign:

# Brief training and work history:

- · Many years in DEET including working as Youth Officer, Manager of Youth Access Centre, Regional Trainer, Youth Executive Officer for Queensland and participation in many national projects groups and working parties relating to young people.
- · Currently studying computing.

# Special skills/interests in the youth field:

Employment and training

### Most loved food:

Chocolate, chocolate and chocolate

### Most hated food:

Seafood

### Favourite female:

Katharine Hepburn

### Favourite male:

Daniel Day Lewis and/or Keanu Reeves

### Favourite movie:

Red Shoes

# What is the best thing you have ever done?

Taken up tap dancing

# Who would you most like to meet?

Stephen J Hawking

# What word/s might other people use to describe you?

I have no idea

# What word/s would you use to describe yourself?

# What is your idea of perfect happiness?

Health, wealth and world peace

# What do you procrastinate most often about?

# What makes you feel most depressed?

Endless rainy days

# What trait do you most deplore in yourself?

# What trait do you most deplore in others?

Dishonesty

# What is your greatest regret?

That I haven't travelled more

# What one thing would improve the quality of your life?

Time and money to travel

# Which talent would you most like to have?

To be able to sing

# How would you like to be remembered?

As having been worth knowing

# About NESBYIN...

The Non-English Speaking Background Youth Issues Network (NESBYIN) is a community based coalition which addresses issues affecting young people from NESB.

Susan Ferguson has recently been appointed to the position of Project Officer at YANQ, and will be working with NESBYIN, resourcing its ongoing development through a twelve month project funded under the Migrant Access Project Scheme.

NESBYIN consists of interested workers from the youth sector, as well as community members from different NESB communities. The group meets monthly, mostly at YANQ. However, meetings do occur in regional areas.

The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday the 24th of January, from

3.00pm - 5.00pm, at YANQ, 36 Baxter St, Fortitude Valley.

NESBYIN has input into government policy around the needs of NESB young people. Recent involvement has centred around a reference group which has been set up by the Bureau of Ethnic Affairs. The aims of this reference group are to encourage policy development, and raise the profile of the needs and issues for young people from NESB to government. The reference group has representatives from various government departments, NESBYIN and the South East Queensland Youth Accommodation Coalition (SEOYAC).

For more information about the next meeting or NESBYIN, please call Susan at YANQ. She can be contacted every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, on (07) 852 1800 or 1 800 177 899.

# New developments in the NESB youth issues field

Migrant Women's Emergency Support Service (MWESS) has also recently appointed a project worker, Erica Fernandez, for one year.

The dual aims of Erica's project are to work with young women from NESB in order to enhance their educational and employment opportunities, as well as with mainstream workers to ensure the provision of appropriate services to young women from NESB. Erica will be working in the Inala, Darra and Goodna areas, but will be based at MWESS. She can be contacted for further information, on (07) 844 8457.

The project is funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Training under the Youth Strategy Action Grants. The project is a continuation of the projects MWESS has previously undertaken in the NESB Youth Sector, and is a response to their recent Youth Access Project. This project documented the barriers to accessing youth services that young people from NESB experience. A report of the project, Working with Diversity, is available from MWESS.

1994 has seen the development of several new and exciting initiatives for young people from NESB. However, the hard work has just begun. We encourage interested individuals and organisations to actively support these new projects and the work of NESBYIN. We look forward to hearing from you and wish you all the best for the holiday season. See you at YANQ on the 24th of January, at the NESB Youth Issues Network meeting.

Come and celebrate the end of 1994 with YANQ, YSTC and SEQYAC at our end of year Christmas bash.

**Where:** 1st floor, 36 Baxter Street, Fortitude Valley

**When:** Friday, 23 December, 1994

Time: 4.00pm onwards

We look forward to seeing you there!!

# Health

# Focusing on drug

# Having their say...

Working with
young people
on the
Brisbane
Youth
Service
Drug and
Alcohol
project

While research into the drug taking behaviour of Australians – particularly young Australians – has reached almost epidemic proportions, the drug and alcohol issues of young homeless and at risk people remain largely unexplored.

Brisbane Youth Service (BYS), with its ethos of working with and advocating for disadvantaged young people in the city and inner suburbs of Brisbane, identified this gap in knowledge and sought funding from the Queensland Health Promotion Council to carry out a needs assessment among young homeless and at risk people in Brisbane city, Fortitude Valley and the inner suburbs. The information obtained in this research project will be used to inform future projects and strategies designed to target this group.

BYS has committed to a process of participatory action research (PAR) – research which involves all relevant parties in actively examining together current action in order to change and improve it. BYS had made the decision when they applied for funding to employ young people who were familiar with homelessness and the use of drugs and alcohol by young homeless people. A project coordinator has been appointed and is working with a

team of two young researchers, who actively participate in all decisions made regarding the project.

Input has also come from the young people who access BYS on a regular basis. This feedback has been

invaluable in providing a young person's perspective.

The team is currently conducting interviews with the target group to get a clearer understanding of what the issues are for these young people. A target of 50 interviews with young people has been set, and it looks as though this will be reached. The interviews will hopefully be finished by 9 December, however this date is flexible, as is the whole process!

As coordinator of the project, Anne Coleman has found it a great challenge but also a great delight to be a part of the research team. "I approached the project with a commitment to the process and to the idea of young people as a central part of the project. What I had not anticipated was the way in which the project has already been enriched by the participation of the young people who have been involved.

"Young people are the experts – they are homeless and at risk, and out there living it. If we can find the courage to admit we do not understand, and the humility to ask for help, then we have in sight the solution to addressing drug and alcohol issues in an appropriate and relevant way."

Anyone interested in

being paid for an interview, who is between 12 and 25 years, homeless and/or at risk and currently using drugs or alcohol, can contact Anne Coleman at BYS on (07) 254 1131.



# issues

# and alcohol research

# DARTS - Drug and alcohol response teams

DARTS is a new program targeted at promoting wellbeing and working to reduce alcohol and drug related problems in communities.

The program provides a framework and resources for human service workers to support volunteers in the community in running short term community action projects.

Few people in Australia today live a truly drug-free lifestyle and drug misuse or abuse often accompanies other social problems. It is related to a disproportionate number of hospital admissions, crime, suicide, domestic violence, industrial accidents, the road toll and a host of other problems which particularly affect young people, the aged, women, NESB groups and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

This is a major social and economic problem that needs a response from everyone - government, service clubs, youth groups, parents, students, hoteliers, churches, businesses, sporting clubs - the wider community as a whole.

DARTS provides a structure for those concerned about alcohol and drug problems to learn about and actively work towards reducing these problems



in their local community, school or workplace. It works with community and human service workers to establish, train and support small teams of volunteers in running short term projects (three to six months) that address local issues they have identified. It is based on health promotion principles and is consistent with Primary Health Care Initiatives.

DARTS should have a multiplying effect within the community by giving volunteers community development skills that are an ongoing resource. Individuals will also be empowered to take more responsibility for their own personal and social wellbeing.

DARTS Project Officers are currently developing the resources and completing the groundwork for the program, including making initial contact with the community and human service workers in the field. The program will

be trialled in three communities in South East Queensland from February 1995, with the program going statewide after July 1995.

The DARTS Program is an initiative of the Alcohol and Drug Foundation -Queensland (ADFQ), funded by the Health Promotion Council of Queensland.

For further information on the DARTS program, please contact the DARTS Project Officers at ADFQ on (07) 831 4094 Fax (07) 832 2527

# Certain Uncertainty

Improving drugs training for workers with young people

A new report presented by the Australian Drug Foundation Written by Christine Burrows and Roger Hearn

Available for \$24.95 from the Australian Drug Foundation, PO Box 529, South Melbourne, VIC 3205 **22** (03) 690 6000 Fax (03) 690 3271



# Regional Interagency Meetings

# January/February 1995



Cairns Region Youth Services Network

19 January 1995 at 3.30pm Family Resource Centre 218 McLeod St. Cairns

Contact Donna Moore C/- Youth Access Centre PO Box 1108, Caims 4870 PH: (070) 422 242

Mt Isa Youth Forum

31 January 1995 at 2.00pm DTSR Office, Mt Isa

Contact Sue Matthew C/- DTSR PO Box 1605 Mt Isa 4825 PH: (077) 432 130

SunCoast Youthworkers Forum

19 January 1995 at 10.00am The Place, Beach Street, Maroochydore

Contact Patrice O'Callaghan C/- Youth Access Centre PO Box 1174 Maroochydore 4558 PH: (074) 439 661

Toowoomba Youth Interagency

Not available

Contact Ed Bradbury
Department of Education
PO Box 775
Toowoomba 4350
PH: (076) 384 899

Regional
Queensland
Interagency
Meetings

Grapevine Youth Info Centre Committee

Not available Grapevine Youth Centre

Contact Frances Jones C/- Grapevine Youth Centre 147 Goondoon St Gladstone 4680 PH: (079) 725 383

Gold Coast Youth Network

25 January 1995 at 10.00am Gold Coast Youth Service 15 Oak Ave, Miami

Contact Kerry Schonfisch Gold Coast Youth Service PO Box 740 Burleigh Heads 4220 PH: (075) 720 400

Magnetic North Youth Service

Not available

**Providers** 

Contact Sylvia Fisher C/- DFSAIA PO Box 5941 MSO Townsville 4810 PH: (077) 221 476 Rockhampton Youth Interagency

10 January 1995 at 12.00pm Youth Access Centre, Fitzroy Street, Rockhampton

Contact Cheryl Greene C/-Skillshare Capricornia Customs House/Quay St Rockhampton 4700 PH: (079) 222 352

**Bundaberg Youth Forum** 

1 February 1995 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

Beaudesert Interagency

15 February 1995 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

Mackay Youth Connection

18 January 1995 at 3.00pm Venue to be decided

Contact Lloyd Rees C/- Youth Employment Service PO Box 139 Mackay 4740 PH: (079) 518 861



# Regional Interagency Meetings

# January/February 1995



Western Suburbs Interagency

24 January 1995 at 3.30pm (Venue to be determined)

Contact Andrea Devine

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

Not available Caboolture Community Care Services, King Street

Contact Jacky Davies

C/- Youth Access Centre PO Box 1180 Caboolture 4510 PH: (074) 957 588 Logan Youth Interagency

31 January 1995 at 3.00pm C'wealth Centre, Cnr Ewing Rd and Carmody St, Woodridge

Contact Pat Taylor

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

Wynnum Youth Interagency

9 February 1995 at 2.00pm DSS Office, Bay Terrace Wynnum

Contact Bev Cooper

C/- Youth Access Centre 7 Ross Court Bloomfield St Cleveland 4164 PH: (07) 821 2887 South East Queensland Interagency Meetings Brisbane Youth Interagency

11 January 1995 at 3.00pm (Venue to be determined)

Contact Andrea Devine

C/- Youth Access Centre PO Box 67 Indooroopilly 4068 PH: (07) 821 2917

Inala Youth Interagency LARGEFLY

Not available Inala Youth Access Centre Inala Plaza

Contact Zim Sully

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

8 February 1995 at 12.00pm Ipswich Health Plazq Bell Street, Ipswich

Contact Russell Cunning

C/- JPET West Moreton PO Box 309 Goodna 4300 PH: (07) 818 3365 North Albert Youth Interagency

1 February 1995 at 3.00pm DFSAIA 100 George St, Beenleigh

Contact Graham Higgs

C/- Beenleigh Skillshare PO Box 1024 Beenleigh 4027 PH: (07) 807 5614



# 1995 Australian Youth Initiatives Grants Program

(Previously comprising Youth Strategy Action Grants Program and National Youth Grants Program)

The Youth Bureau is calling for applications from organisations seeking funding under the 1995 Australian Youth Initiatives Grants (AYIG) Program.

The 1995 AYIG Program will provide an opportunity for interested parties to develop and trial innovative strategies in order to assist disadvantaged young people gain access to employment, education and training options.

In keeping with current Government policy, the 1995 AYIG Program is encouraging cooperative ventures between the private sector, community organisations, State/Territory governments and the Commonwealth.

Funding will be targeted to Identified Regions based on high levels of long term unemployed (or at risk of being long term unemployed) young people (under 21 years old) including young people who are homeless; Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders; ex-offenders; from a non-English speaking background; with a disability; from a rural or remote location; and women.

For 1995 AYIG Program Guidelines, 1995 AYIG Application Forms and information related to the Identified Regions contact the Youth Bureau on (toll free) 1800 065 159 or (06) 240 8457.

Applications close on 5 January 1995.

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING



# **Brisbane City**

# Community Development Assistance Grants

The Brisbane City Council invites interested community groups to participate in the enhancement of livability and social justice in the City.

A total of \$250,000 is available for grants which provide significant benefit to the communities in Brisbane. This can be achieved by:-

 maximising equitable access to employment, transport, housing and community services; and

 developing new ways to respond to long-standing social issues, emerging issues and rapid change.

A range of projects, from small to large and short term to long term, will be considered.

The grants scheme will be launched at 9am, Thursday 1 December at City Hall.

Interested community groups should seek further information from relevant Community Services staff. For guidelines, application forms, contacts and details of the launch please phone the Grants Officer on 225 5457.

Applications close 13 January, 1995.

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# position vacant

TRAINING POLICY OFFICER, Youth Bureau: Brisbane - 533,097-536,397 p.a. – VRN: TS 62/94. The Youth Bureau co-ordinates youth affairs across Government in its capacity as the youth lead agency as well as managing the Department's Statewide Youth Program. The Bureau co-ordinates major Statewide Projects, supports collaborative policy and program approaches with other agencies and administers a Grant scheme to support programs for young people and the development of the youth sector. The Position: To assist with the development of policy relating to training within the youth sector and provide policy advice within the Youth Bureau and across Government. The Person: You will need to demonstrate: • Policy research and analytical skills. • Interpersonal, consultation and negotiation skills with demonstrated ability to liaise with various client groups. • Knowledge of or the ability to acquire knowledge of policies relating to youth affairs and youth sector training issues. • Knowledge and proven skills in the delivery of training and development programs. Note: This position is temporary until 30 June 1995. Enquiries: Further information regarding the position, after perval of the Position Description, may be obtained from Lynn Sawtell, telephone (07) 224 7869.

# APPLICATIONS

Position Description can be obtained by telephoning (07) 237 1811. **Applications** should be forwarded to: Vacancy Processing Officer. Human Resource Management Unit, Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing, GPO Box 354, Brisbane Qld 4001.

Closing Date: 5.00pm, Monday, 9th January, 1995.

# funding

# funding

# workshops

# Placement Projects

# Grant fund applications (Maximum \$45,000)

The Queensland Government's Community Jobs and Training Program provides grants for community-based job training and placement projects.

# Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, organisations must:

- be legally incorporated or auspiced by an incorporated body
- be community-focused and managed
- have the capacity to deliver effective programs and link funding directly to specified outcomes
- have a sound understanding of the needs of unemployed people, particularly disadvantaged job seekers including members of EEO target groups
- demonstrate a knowledge of local labour market needs, opportunities and placement methods
- be a non-profit organisation

Job Training and Placement Project grants currently have a maximum funding level of \$45,000.

# **Applications**

Organisations wishing to receive funding prior to June 30, 1995 should submit their applications *no later than January 31, 1995*.

Applicants may submit more than one project for funding. Each must be submitted separately.

Grant details and submission guidelines will be forwarded on request by contacting:

The Program Officer Employment Equity Branch Tel: (07) 858 5142 or (07) 858 5138 Fax: (07) 367 2891



EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

Department of Employment, Vocational Education, Training and Industrial Relations

F2827C

# Youth Sector Training Needs Workshops

As part of the Queensland Youth Sector Training Needs Project, workshops are being conducted for workers with young people, to have input into the direction of training for workers with young people and to gain information about the impact of the Training Reform Agenda on the Youth Sector.

# Dates in February 1995

Feb

1	Gold Coast	9am-12.30pm
6	Mt Isa	9am-12.30pm
7	Townsville	9am-12 30nm

7 Townsville 9am-12.30pm 8 Cairns 9am-12.30pm 13 Rockhampton 1-4.30pm

13 Rockhampton 1-4.30pm 14 Mackay 1-4.30pm 17 Inswich 14.30pm

17 Ipswich 1-4.30pm 21 Maroochydore 9am-12.30pm

Bundaberg
 Fortitude Valley
 9am-12.30pm
 9am-12.30pm

27 Toowoomba 9am-12.30pm

28 Logan 1-4.30pm

For more information, contact Brett Knopke, Youth Sector Training Council ☎ (07) 852 2311.

# Parent/Adolescent Mediation Training

This course is aimed at people working with young people and deals with conflict situations between parents and adolescents. Participants attend three days of training and one follow-up day.

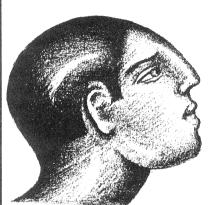
Dates: 13-15 March 1994

27-29 March 1994

Venue: To be determined (Brisbane Northside)

For further information contact Kristina Farrell, Pine Rivers Youth Services Providers Network ☎ (07) 205 0559

# Resource kit on sexual abuse of young men



From strength to strength
Working with young men who have
been sexually abused

Male sexual assault is one of our society's last taboo subjects. To suggest that the abuse of males may be as common as the abuse of females challenges some of the basic myths of our society. The subject of male sexual abuse challenges the popular myths that males can look after themselves, that they are tough and strong, and that abuse is always directed against females.

From strength to strength is a resource kit

designed to break down some of those myths.

Written specifically for youth workers, From strength to strength looks at the facts about male sexual assault and offers practical suggestions about how to work with young men who have been abused.

### This kit will help you to:

- understand the effects of male sexual assault, and the difficulties young men have in disclosing
- work effectively with young men who are coming to terms with their assault
- · answer the most common questions about male sexual assault
- · challenge the common myths about male sexual assault
- understand the legal implications of reporting sexual assault
- take care of yourself while you are working with young men

Available for \$15 per kit from YSTC ☎ (07) 852 2311.



# BodyTalk

Body talk is a multilingual resource for health educators. The nine charts cover areas associated with reproductive health and are available in nine community languages - Arabic, Chinese, Croatian, Greek, Italian, Macedonian, Serbian, Spanish and Vietnamese. They are also available in English. The charts are produced in full colour, and spiral bound for display.

Available for \$65 from Healthrites Bookshop, Family Planning NSW, 328-336 Liverpool Road, Ashfield NSW 2131

# Youth Subcultures - Theory, History and the Australian Experience

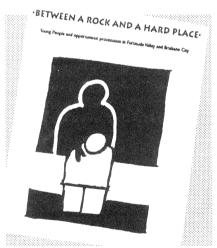
The second in the YSA Resource series, Youth Subcultures provides an overview and survey of the work presently being done in Australia on youth subcultures and youth cultural activity.

Available for \$28 from National Clearinghouse for Youth Studies, GPO Box 252C, Hobart Tas 7001. 

☎ (002) 202 591

# Between a Rock and a Hard Place:

Young People and Opportunistic Prostitution in Fortitude Valley and Brisbane City



This resource reports on a three-month project to investigate the experiences and needs of young people practising opportunistic prostitution. It was based on a participatory process and 30 young people were interviewed. A set of 16 recommendations are included, along with an implementation plan for major recommendations.

Available from Brisbane Youth Service ☎ (07) 254 1131.

# 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 450 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- emment** sector and entitles you to: • nominate for the Coordinating Committee & Policy Forum • full voting right; • 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.

MEMBERSHIP FEES PER ANNUM				
Young Person		\$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		
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Membership fees are due and payable on a calendar year basis (covering the period 1 January - 31 December)

YANQ MEMBERSHIP /	SUBSCRI	PTION FOR	M				
(Contact) Name:							
Organisation / Dept:							
Postal Address: Code:							
Street Address: Code:							
Ph: ( )	Fax: ( )						
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY APPLIED FOR							
Individual   Income < \$16,000   N-G	Organisation	No Funding Funding < \$100,000 Funding > \$100,000	\$10.00 \$40.00 \$60.00				
Young Person \$5.00	Government Dep	partment or Service	\$75.00				
SUBSCRIBERS Transitions & Network Noise only S60.00							
Please tick if appropriate ATSI individual/organisation		NESB individual/organisation					
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							