



Network Noise

Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

January-February 1998

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Reconciliation now



Have you always wanted to be more involved with the reconciliation process but didn't know how? Then this publication is for you. The Australian Youth Policy and Action Coalition (AYPAC) has just released this valuable resource, *Compact '98 - Youth Sector Compact of Commitment to Reconciliation*, which describes reconciliation and how individuals and groups can get involved.

The timing of the release of *Compact '98* couldn't be more significant. 1997 was an eventful, and, at times, disappointing year for Australia's indigenous peoples. The year saw the release of *Bringing Them Home*, the report on the Inquiry into the Stolen Generation; the Australian Reconciliation Convention in May; and the release of the Wik 10-point plan. The Wik legislation is due to be returned to the House of Representatives early in the year for further debate. So this document, targeted for use by young people, youth workers, youth organisations and statewide and national organisations who want to be more actively involved in supporting the reconciliation process, is extremely timely.

This book describes the reconciliation process, including its history, and sets out in clear easy steps how individuals and organisations can be involved. Whether prior involvement has been negligible or intricate, whether you know many indigenous organisations and individuals or none, *Compact '98* is a clear guide to being more involved in the process.

YANQ will use the document to guide its own work toward achieving the shared vision of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation:

'A united Australia, which respects this land of ours, values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, and provides justice and equity for all'.

YANQ believes *Compact '98* offers an opportunity to consolidate on past work and take a more active role in reconciliation in the Queensland youth sector. Copies of *Compact '98* are being sent out to all YANQ members.

If you require any further copies, or more information, please call AYPAC direct on (02) 6247 1666.

Penny Carr

Network Noise

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CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

Ring, write, e-mail or fax
your latest news on

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

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12 March 1998

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(until next time...)

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

State Government Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy

The draft Queensland Government Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy released in September last year has been endorsed without change by Cabinet.

Over 200 responses were received by Queensland Health with a significant proportion of these indicating a need for the Government to commit resources to implement the strategy. Congratulations to the many community youth organisations and community groups who found time to develop their own response, or contributed to the response submitted jointly between Brisbane Youth Service and YANQ.

The Government has allocated one million dollars recurrently to progress the strategy. However, it remains unclear how this money is to be spent.

YANQ continues to advocate for an adequate allocation of resources to ensure the Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy is implemented and becomes an active document that guides governments and the community in addressing youth suicide.

Sandra Fields

Update on the Queensland Government's Statement on Youth Affairs

Late last year the Office of Youth Affairs released a draft Statement on Youth Affairs. A document has been approved by Cabinet and is currently at the printers. The Office of Youth Affairs anticipates circulating this document around the state in February.

Youth Futures Focus Network

The Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane, the Very Reverend Peter Hollingworth, has received a grant from Queensland Health to create five 'model community networks' encompassing Roma, Rockhampton, Bowen, Ipswich and the Gold Coast.

These networks will form part of the 100 community networks included as part of the Queensland Government's Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy. The Queensland Youth Future Focus Network (YFFN) has been formed and is being hosted by the Employment Action Centre in Woolloongabba, with Keith Hamburger as the Executive Director.

YANQ holds a position on the YFFN, along with other peak bodies, community agencies, sporting organisations, academic institutions and other invited groups. YANQ has been working closely with the YFFN in raising awareness of existing youth interagencies and networks throughout the state including specific sub-groups and committees already addressing the issue of youth suicide prevention.

Young people's participation has also been a key issue YANQ continues to raise and is encouraging the development of innovative and inclusive network models.

For further information please contact Keith Hamburger on (07) 3891 5966.

Sandra Fields

New material

The Anti-Discrimination Council of Queensland has produced a number of new multimedia publications, including brochures, postcards, posters, videos and a website.

For further details, please contact Margo Couldrey on (07) 3239 3365.

Equity principles for school students

Equity in schools - for all students - looks like becoming a reality, following the equity forum *Telling Tales About Schools*, which was held by the Queensland School Curriculum Council (QSCC) in November last year.

The outcome of the forum is a set of equity principles which will be developed to underpin the syllabuses and assessment for all subject areas from Years 1-10.

Submissions for the equity forum were made from various groups and individuals within the community to highlight, discuss and raise issues such as poverty, racism, homophobia, disability, gender inequities and other issues. Many personal stories were told, and this was a fantastic opportunity to hear voices not part of the mainstream.

Kay Bolden, the representative from the gender and cultural unit in the Education Queensland on the equity forum working party, said there were many issues to consider in looking broadly at equity issues.

'Those of us on the working party were aware that there's a huge range of issues that need to be addressed. One of our concerns when choosing which submissions would be presented at the forum was to make sure that some of the voices that are not normally heard did have a go,' she said.

Presentations included a young woman talking about distance education, a slide presentation about students with intellectual disabilities, students from Milperra school talking about learning in a multicultural school, and students from Biloela TAFE talking about their experience as Aboriginal students. YANQ's own Susan Ferguson was on the panel looking at racism, and Darlene Corry was part of the Diverse Student Safe

School presentation, which looked at homophobia in schools and one young man's experience of being queer at school.

Education Minister Bob Quinn said, 'The stories highlighted the importance of carefully listening to the personal experiences of students and the importance of looking to the past to better understand how the curriculum can disadvantage students.'

Kay said 'What I hope it will mean is that there will need to be an understanding that no curriculum is value-free or value-neutral, that the curriculum reflects a set of understandings, a set of attitudes that exist in a society at a particular moment in time. Unless there is a critical gaze applied to curriculum, its content tends to reflect the most powerful groups in society at that time.

'A set of social justice principles will look at ways to disrupt the stranglehold of the most powerful on the curriculum. It is also to draw the attention of people who will write programs to the whole range of issues to consider, if they are really going to cater to the diverse range of students,' she said.

Along with the public forum, there was also a closed forum where the council and participating advisory committees met. The main outcome from the equity forum was beginning the process of developing broad principles on ways to disrupt inequitable outcomes for particular groups of students, to inform and challenge curriculum, curriculum development and assessment.

The working party that organised the forum included representatives from the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Equity Matters, the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Schools in a Changing Society and the Queensland Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander Education Consultative Committee.

'The experience of schooling is so complex, that changing any single one of those elements can't, on its own, transform the whole experience. By the same token, it is difficult to change one element without that having a flow-on effect to other aspects of schooling,' Kay explained.

'I think that says a lot about the whole area of social justice in education, an analysis of who is left out will show that you end up with a really large group of voices that have very little status. The challenge is to allow these voices to be heard without setting them up in competition with each other. So it's about how to develop a framework for curriculum that allows the full range of experiences, where one voice isn't privileged over another.

'In the process of developing those principles, the QSCC will have to do a lot of consultation work with the stakeholders; the three school systems, all of the interest groups and students and parents. And that process itself allows a shift of thinking about the curriculum, that it's not just this fixed body of ways of understanding, or a fixed body of knowledge. Any curriculum at any time is the result of choices made by people in power. So if you want to change the curriculum, you need to allow access to people whose voices haven't been heard in the past. And that's why the forum was so important,' said Kay.

The next step in this process will be a report on the equity forum, which will be considered for further action at the next QSCC meeting on 19 February 1998.

For more information, please contact the QSCC executive office Lorraine Dinsey on (07) 3237 0794

Darlene Corry

Children and Families Bill 1997

Late last year the *Children and Families Bill 1997* was introduced into Parliament. This is the new child protection legislation to replace the *Children's Services Act 1965*. The Bill is due to be debated sometime after Parliament resumes in March.

The introduction of the Bill is welcome, since an update of the legislation was long overdue. Disappointingly, there was very little consultation on the draft of the Bill. However, YANQ has made comment on the Bill since it has been tabled.

A Summary:

The Bill defines children at risk or harm and sets out a range of different orders for children deemed to be in need of protection or suspected of being in need of protection. These orders are:

- a Temporary assessment orders:
 - up to three days
- a Court assessment orders:
 - up to 12 weeks
- a Child protection orders:
 - directives to parents; protective supervision by the Director-General(DG); custody of up to 2 years with DG or relative; long-term custody up to 18 years of age by the DG, a relative or another person.

It then sets out the obligations and rights of various parties involved in child protection orders. It sets out Children's Court proceedings and appeals processes, the regulation of alternative care and details confidentiality provisions.

The Bill itself is not easy to read and needs to be read from beginning to end for provisions further on to be understood.

YANQ set out a number of concerns in regard to the Bill in a submission to the government. It is unfortunate that better consultation was not held before the Bill was tabled in Parliament since some of these concerns could have been addressed outside of the cumbersome legislative process.

YANQ's concerns are summarised below:

◦ The definition of 'harm' is very broad, giving sweeping powers within the Bill which could result in unwarranted statutory intervention in minor incidences of harm. YANQ put forward the view that the term 'harm' should be further defined, either describing levels of harm or by describing the significance of harm on the long term well being of the child.

◦ There should be provision for separate legal representation for young people themselves.

◦ The Bill does not refer to the use of interpreters. YANQ believes that provision for the use of qualified interpreters where necessary should be within the Bill.

◦ The length of time a child at immediate risk can be taken into custody is too long. Provision exists for up to 24 hours custody without any further protection order being taken out. Under this section a police officer can make decisions on placements and medical interventions. YANQ does not agree that this is the role of the police. These decisions must be made, in the very least, in consultation with a representative of the chief executive.

◦ Section 19 gives police officers the power to take a child to a 'safe place'. There needs to be a system where the Department is informed of the safe places used by police to ensure they are appropriate placements.

◦ Section 20(3) excludes a professional from breaching professional ethics if they report cases of suspected child abuse they become aware of in working with children. However, a professional may already report suspected child abuse revealed in the course of their

duty if they believe the child is not old or mature enough to understand the meaning and consequences of a decision to report or not to report.

The children or young people affected by this are those of an age and maturity to make an informed decision. This section, then, takes away from that young person the power to make their own informed decision about reporting and breaches their trust with the professional worker. This clause should not be included.

◦ The Bill fails to clearly articulate what use is made of the temporary assessment and court assessment orders, why there is a need for both and under what circumstances either is used or what outcome is expected (e.g. reporting back to the court). YANQ is also opposed to the ability to constitute the Children's Court by two Justices for the purposes of decisions on court assessment orders and interim child protection orders. Justices are not trained in child protection issues.

◦ The duration of court assessment orders is far too long. In the Bill they can have a duration of up to 12 weeks.

◦ YANQ does not agree with the inclusion of sections 158 and 160. These sections exclude the Minister and chief executive from confidentiality provisions in relation to child protection cases.

YANQ will continue to discuss these issues with key members of parliament. If any YANQ members have input or questions in regard to these issues please call Penny at YANQ on (07) 3236 5400 or 1800 177 899.

To order copies of the Bill contact the Queensland government printer (GOPRINT) on (07) 3246 3399 or (outside of the Brisbane area) on 1800 679 778.

Penny Carr

'The Second Step' - trying to secure youth services in small rural communities

The Rural and Isolated Working Party have just released *The Second Step - A Proposal to Meet the Needs of Young People in Rural and Remote Areas of Queensland*.

This is the second document from the working party on the proposed cross-departmental pool funding to allow the development of youth services in small communities across the state.

The Second Step develops the ideas from the original proposal, suggests participatory action research as the method of service delivery, and discusses how this proposal fits with the Office of Youth Affairs' Rural and Remote strategy.

The two documents together propose a cross-departmental pool of funding, with contributions from

a number of departments that have service delivery responsibilities for young people. The proposal suggests one department has the coordination role and is responsible for ensuring all accountability requirements are met.

The biggest challenge in getting the proposal accepted is the need for new methods of funding and accountability. YANQ will continue to raise this proposal with parliamentarians, workers across the state, bureaucrats and anyone else who may be able to assist in having the proposal recognised and put into action.

If you have any questions about the Rural and Isolated Working Party or 'The Second Step' please call Penny at YANQ on (07) 3236 5400.

Penny Carr

Locum wanted

Youth Housing Project (YHP) provides externally supported accommodation to homeless young people aged from 16 - 20 years on Brisbane's northside. They are seeking a part-time (Monday - Wednesday, 19 hours per week) Youth Housing Support Worker, to locum for YHP from Monday 1 June - 28 October. Experience essential. If you are interested, experienced and available, please contact the Coordinator on (07) 3252 8022. CASH award applies.



A republic or a monarchy?

To date YANQ has not entered the debate on whether Australia should move to becoming a republic or not. The primary reason is that at this point YANQ has no clear direction from members on what its position should be.

To develop a position, YANQ would have to spend time and energy producing information, discussing republic/monarchy issues and liaising with members and the policy consultation delegates across the state.

There are obviously very many issues which YANQ could be further developing, yet as a small secretariat (four staff in total) we cannot pick up on all of them at the same time. We in the YANQ secretariat want to know if you believe the republic/monarchy debate is sufficiently important that we should begin to develop a position on it now. Please fax back the short questionnaire below to help us develop our priorities for work.

Thanks for your time!



Fax to YANQ on (07) 3236 5411 or e-mail to yanq@thehub.com.au

- ☐ Yes, I believe that YANQ should develop a position on the monarchy/republic debate.
- ☐ No, I do not believe YANQ should develop a position on the monarchy/republic debate.

Other comments:

Senza l'inglese c'e' poco opportunita' in questa 'lucky country' or

Lack of English translates to lack of opportunities in the 'lucky country'

Lack of sufficient opportunities to learn English in schools continues to plague the settlement of young people whose native language is not English.

A new group is being formed to try and address these problems. The group is called the Community English As a Second Language Advocacy Network (CESLAN). The group will be supported by YANQ through the work of the new NESB Policy and Network Officer.

Members of the Non English Speaking Background Youth Issues Network (NESBYIN) have been concerned for a number of years about the fact that many young people from non-English speaking backgrounds continue to have difficulty learning English due to insufficient time and resources allocated by both state and federal governments.

Lack of English language skills is still one of the biggest obstacles young people must overcome to reach their potential in Australia. Without the English language it is impossible to have the same chances as other Australians when looking for work, studying or simply making friends.

It takes years to become fully proficient in a language. Many young people when they first arrive in Australia have access to intensive English language support but this support drops off depending on the time a young person has been in the country, sometimes too early for a young person to learn enough to stay within the mainstream school system. Lack of English language skills for young people in schools affects the young person's ability to do well academically and causes

injury to a young person's self esteem, leading the young person to feel isolated and unintelligent.

Lack of opportunities to learn English amounts to discrimination as it interferes with a young person's ability to make full use of the same citizenship rights as other young people have in this country. The Community English as a Second Language Advocacy Network (CESLAN) is an important initiative, and YANQ welcomes your interest and involvement in addressing this problem.

If you are interested in being part of this working party, please ring YANQ on (07) 3236 5400 and ask for more information.

New Brisbane Youth Interagency

The Brisbane Youth Interagency has been reformed after a spell of almost three years. The Interagency is part of a strategy to improve the coordination of responses to marginalised young people's use of inner Brisbane. The role of the Interagency is to coordinate effectively with other sectors, address public space issues, respond to calls on a 24-hour phone referral service and to share information.

Membership of the interagency includes youth organisations and services, police and police liaison officers, security workers, and other interested people. Meetings are held monthly.

If you would like more details about dates and venues, please contact Sandra Fields at YANQ on (07) 3236 5400 or Sandra Williams at AICCA YACCA on (07) 3891 5300.

YANQ Receives Funding for Policy Forum

Thanks to the Community Benefit Fund's support, YANQ will hold a Policy Forum later this year. It is expected that the Policy Forum will run straight after the state Youth Affairs conference in September.

Over the last 18 months YANQ has been working with members on draft policies in a number of different areas and the Policy Forum is an avenue where the final drafts of these policies can be discussed and finalised for ratification by the YANQ committee. These ratified policies will form the beginning of a YANQ Policy Platform. Between now and September, YANQ will send all members copies of the policy drafts and will be travelling around the state discussing these and other policy issues.

The Policy Forum will also be an opportunity for the membership, via the policy consultation delegates (PCDs), to direct the YANQ secretariat's action on other policy issues which arise between now and September. Check with your local youth interagency group to see if you have a YANQ PCD. If you don't you may want to ring Penny at YANQ to discuss how your area can be represented in YANQ's policy development processes.

YANQ thanks the Community Benefit Fund for its support of this project.

Penny Carr

Loud lives up to its name

Loud is the nation's first ever media festival of youth culture and the arts, displaying young Australian artists works through print, radio, television and online galleries on the net throughout the month of January.

The whole concept of LOUD has been to promote artistic activity in all media by young people, 12 - 25.

Displaying young artists work through a range of mediums, LOUD has created various competitions and given many grants to young Australians to allow them access to technology and funds, in order to participate in their chosen style of artwork.

Marcus Westbury, the Online Internet Multimedia Coordinator, said that, to his knowledge, hosting a multimedia cultural festival is an absolute world first.

'I think it's been enormously successful, in terms of the incredible range and scope of young artists displayed, well beyond the expectations I had when we started, and I believe it has had absolutely enormous impact,' said Marcus.

'People from all around Australia have heard about the festival,' he said.

Two young artists from Brisbane who received funding and submitted web pages to the e-works online gallery, were also very impressed with the far-reaching scope of the festival.

Tim Plaisted, who worked with Damon Chown on a website for their slightly mythical band, the Church of Scotland (COS), said that

LOUD was a fantastic opportunity, though unfortunately he didn't take advantage of it to the extent that he would have liked.

'I hope it continues next year - perhaps with more print-based stuff, because newspapers have guaranteed distribution,' said Tim.

'One complaint I have is that the Australia Council cut funding to youth arts organisations in preference to LOUD, when a lot of the LOUD festival was a bit of fun, with not a lot of artistic merit - my site included, but I'm trying to remedy that.'

Another amazing website was developed by two collectives of women in both



Brisbane and Darwin, **Digitarts** and **Corrugated Iron**, both projects supporting women on-line. They communicated and worked collaboratively over the net to create and display a total of eight documentaries on the everyday aspects of lives of young women in both cities.

Maria Stark, a member of Digitarts in Brisbane, worked on filming four documentaries and putting them online.

'I was excited to be given the opportunity to do something I really like, to get amazing coverage, and to get paid for it,' said Maria.

'It was a real challenge. We had two weeks to complete four mini-documentaries as well as do four different home pages.

'There were a few problems. I've never put video on line before, but it was really good to get training with digital video, and now I've got experience, so that's what is important.

'It's been really successful, considering it's the first year, they've managed to put on something really spectacular, get lots of funding and they've also

managed to get access to lots of different media, which has made it more accessible to lots of people,' she said.

While Marcus was reluctant to even hazard a guess at what the LOUD festival cost, other sources estimate it was somewhere in the range of \$2m.

'LOUD was conceived as a one-off festival, but it would certainly be a shame to let all the energy and experience go to waste, we learnt so much putting this on,' said Marcus. 'As to whether there will be another one, we'll have to wait and see.'

And the last word from Tim: 'COS is a media spectacle in itself, but LOUD's pretty good too.'

You can reach the LOUD website, including tim and maria's webpages, at www.loud.net.au.

Darlene Corry

Suspension survey outcomes

The amendments to the *Education (General Provisions) Act 1996* have resulted in significant changes to the way in which students can be suspended and excluded. They have also introduced the option of 'cancellation of enrolments' for over 15 year olds. School principals have gained greater autonomy in relation to making many of these decisions, and the process of review of decisions, in YANQ's view, lacks procedural fairness.

In an attempt to monitor the experiences of students who are subject to suspensions, exclusions or cancellation of enrolments, YANQ's Education Working Party developed a survey. The aim of this survey was to help us identify such things as the incidence and reasons students are being suspended, excluded or having enrolments cancelled; whether there is any bias toward using multiple short-term suspensions; whether proper procedures are being followed; and whether students agree with the decisions being made.

In September 1997, surveys were disseminated statewide to services with access to alternative education programs, and to students subject to suspension, exclusion and cancellation of enrolment.

Nineteen surveys were returned, so while the outcomes cannot be generalised to the whole population, it does give some insight into what has happened for those students.

Of the 19 students who completed the survey, 17 experienced suspension, ranging from 2-20 days duration, one experienced exclusion, and one enrolment cancellation.

From the raw data the following conclusions were drawn:

- the majority of respondents were of compulsory school age

and approximately half were male and half were female

- all returned to school (although one left promptly after) perhaps as a result of being of compulsory school age
- all except for three were subject to the intervention since the recent legislative amendments
- most suspensions were for 1-5 days, four were for 2 week periods, while one was for 20 days
- the primary reasons listed for suspension/exclusion were behaviour related incidents including truancy, smoking and other drug related incidents
- almost half of those surveyed had been suspended previously
- despite disagreeing with the suspensions, no students made submissions against their suspensions
- only about one-third of the total respondents had the chance to discuss the decision on suspension
- only a small percentage were aware of any plan of action designed to intervene or assist them prior to suspension
- the majority of long-term suspensions, exclusions or cancellation of enrolments did not know they could make a submission against it, even though most of them disagreed with that decision
- those who were aware of being able to make a submission had support from a worker outside of the school

YANQ's Education Working Party will complete the following tasks over the coming months as a result of the above conclusions:

- develop a strategy of how to best use this information to maximise positive outcomes for students
- develop student friendly information on processes of suspension, exclusion and cancellation of enrolment and appeals on decisions
- develop an issues paper on confidentiality

Interested? Your input and energy would be warmly welcomed. For more information, please call Penny Carr at YANQ on (07) 3236 5400.

Compiled by Amelia Callaghan and Kerry Schonfisch on behalf of the YANQ Education Working Party.

Project Australia

Project Australia is a new pilot program organised with the aim of providing alternative services to homeless and disadvantaged youth whose needs are not being met by existing services.

The proposed aims of the project are to enhance the quality of life of young Australians who are at risk.

The program will involve three months living in the bush, nine months working on a farm, and twelve months support in the city to ensure on-going employment.

Project Australia is currently seeking applications for a range of positions. (See Nov-Dec issue of *Network Noise*).

For more information, please contact Dr Paul Currie on 3870 0149.

Issues facing queer rural young people

Recent research has identified similar themes of isolation and alienation in the lives of young gay men and lesbians. These include difficulties faced by gay or lesbian young people when they first come out; fear of homophobic violence; a higher risk of homelessness at point of disclosure; and a general lack of servicing by the youth sector.

Overseas research suggests that gay and lesbian young people also face an increased risk of suicide and/or drug abuse (US Task Force on Youth Suicide). Many young lesbians and gay men commented on the particular isolation that they felt before they discovered other gay or lesbian people.

For rural young people, many of these issues are compounded.

Rural young women interviewed for the Young Lesbian Visibility Poster Project expressed fear that they may be judged and ridiculed if people knew about their sexuality. They identified difficulties in finding places to meet with other young women and problems associated with an inability to be anonymous or discreet in country towns. (It is quite possible that a young person seeking support could find that the worker at their local service is their mother's Saturday tennis partner.) Such difficulties severely limit the young person's ability to access appropriate support.

Suicide risk is also a key concern for this project. Although we are still lacking relevant Australian research on the issue, anecdotal evidence suggests that young gay men and young lesbians from rural communities are at a far higher risk of suicide than even their gay and lesbian metropolitan peers.

Many young gay men and lesbians in rural communities are at risk of not completing their education. If a young gay man or a young lesbian is

accidentally outed or experiences homophobia in the local school, there are often no alternatives. The high incidence of homelessness experienced when young people first come out to their families, coupled with the tendency to move to metropolitan cities because of a sense that cities will somehow be friendlier, exacerbates the likelihood that the young same sex attracted person will suffer severe disruption in her or his education.

Young rural lesbians interviewed for the Young Lesbian Visibility Project also lamented the absence of relevant education, information and support for young gay men and lesbians and their families. In communities where church is likely to play a significant role, and values are often conservative, young gay men and lesbians commonly feel that their needs are not acknowledged.

Many young gay men and lesbians move to Melbourne assuming that the city will somehow solve all their problems, but as anecdotal research strongly suggests, the experience of the big city is not always a positive one for young people, and young gay men and lesbians from rural communities do not always find support within city-based youth services or the gay and lesbian community generally.

Some young people return to their rural communities only to commit suicide.

This research was supported by the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria and conducted by the Gay and Lesbian Youth Housing Action Group, and the Young Lesbian Visibility Reference Project.

Exerpts taken from an article by Heather Stewart and Row Allen, from the *Journal of the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria, Youth Issues Forum, Summer 1997/98*

Scouts jamboree goes off!

12 500 scouts, 3500 leaders and 100 volunteers attended the recent 19th Asia Pacific/18th Australian Jamboree held in Springfield, just 22 kilometres outside of Brisbane.

The theme of the jamboree was 'I can make a difference', a recognition that people working together with similar goals and interests can work together to positively impact upon their own communities, and the communities around them.

Scouts flocked from all over the world, including America, Europe, the Asia-Pacific region and Australia, to take part in the 10-day jamboree which explored the 'I can make a difference' theme through activities which highlighted the importance of the global village.

The aim of the jamboree was to develop local, national, political and religious tolerance by establishing friendships between young people of different cultures and beliefs.

Camp Chief and Chief Commissioner of Queensland, Mr James Priest, said 'The combination of tradition and technology has provided us with a unique opportunity to showcase the diverse range of activities and interests that make up the modern scouting movement.'

For more details, contact Ross McSwain on (07) 3810 1700

Venus Rising

Thursday, 19 February
Ric's cafe, Fortitude Valley Mall
for women and friends.

Launch of a regular space for women and their friends, Ozone

Supported by UQ uni women's area, Griffith Uni women's area and NUS Queensland.

Service profile

Puttatama Aboriginal Corporation

John de Satge, the director of Puttatama Aboriginal Corporation, put together this profile of their Mt Isa service.

Description of the service

Puttatama Aboriginal Corporation (AC) was set up to assist those young people at risk of offending and/or re-offending, particularly those of Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander from the more rural and remote communities where English tends to be the second or third language.

How does the service work?

- Running suitably culturally appropriate programs
- Working with young people at risk to help them overcome lifestyle disadvantages

Work the service does

Puttatama AC assists young people at risk of offending and/or re-offending by providing employment and training through host employers in different industries such as the rural sector, office administration, welfare sector and hospitality, to name a few. Training is only undertaken and provided where the participants would receive recognition (Certificate) of the training received.

In 1997-98 Puttatama AC agreed to run the Queensland Pilot Program under the Federal National Campaign Against Violence and Crime, working with the Queensland Police Service to run a project called 'Healing for Harmony', which involves working with youth in Cultural programs, as well as the employment of a teacher for literacy and numeracy needs.

Also in 1997-98 we were fortunate in securing funding from Training Queensland under the Young Offenders Vocational Training Program to develop a program working particularly with young people and providing training in vocational programs with skills which young people can use to seek employment opportunities anywhere.

What are you trying to achieve?

- Ensure that young people do not continue in a life of crime
- Provide culturally appropriate programs for those Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander young people
- Provide literacy and numeracy skills for young people
- Provide Employment and Training opportunities for young people

Why are you trying to achieve this?

Puttatama membership comprises concerned individuals who have grown up in a lifestyle where there were no or limited programs available for them to participate in, or which recognised their special needs. These people have overcome these adversities and understand that there are others who are less fortunate than themselves and as such require assistance for a period of time.

The organisation believes that all young people have a right to education, employment and training, and yet because of the circumstances involved the young people do not get support. So we, as an organisation, must help wherever possible.

What groups of young people do you target?

The designated target group are young people at risk of offending and/or re-offending within the target age group of 15 to 25. It does tend to be those in the younger age group, and it would appear that when young people are in their 20s, most of them have moved out of the offending behaviour. The organisation welcomes young people, be they male/female, Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander, or non-Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander.

How do young people participate in the service?

Puttatama works in closely with the local office of Training Queensland, Correctional Services, Commonwealth Employment Service, Family Youth and Community Service and other relevant agencies. Also, the staff employed at Puttatama are well known in the Mt Isa community, and so word-of-mouth ensures that young people know about the service.

How have young people responded to the service?

There has been a great response from young people, and the organisation currently has more people on their books than we are able to handle.

What can other services learn from this service?

Development of programs for those young people at risk of offending is a long hard road, and the fact is that organisations need to be aware of different funding sources, because we find continuous funding to be the greatest issue.

For more information, please call John de Satge on (07) 4749 0201
Puttatama Aboriginal Corporation
PO Box 2082
Mount Isa Q 4825

If you would like your service profiled, please call us at YANQ on (07) 3236 5400 or 1800 177 899

Challenging racism

The recent increase in public racism is having effects on our everyday interactions. As white Australians, because of the changes in the broader context, everyday interactions with Asian Australians and Indigenous Australians can now take on different meanings. This is creating new dilemmas and questions.

Taking care of conversations

In preparing these writings, many people spoke of the difficulties they had recently experienced in talking about racism. Listed below are some of the things that they had found most helpful:

Working together

In recognising that the recent wave of racism is having widespread effects, many people spoke of the importance of finding ways of constructively working together. There seems to be a number of restraints to overcome as white people in order to work together on issues of racism.

The following situation is a good example:

'I was sitting in the back seat of a taxi which was being driven by a Chinese-Australian and a commentator on the radio began to describe a recent racist public meeting in ways that I felt very uncomfortable about. I couldn't work out what was an appropriate response. I have always felt that raising issues of racism with people of colour that I don't know in this sort of everyday interaction is inappropriate as it could be experienced as intrusive or patronising. But I couldn't help but wonder - has the change in the political climate now brought different responsibilities? Do we as white Australians now need to clearly articulate where we stand as a preliminary to other conversations?'

Creative conversations

The recent wave of racism and the need to respond has brought out into the open significant differences, which has led to many conversations about issues of racism. The following questions explore our responsibilities as white Australians in relation to talking about racism.

* How can we respond to racist views and practices in ways that make it clear that we reject those views and practices while at the same time avoiding blaming individuals for what are collective issues and responsibilities?

* How can we show our commitment to anti-racist action without adopting an attitude of self-righteousness or showing hostility to other white people?

* How can we find ways to talk with other white people about racism which don't lead to increased alienation from each other?

* How can we find ways to talk with other white people about racism which keep the conversation potentially always open?

* Other people spoke of the importance of acknowledging the ways in which they had at times been captivated by racist ideas or practices and using this as a starting point for discussion.

* Some people spoke of how naming and acknowledging the fear of being seen as racist can open space for more honest discussion.

* Discussing racism as a 'system' outside the person has been helpful for some.

* Speaking of 'what racism tells us' or 'what racism teaches us' was seen by others to make it easier to have discussions that avoided arguments about whether or not certain individuals were racist.

Just about the only thing that seems clear is that there are no easy answers on how to create constructive conversations about racism.

Yet, people felt that remaining aware of the effects of our conversations and creating contexts in which to speak about these dilemmas were good starting points.

* What would it take for all people working on issues of racism to encourage and support each other's efforts in ways that build momentum?

* While not silencing other issues of power, for example class, gender and sexuality, how can we keep in mind that we are on the same path?

* How can we resist the paralysis that can be generated from the fear of getting things wrong?

* How can we find ways of working together that enable everyone to contribute whatever resources they have to offer?

Keeping on Track

In our attempts to respond to the racist statements or actions of others it can be easy to lose sight of the ways in which we ourselves may be inadvertently reproducing racist beliefs or practices.

* How can we create contexts for conversations and processes of accountability with those most affected by racism to assist us to keep on track?

Reproduced from *Comment* no4, May 1997, from Dulwich Centre Publications.

conferences/training



Social Justice, Social Judgement

Questions of value and contemporary Australian society, to raise questions of "value", so they are not lost behind economic rationalism or fundamentalist values.

Dates: 25-26 April
Venue: Sydney

For more information, please visit the website: <http://www.nepean.uws.edu.au/research/Centres/RCIS.html>

Adult Learning Cultures: Challenges and Choices

To explore what is happening in learning today, and what the options could be for the future. Dale Spender will speak about gender and information technology authority.

Dates: 3-5 Feb 1998
Venue: Wellington, NZ

For more information, please contact 0064 4 527 9380.

Youth '98 Week

An initiative of the NSW Department of Health, this incorporates a whole range of free activities and workshops run by shire councils all over NSW. Diverse political topics will be covered.

Dates: 22 Feb-1 March
Venue: NSW everywhere!

For more information, please contact NSW Department of Health for a brochure on (02) 9391 9017.

1st International Conference on Drugs and Young People

Looking at both policy and practice, the themes are drug education in schools and the community, mental health and drug use, drug treatment methods and options, and drug policy and the laws.

Abstracts are called for now.

Dates: 22 - 24 Nov 1998
Venue: Melbourne

For more information, please fax +61 (03) 9328 3008, or write to PO Box 818, North Melbourne Vic 3051, or email: events@adf.org.au

Having it both ways: Problematic Drug and Alcohol use and Mental Illness

The aim is to raise awareness and examine issues of problematic drug and alcohol use and mental illness. Issues such as service models, access, referral and support will be addressed.

Dates: 12-13 Feb 1998
Venue: Melbourne

For more information please contact the Jesuit Social Services on (03) 9415 8700.

Policies, practicalities and priorities

This is the Australian Association of Career Counsellors Annual Conference, and the theme is career development in a time of turbulence.

Dates: 16-18 April 1998
Venue: Sydney

For more information, please call Narelle on (02) 9557 6165.

Parenting in the '90s and Beyond

The third national parenting conference will explore creative and positive ways of addressing the issues that can face families, including drugs, suicide, mental illness and trauma. The focus is on building hope, and creative alternatives.

Dates: 19-20 Feb 1998
Venue: Melbourne

For more information, please contact the Conference Secretary on (03) 9415 8700.

The Second Maleny Heart Politics Conference: Repainting the Dream - Re-inspiring to Action

Heart politics conferences are about the transformation that can occur when social and political change happen alongside personal change. It is a politics of connection and inclusion, rather than conflict and domination.

The theme of the conference is to repaint the dream of a just society.

Dates: 27 - 31 March 1998
Venue: Maleny

For more information, please contact Tracey Adams on (07) 5499 9254.

To check out more conference details, go to the National Clearing House for Youth Studies events page, at
<www.acys.utas.edu.au/ncys/events/events.htm>

Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund

The trust calls for applications and makes recommendations concerning the disbursement of available funds in a fair and equitable manner to non-profit community organisations which provide facilities or services to the community.

Eligibility extends to such organisations south of the Tropic of Capricorn including Rockhampton and Longreach. One-off grants are for capital expenditure or fixed assets only.

The closing dates for the next two rounds are 15 April, and 15 October 1998.

For more information, contact
(07) 3808 7444
Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund
PO Box 1121
Springwood Q 4127

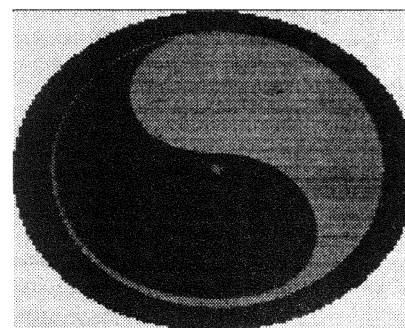
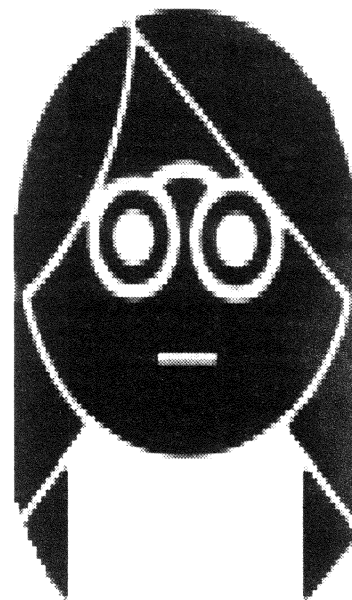
Community Development Assistance Grants

This grant is to resource non-profit community groups to develop ways of enhancing social justice and livability in Brisbane.

Grants are available for projects which develop networks, encourage participation in community life, or develop new resources or new solutions for old issues.

The closing date for the next round is 2 March 1998. For more information, please contact
(07) 3403 6393.

Brisbane City Council
Department of Recreation and Health
Community Development Branch
GPO Box 1434 Q 4001



www.loud.net.au

1997/98 Local Cultural and Festival Grants Program

The Brisbane City Council invites applications for its Local Cultural and Festival Grants Program. The program will provide financial assistance to community groups to develop projects, festivals, and special events that encourage the cultural development of neighbourhoods and communities. Priority will be given to proposals that:

- Reflect local cultural needs
- Demonstrate community support and participation in the development, planning and management of projects and events; and
- Set new creative standards and encourage innovation.
- Create partnerships between local communities and artists.

Deadlines close March 31, 1998. The maximum grant allowed under the Local Cultural and Festival Grants Program is \$7 500. Grants will be announced by July 1998.

To obtain a copy of the guidelines and application forms, or for further information, please contact the Grants Officer on 3403 6393.

publications/resources



New Directions in Counselling

This handy guide provides insights into the pressures affecting counsellors and considers new legislation and the need to move towards greater accountability. A current and comprehensive guide for professional and student counsellors.

Cost: \$36.95

Available from The Australian Drug Foundation on (03) 9278 8100, or free call 1800 069 700.

All in the name of good practice

Produced for community groups who are thinking of developing standards, so that they may consider the value of standards, see comparisons and learn from the work of other community organisations.

Cost: \$28 (\$23 for members)

Available from The Victorian Council of Social Service (find number)
<http://home.vicnet.au/vcoss/manuals.htm>



www.loud.net.au



The Horn of Africa

This information document was compiled to meet the growing need for information on young people from the Horn of Africa communities.

It provides brief information on the language, religion, education system and resettlement for young people from the communities of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia.

Cost: \$15 (includes postage and handling)

Available from the Ethnic Youth Issues Network on (03) 9419 9122.

Suicide Awareness for Aboriginal Communities

This is an adaption of the Suicide Awareness Training Manual, following collaborative work with Aboriginal communities. Contents include: defining suicide; myths and facts about suicide; risk factors; warning signs; understanding the needs, intention and level of distress of a suicidal person; helping the suicidal person, helping the bereaved, and much more.

Cost: \$42

Available from The Australian Council for Educational Research on (03) 9277 5656.

The Journal of Youth Studies

is a brand new international journal which will focus on youth, social justice, education, ways of working with young people and rural youth in Australia. Contributors from around the globe will be writing for this journal.

Available through <http://www.carfax.co.uk/yst-ad.htm>

Men and Sexual Health Project


This project provides education and training to health care workers and service providers relating to men's sexual health issues. It is the only statewide initiative in NSW aimed at the prevention of HIV and STDs, as well as promoting sexual health for heterosexual men.


The project has produced many free resources and developed policy around HIV/AIDS and men's sexual health issues.


For more information, please contact the Project at Family Planning on (02) 9716 6099.

Interagency meetings

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 **South Burnett Youth Development Network** Contact: Gail Padgett, PO Box 197, Kingaroy Q 4670 (071) 62 2 722. Meets monthly at the Child Health Bldg, Kingaroy.














 **Sunshine Coast Youthworkers Forum** Contact: Eric Moes, Maroochy Shire Council, PO Box 76, Nambour Q 4560 (07) 5441 8125. Meets monthly at Mental Health Services, Beach Rd, Maroochydhore.

 **Toowoomba Youth Organisations Network (TYON)** Contact: Ed Bradbury, Department of Education, PO Box 775, Toowoomba Q 4350 (076) 384 899. Meets monthly (venue changes).

interagency meetings
















Regional Queensland

-  **Bundaberg Youth Forum** Contact: Jan Molloy (JPET worker), Skill Centre, PO Box 108 Bagara Rd, Bundaberg Q 4670 (071) 532 227. Meets 1st Thursday of each month upstairs at Target Arcade, Community Development Office.
-  **Caboolture Youth Network** Contact: Craig Wise, Youth Planning Officer (temporary role), Caboolture Shire Council, PO Box 159, Caboolture Q 4510, (07) 5495 0342. Meets 3rd Wednesday each month, Community Health Centre, McKean St, Caboolture.
-  **Cairns Youth Services Network** Contact: Desley Renton, YDO, Cairns City Council, PO Box 359, Cairns Q 4870 (070) 50 7300. Meets 4th Thursday each month at Qld Cancer Fund Training Room.
-  **Central and North Burnett Community Service Network** Contact: Michelle Cozier, Monto Neighbourhood Centre, PO Box 97, Monto Q 4630 (07) 4166 1733. Meets 1st Monday of each month. (venue changes).
-  **Central West Youth Network** Contact: Rick Robson, DTSY, PO Box 218, Longreach Q 4730 (076) 58 1888. Meets every two months (venue changes).
-  **Emerald Youthlink Network** Contact: Brad Witt, Rural Youth Worker, Emerald Shire Council, PO Box 21, Emerald Q 4720 (079) 820 540. Meets the first Monday every second month at the DFYCC Conference room, 51 Ruby St, Emerald.
-  **Gladstone Youth Interagency** Contact: Kaylee Campradt, Gladstone City Council, PO Box 29, Gladstone Q 4680 (079) 72 4855. Meets monthly (venue changes).
-  **Hervey Bay Youth Sector Workers Network** Contact: Margaret Butler, PO Box 45, Torquay Q 4655 (071) 25 0216. Alternative contact is Sue Lawler. Meets six-weekly at the Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre, Taylor Street, Pialba.
-  **Innisfail Youth Services Network** Contact: Margaret McDonald-James, Community Services Officer, Johnstone Shire Council, PO Box 887, Innisfail Q 4870 (070) 30 2255. Meets monthly at the Alan Maruff House, Innisfail.
-  **Mackay Youth Connection & Network Inc** Contact: Tania Downie, YACCA, PO Box 3223, North Mackay Q 4740 (079) 53 5577. Meets at YACCA, 10 River Street, Mackay.
-  **Magnetic North Youth Service Providers** Contact: Helen Lyn, PO Box 573, Townsville Q 4810 (077) 71 3648. Meets 3rd Tuesday each month from 10.30am at 'The Lab', cnr Stanley & Hanran Sts, Townsville.
-  **North-West Region Youth Interagency Network** Contact: Sylvia Fisher, DFYCC, PO Box 2816, Mt Isa Q 4825 (077) 43 6 689. Meets every two months (venue changes).
-  **Rockhampton Youth Interagency** Contact: Tricia Millar, Youth Trek, PO Box 6103, Rockhampton MC Q 4702 (079) 21 4488. Meets monthly.

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South-east Queensland

-  **Bayside Youth Link** Contact: Christine D'Arcy, Redlands Health Service Centre, PO Box 585, Cleveland Q 4163 (07) 3240 831. Meets every two months on 3rd Thursday at Community Corrections Centre, Clara St, Wynnum.
-  **Beaudesert Interagency** Contact: Marg Moss, Beaudesert Community House, 4 Davis Street, Beaudesert, Q 4825 (07) 5541 3762. Meets monthly at Illoura Centre, 31 Duckett St, Beaudesert.
-  **Beenleigh & District Interagency** Contact: Kerry Clayton, BAYS Inc, PO Box 1147, Beenleigh Q 4207 (07) 3287 1290. Meets monthly at Community Health, Mt Warren Blvd, Beenleigh 4207.
-  **Caboolture Youth Network** Contact: Damien Edwards, Youth Access Centre, PO Box 482, Caboolture Q 4510 (074) 908 078. Meets monthly (venue changes).
-  **Gold Coast Youth Network** Contact: Kerry Schonfisch, Gold Coast Youth Service, PO Box 740, Burleigh Heads Q 4220 (07) 5572 0400. Meets monthly at Gold Coast City Council Chambers, Bundall Rd, Bundall Q 4217.
-  **Inala Youth Interagency** Contact: John Rigsby-Jones, Inala Youth and Family Support Service, PO Box 141, Inala 4077 (07) 3372 2655. Meets monthly at CES Conference Room, Cnr Corsair Ave & Civic Centre, Inala.
-  **Ipswich Youth Focus** Contact: Tautala Fa'anana-Schulz, Ipswich City Council, PO Box 191, Ipswich Q 4305 (07) 3810 6656. Meets six-weekly at West Moreton Community Health Plaza Auditorium, Bell Street, Ipswich.
-  **Logan Youth Interagency Network** Contact Derek Matthew (07) 3826 5107. Details to be advised.
-  **Pine Rivers Youth Service Providers Network** Contact: Kristina Farwell, Youth Care Pine Rivers, 16 Lincoln St, Strathpine Q 4500 (07) 3881 2823. Meets every two months at Youth Care Pine Rivers, 16 Lincoln St, Strathpine.
-  **Redcliffe Youth Service Providers Network** Contact: John Dawkins, Redcliffe City Council, PO Box 66, Redcliffe Q 4020 (07) 3283 0365. Meets every two months at Redcliffe Job Club, Something Arcade, Redcliffe.
-  **Redlands Youth Network** Contact: Christine D'Arcy, Redlands Health Service Centre, PO Box 585, Cleveland Q 4163 (07) 3240 8311. Meets 1st Monday each month at Redlands Health Service Centre, Hospital Grounds, Cleveland.
-  **Youth Health Interagency** Contact: Lea McLaughlin at Brisbane Youth Service, PO Box 1389, Fortitude Valley Q 4006 (07) 3254 1131. Meets every two months at Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Cnr Water & Rogers Sts, Spring Hill
-  **Youth Issues Task Group** Contact: Michelle Trace, The Base, PO Box 228, Goodna Q 4300 (07) 3818 3118. Meets monthly at The Base, Cnr Mills and Queen St.

Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

who are we?

The Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ) Inc is the peak community youth affairs organisation in Queensland. Representing over 400 individuals and organisations from Queensland's youth sector, we promote the interests and well-being of young people across the state by:

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

We advocate on behalf of young people in Queensland, especially disadvantaged young people, to government and the community. We promote and support cultural diversity. We encourage the development of policies and programs responsive to the needs of young people.

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

who can join?

Membership of the network is open to anyone with an interest in youth affairs, who subscribes to the aims and objectives of the organisation.

Become a member...

... and make a difference!

Keep up-to-date

- Free newsletter, *Network Noise*
- Free fact sheet, *In fact...*
- Discount on other YANQ publications
- Information on-line at our website
- Access to library resources
- Free-call 1-800 line for regional members

Make valuable contacts

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

Access professional development

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

aim

To improve the quality of life of young people in Queensland and thereby improve the quality of life of society.

objectives

- To establish a state youth affairs network to foster cooperation and consultation and develop shared perspectives among young people, organisations working with young people, youth workers, others concerned with youth affairs and those who work with youth;

- to identify the needs and views of young people and to make these known at local, state and national levels;
- to promote the interests and well-being of young people in Queensland, especially disadvantaged young people;
- to encourage the participation of young people, minority groups and disadvantaged young people in the developing youth affairs network;
- to act as a clearing point for information to and from the youth affairs field on issues of relevance;
- to advocate, assist and support the development of policy positions on issues affecting young people and the youth affairs field, and to provide advice, perspectives and advocacy to governments and the broader community;
- to recognise and support the special needs of non-metropolitan young people, groups, associations and workers;
- to ensure consultation with non-metropolitan young people, groups, associations and workers on issues and processes that may impact upon them;
- to support and encourage the development of new methods for meeting the needs of young people.

join today!

Simply fill in the application form, detach and return it to YANQ with your membership fee payment.

Membership fees are due and payable on a financial year basis, covering the period 1 July-30 June.

If you would like more information please call us on (07) 3236 5400 or 1800 177 899.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

(Contact) Name: _____
Organisation/Dept: _____
Postal Address: _____
Street Address: _____

Ph: (____) _____
Fx: (____) _____
Code: _____
Code: _____

email: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY APPLIED FOR

Young Person	Income < \$25,000		<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00
Individual	Income < \$25,000	N-G <input type="checkbox"/> Govt	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00
	Income > \$25,000	N-G <input type="checkbox"/> Govt	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40.00
(Individuals must pay by personal cheque, money order or cash)			
Organisation	Funding < \$100,000		<input type="checkbox"/> \$55.00
	Funding \$100,000-250,000		<input type="checkbox"/> \$95.00
	Funding > \$250,000		<input type="checkbox"/> \$150.00
No funding - apply to YANQ for special consideration			
Government	Department or Service		<input type="checkbox"/> \$150.00

I hereby subscribe to the aim and objectives of YANQ and enclose a cheque/money order for the prescribed membership fee.

Signed _____ Date _____

(Applications must be approved by the Coordinating Committee.)

Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc.

PO Box 70, Brisbane Roma St Q 4003

Phone: (07) 3236 5400 or 1800 177 899 Fax: (07) 3236 5411