



Network Noise

Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

March-July 1998

contents

Meet the new Chairperson	2
Taking action on ESL	3
NESB Youth Issues Network update	4
Forums get Beenleigh talking	5
Re-assessment for Youth Allowance	6
Junior pay rates	6
Pride youth events	7
Have your say	7
New staff join YANQ	8
Youth issues on the Net	10
NAIDOC Week Celebrations	15
New Act increases police powers	16
Three new staff join YANQ	16
YANQ under review	18
Young women and juvenile justice	18
Job Network — what's new?	19
Conferences/training	20
Funding	21
Publications/resources	22
Interagency meetings	23

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1998 Youth Affairs Conference

Townsville will be the venue for the 1998 State Youth Affairs Conference, the best opportunity for your professional development this year. Hosted by YANQ, the 1998 spectacular will be held in our sunny north in response to requests from participants at the last two conferences.

The conference promotes the development of innovative and creative responses to issues affecting young people in Queensland. It's a great opportunity for individuals, organisations and government representatives from across the state to come together and share information.

Conference program

Several program streams will allow delegates to participate in

workshops pitched at their own level of knowledge, skill and experience. Key workshops and themes will include:

- preventing self-harm and suicide
- local government, community organisations and young people
- young people in rural and isolated communities

If you have ideas for topics or presenters for the conference, call Colleen Kelly, conference organiser, at YANQ.

Magnetic attraction

Why not combine the conference (Wednesday-Friday) with a lazy weekend at Magnetic Island? Stay tuned for regular updates!

DIARY DATE!!!

1998 State Youth Affairs Conference
Centra
Townsville
4-6 November 1998

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

Meet the new YANQ Chairperson



Hi, my name's Debbie Kilroy and I am the newly elected YANQ Chairperson. I'd like to introduce myself by telling you a little about my history and present interests.

I have worked in the youth sector for many years, including spending seven years at the Centre Education Programme in Logan City as a youth worker. In that role, I was the co-ordinator of a Mobile Education Unit for young people who were excluded from mainstream school. Throughout my time at the Centre I worked closely with staff at the Outlook in Boonah, as I love to work with young people in the outdoors.

I am also a youth worker trainer, presently employed as a Young Adult Development Officer for Edmund Rice Camps Queensland. My role is mainly to work with and train young adult volunteers to organise and facilitate outdoor education experiences for disadvantaged young people.

I am greatly interested in all aspects of juvenile justice and I am actively involved in many programs. I'm particularly

interested in incarcerated young women. Other interests include indigenous young people, young people who are excluded from mainstream school and young people and suicide.

I'm also interested in youth participation and would like to explore with the Management Committee, staff and members of YANQ how to include more young people in the organisation's processes.

My thanks to Sue Wright, the previous Chairperson, for all the hard work she has put into YANQ over the last three years. Thanks Sue, and good luck in your future ventures — you will be missed by us all.

I'd also like to thank Ben Thomson, the previous Vice Chairperson, for all his hard work. We wish you well in your future travels also. Thanks Ben.

Welcome Carolyn Grant, our new Vice Chairperson, and Roksana Khan, our new Secretary. I look forward to working with you both. I especially look forward to working with the Management Committee and staff of YANQ.

Debbie Kilroy

JOIN NOW!

Thanks to all our members for your support over the past financial year. This is just a brief note to let you know that your membership fees are due!

Current memberships expire on June 30, with the exception of those who have joined in the last three months.

Individual renewal notices will be forwarded in the next few weeks.

Taking action on ESL

Ever heard the words 'ESL' and wondered what it was all about?

The ESL (English as a Second Language) Program helps young people from non-English speaking backgrounds develop their English language skills so they can be integrated into the education system. In Brisbane, a number of state schools have ESL Units, while the Milpera Special School in Brisbane's western suburbs is an entire ESL school for migrants. Here Milpera Principal Adele Rice and ESL teacher Gail Hood discuss the ESL program.

Issues

The most fundamental issue in ESL is the lack of any profile in the strategic plans, policies and political platforms of current and previous State and Commonwealth governments.

There are also problems of eligibility. Only migrants with specific immigration visa categories are eligible for the ESL program. What happens to those who have alternative visa categories but who still have insufficient English language skills to continue with their education? They may, for instance, leave school early to take up employment to augment family income. These young people then become particularly vulnerable to exploitation in the workforce and are also susceptible to long-term unemployment problems.

There are also assumptions about early literacy being linked chronologically to age. There is no emphasis on beginning literacy for secondary age students who have arrived in Australia beyond primary school age but with minimal literacy skills in any language.

Action

The many issues associated with the ESL Program have led to the establishment of an ESL advocacy network convened by YANQ and the Non-English Speaking Background Youth Issues Network. Members of the group, which met for the first time recently, have expressed a desire to expand its membership base to include interested community sector and government stakeholders. ESL students and their families are also being strongly encouraged to participate.

Another group active on ESL issues is the Queensland Association of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (QATESOL). QATESOL runs workshops and conferences and advocates strongly for ESL students across primary, secondary and tertiary sectors. For more information, contact Cheryl Geoghegan (ESL teacher, Sunnybank State High School) on (07) 3378 4079.

Opinions

Of the nineteen or so people who attended the first meeting of the ESL advocacy network, seven were students from Sunnybank State High School. Following are some of their comments on the importance of the ESL program.

'I attended the ESL unit for more than three months and then started normal lessons the year after as I thought I had enough English language skills to do so. Teachers supported my choice. I would like to express my satisfaction with the choice of programs ESL students have after their abilities in the language have reached a certain level.' *Bistra Atawassova*

'For me, personally, I reckon ESL is a very important education system for every English-as-a-second-language student. Without ESL none of the non-English speaking background students would be able to catch up on their study. Also, we need an education system like ESL to help us all the way through our studies.' *Jackie Leung*

'When I first arrived in Australia I was introduced to Milpera. Two terms of study at Milpera truly taught me so many things about Australian culture, language and academic subjects. It was a most memorable time that I will never forget. Therefore, it is my pleasure to participate in any event which helps to maintain the strength and effectiveness of the ESL system.' *Truc Tien Truong*

Very special thanks to the students and teachers who took the time and effort to help compile this article.



No National Youth Week in '99

National Youth Week will not go ahead in 1999 despite earlier agreements with state and territory governments. Youth Week has been postponed until at least 2000 by the Ministerial Council on Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, after the New South Wales and Victorian governments withdrew their support.

NESB Youth Issues Network update

The NESB Youth Issues Network (NYIN) continues to go from strength to strength because of the hard work and dedication of its members and supporters.

One clear indication of NYIN's growth has been its willingness to try alternative ways to make the Network stronger. For instance, some of you may recall Recommendation 1 in the discussion paper *Serious tea and bikkies*, which promoted the idea of a NYIN Steering Committee. Well, the NYIN Steering Committee held its first meeting in April 1998 and plans to now meet on the last Thursday of each month. This is a welcome development as their input into the work and planning I am currently involved in is very constructive and helpful.

Many projects are under way. Some are listed below; for information on others, give me a call.

Youth Participation Project

Just a quick word to let you know we have employed Aisha Damali as NESB Youth Participation Project Officer to complete the youth participation project funded by the Australian Youth Policy and Action Coalition. Aisha will be with us for the next nine weeks, developing a map of NESB young people's groups and then consulting with groups to find out what they think are appropriate ways to network and participate. This will help us respond better to issues surrounding young people's participation in NYIN.

Community Advocacy for ESL Education (CAFEE)

CAFEE held its first meeting on 12 March 1998 and attracted 19 participants. Seven were NESB students from Sunnybank High School and all seemed to feel it was a worthwhile experience and plan to continue to participate. It was enlightening to see young people participating in decision-making processes that clearly affect their lives.

The primary decision made was for CAFEE to expand to include parents, community sector organisations and government agencies. The next step is to negotiate with the full range of stakeholders about their participation. At CAFEE's second meeting it was agreed that we need to collate available information relating to ESL into an issues paper to present to Federal and State Government Ministers to lobby around. Thanks to the many people who have assisted in locating anecdotal evidence, individual case studies and facts on ESL for the issues paper.

Racism in Schools

NYIN's Racism in Schools working party met early in March to consider the draft issues paper and terms of reference distributed by the Anti-Discrimination Commission of Queensland (ADCQ). We have since developed and submitted a response and are keenly awaiting notification for expressions of interest to coordinate the project.

There are currently several loose suggestions about YANQ and NYIN developing a collaborative project proposal with several other organisations including government agencies. However,

these proposals need to be thought out in some detail which will no doubt be an issue on top of the agenda for the next working party meeting.

NESB Youth and Mental Health Research proposal

There is widespread concern in the mental health field in relation to the distinct lack of information available about NESB young people and mental health issues.

YANQ is trying to start a collaborative statewide research project in this area with a particular focus on rural and remote communities. A number of key stakeholders were contacted and a meeting held in mid-March to discuss the issue. A workshop afternoon was held at the Greek Welfare Centre in West End on 21 April where we planned the focus and breadth of the proposed project. A project Steering Committee was also formed. The Steering Committee's immediate priority is to explore possible funding sources. We are progressing well with this task and I am confident we can attract sufficient funds.

Good Practice Forum

YANQ and the Peace Centre facilitated a good practice forum on 11 May for youth service providers in the Inala-Ipswich corridor. The purpose of the forum was to generate awareness of issues workers may need to consider when responding to NESB young people. Approximately 28 government and non-government workers attended, and, from feedback received, all felt it was a great success. Many thanks to Carolyn Cox of the Peace Centre for all the hard work and planning she devoted to the forum. Opportunities to present similar forums in rural and remote communities are currently being explored.

(cont next page)

Multicultural Youth Performance Festival

This event is a collaborative venture between YANQ, the Peace Centre, the Police Citizens Youth Club, Youth Connections-Acacia Ridge and Forest Lake Community House. A number of young people's groups will develop performances relating to their perceptions of safety in and outside of the home and express these through various art mediums to the public on 15 August 15. A number of meetings have already taken place and we are now at the stage of employing an artistic director who will help each group. A follow-up forum for young people is also being planned to see if there is interest in building upon the work achieved.

Sincere thanks to all those NYIN members who regularly support me in this position and willingly give up their valuable time to respond to the needs and issues facing NESB young people in our communities. If you would like to discuss any of the activities mentioned in more detail please call me at your convenience. Bye for now and take care.

Contact: John Bamborough

Forums get Beenleigh talking

Beenleigh recently hosted two YANQ Forums — one for political candidates from the Albert electorate to discuss their proposals for addressing youth unemployment, the other bringing together regional stakeholders to start developing a YANQ disability policy.

The first forum, gave the National Party's Bill Baumann MLA, the ALP's Peter Shooter and One Nation's Rod Evans a chance to explain what they would do for Albert's young unemployed if successful in the upcoming state elections. Around 20 people gathered at the Beenleigh Neighbourhood Centre to hear the speakers address the crowd after YANQ's own presentation of issues and strategies.

The forum on disability, held at the Community Health Centre in Mt Warren Park, saw regional stakeholders discussing disability issues and what values and actions should be enshrined in the YANQ disability policy. All other YANQ members will have a chance to comment on the draft policy in the near future.

The Beenleigh forums were the first in a series of six to be held. A big thank you to Kerry Clayton and staff from the Beenleigh Area Youth Service (BAYS) for their help organising the events.

Contact: Penny Carr

Conference report

Held in Melbourne over the weekend of 16-19 April, the Youth 98 conference discussed public spaces and young people in Australia and, to some degree, overseas.

As a young person attending their first conference, I was quite unsure what to expect. I had names of people to talk to, and ideas of who I wanted to meet. The first people I met were from the Youth Reference Group (YRG), a group operating under and set up by the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria (YACVIC). YRG's aim is similar to that of Queensland's Youth Consultative Network (YCN), in that it involves young people in processes and decisions important to their future and is a recognised group

to consult on these matters. YRG was a forum for the young people attending the conference to discuss issues raised and feed these back to the conference at the start of the next day.

A major issue that came up for us at the conference was the language used by some presenters, which was hard to follow. This reinforced the need for us to use our own language and to try to find better methods of communication between academics, workers, young people and young people who are youth workers.

The second issue was the small number of youth presenters, and the low accessibility of the conference to young people in general.

As a member of the YCN, it was invaluable to meet these people, and people who are involved with similar groups, or the setting up of similar groups, Australia-wide. At different times over the weekend we talked about issues we felt were important, and decided that we needed to keep in contact and support each other.

For me, the conference was worthwhile. I feel seeds have been sown for future growth in youth networking and the need for better access to public space.

Abbie Trott

Abbie was sponsored to attend the conference by YANQ, the Office of Youth Affairs and the Brisbane City Council.

Re-assessment for Youth Allowance

Centrelink has begun a roll-out of 'data collection' forms to Youth Training Allowance, Newstart, AUSTUDY and Additional Family Payment recipients. These forms request information that Centrelink requires to re-assess clients' eligibility for the Youth Allowance against eligibility criteria.

Forms have been sent to Youth Training Allowance, Newstart and Sickness Allowance recipients where their circumstances have to be assessed against the new Youth Allowance criteria.

AUSTUDY clients under 25 have been sent data collection forms to find out about earnings (more than \$2600 in the second semester) and to assess for their eligibility for Rent Assistance. However, because the second Youth Allowance bill had not been passed in the Senate and isn't even scheduled for debate until late May, DSS does not have the legal authority to make this collection of information compulsory. Therefore, the letter to AUSTUDY recipients will by necessity be ambiguous about requiring recipients to complete the form.

Claim forms have also been sent to students whose parents are receiving Additional Family Payments for them, which will need to be completed to receive the Youth Allowance.

The data collection forms for the Youth Allowance must be completed and returned if young people are to receive their benefits uninterrupted on 1 July.

Young people receiving benefits who do not return these data collection forms will not receive benefits in July. However if the forms are returned within three months and the client is found to be eligible, they can receive

retrospective benefits backdated to the beginning of July.

For unemployed 18 to 20 year olds, the forms will be asking for parental income and assets information. Parents of these unemployed adult children will now have to comply with this requirement or their unemployed offspring will not receive benefits. Unemployed young people living away from home will also be required to obtain this information from their parents. If a young person is unable to obtain the information within the necessary timeframe or it is beyond their control (e.g. parents refusal to provide the information) they will not receive a benefit unless they meet the independence criteria.

Some people will not receive forms because Centrelink already has sufficient information to process them for the Youth Allowance:

- Unemployed with a dependent child

- married unemployed or those in a de facto relationship of 12 months for more,
- those who have been continuously on youth Training Allowance of Newstart since before June 1997

For those young people who will no longer be eligible for the Youth Allowance once their circumstances are assessed against the new provisions, there will be a very short period of time for them to make new arrangements.

Action:

- Inform young people you work with about the importance of completing and sending in their forms to get their benefits continued
- Call Centrelink on a toll-free number for assistance 132490.
- Give YANQ feedback about the impact of this process in your area so that we can work with AYPAC on a national response.
- YANQ, AYPAC and other peak bodies have written to Minister Newman outlining concerns with the roll-out, and met with DSS and Centrelink staff.

Source: AYPAC

Junior pay rates

Age-based wage discrimination will continue if the Federal Government has its way.

Peter Reith, Minister for Workplace Relations, recently announced the Coalition's intention to maintain junior rates of pay as part of the 'second wave' of industrial reforms.

When the Workplace Relations Bill was passed in 1996 the Government and the Democrats agreed to extend junior rates of pay until June 2000, exempting the anti-age discrimination requirements of the Industrial Relations Act. However the issue was referred to the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC) to 'report to the Parliament on the feasibility of their replacement of junior rates with non-discriminatory alternatives' by June next year.

Almost 18 months have passed and no progress has been made on the AIRC report. As well, Peter Reith has not even waited for the AIRC report before announcing the government's intention to maintain junior rates.

AYPAC is calling for the immediate commencement of an open reporting process to allow youth groups, union and employer groups to participate. AYPAC has recently produced a brief history on junior rates of pay which is available by phoning (02) 6247 1666 or by contacting YANQ.

Pride youth events

Young people are invited to join in youth events being held as part of June's Pride Festival, Brisbane's annual gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender festival.

Three youth events are being staged by the Diverse Students Safe School in conjunction with the Pride Festival. Young people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, and those who support them, are invited to get together, share stories, and celebrate.

Workshop: 14 June, 12.30-5.30, Rainbow Centre, 719a Stanley St, Woolloongabba

Topics will include Young people and sexuality; Coming out; Being safe. An opportunity for young people to tell their own story and hear others (including experiences of school), to share information and resources.

Youth worker support available. Free yummy lunch.

Barbecue/picnic: 21 June, 11.30am, Orleigh Park, West End

Celebrate, meet people, learn circus tricks, play games, eat yummy food. **FREE.**

Pink light disco: 26 June, Basement, 4ZZZ

All events DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE

Diverse Students Safe School is a community group concerned about homophobia in schools. We aim to enable schools to create an environment which is safe, supportive and affirming of sexual diversity within the whole school community.

Young people, teachers, parents, youth workers and other concerned people meet the third Monday of the month, 6-8 pm, Rainbow Centre, 719a Stanley St, Woolloongabba.

Contact: (07) 3266 5199

Have your say

Members are being given a chance to have their say as YANQ holds regional forums to develop YANQ policy, and circulates a Policy Platform document for comment.

Policy development forums

From April to June, YANQ is visiting six regions throughout Queensland, holding forums to begin developing YANQ policy in areas in which we have not previously done significant work.

Each forum will hear from speakers presenting specialist information. Participants will then discuss value and action statements YANQ should embed into a policy statement on that issue. The day's outcomes will form the basis for a draft statement which will later be circulated to all members for comment.

Date	Topic	Location
7 April	Disability	Beenleigh
7 May	Training for young people	Gympie
14 May	Racism	Townsville
3 June	Aboriginal Reconciliation	Roma
16 June	Suicide prevention	Mt Isa
18 June	Prevention and early intervention	Cairns

Policy Platform

The regional forums are part of a strategy to develop a YANQ Policy Platform, which will document YANQ's position on a range of issues. The Policy Platform will guide YANQ's activities in particular areas and will be reflected in the organisation's everyday work. It is expected to become more detailed and cover a greater range of issues over time.

Four draft statements planned for inclusion in the Policy Platform will go out for final member comment in the near future. Six more draft policies will soon be completed and circulated for comment.

Contact: Penny Carr



Launch of youthspeak 98. Neil and Matthew

Three new staff join YANQ

John Bamborough — NESB Network and Policy Officer

Since being appointed YANQ's NESB Network and Policy Officer, I seem to have developed a tendency to keep looking down and assessing the size of my feet! One may well wonder why such a tendency has manifested, but not when you consider the shoes I have to fill are those of Susan Ferguson! Maybe YANQ could jet me off to Africa to catch up with Susan so I can grab a pair of her sneakers and make a run for it? Well probably not, but worth a try anyway.

For those of you I haven't met in person or by phone, fax or letter, my name is John Bamborough. Three months into the job of NESB Network and Policy Officer, and I still often feel like a child in a lolly store wanting to grab anything and everything and run with it! But I guess the scope of opportunities and possibilities is the nature of the work offered through this position, which excites and motivates me immensely.

One recent exciting development for the position is the establishment of a collaborative Government Liaison Group (GLG), designed to support the NESB Policy and Network Officer. The GLG has been established by The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, the Office of Youth Affairs, the Office of Ethnic and Multicultural Affairs, and YANQ. It will encourage information sharing about issues and strategies relevant to the NESB Youth Issues Network.

Your role will be to feed me information so I can in turn pass it on to the three participating Commonwealth and Queensland Government departments. Also feel free to contact me on any other issue that concerns you, no matter how small.

I look forward to working with you all in the near future. Until then bye for now and take care. Oh, and don't worry I haven't really got a fetish for feet...honestly!

Margaret James — Administration Officer

Hi! My name is Margaret James and I am the new administration officer at YANQ.

My work experience has spanned several years, some spent in government, but most of my working career has been in the private sector.

I am now enjoying the challenge of a completely new environment and the issues that involve young people.

Working with a young dynamic team whose sole interest is young people has given me an insight into these issues, to which I am now committed.

I would love to see YANQ's membership increase and I hope the young people and organisations who are already members will recommend to others that they join.

I am the first point of contact at YANQ answering the phone so please don't hesitate to introduce yourself. I will endeavour at all times to assist you.

I look forward to staying at YANQ and being part of the team.

James Finn — Suicide prevention officer

Members with good ideas for youth participation, or who are interested in youth suicide prevention, are encouraged to contact James Finn, YANQ's new project officer working on suicide prevention.

Based at YANQ till the end of June, James will be linked to five networks currently being set up as part of the Queensland Government Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy. Located in Bowen, Roma, Rockhampton, Ipswich and the Gold Coast, the networks are the first of 100 that will soon cover all regions. James's role will be to support the networks and develop resources to ensure young people participate in the Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy.



James, Margaret, Kirsty, John

James comes to YANQ with 12 years' youth sector experience in accommodation, health and training. Working with a project advisory group, he is developing a kit outlining the best principles and strategies for encouraging young people's meaningful involvement in planning, implementing and evaluating services. The kit will also include self-assessment resources for internal audits of current practice, and background information on relevant issues. Due for completion in July, it will be distributed to projects established under the Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy and will also be available to other organisations.

So if you have innovative, practical ideas for youth participation, contact James and your gems could appear in the kit, with full acknowledgement to the individuals and organisations involved, of course.



Farewell to YANQ

After being a member of the YANQ Committee for three years, the time has come to say farewell and thanks.

In my time at YANQ I have been the Secretary, the Staff Liaison Officer, Editor of *Transitions*, the Vice Chairperson and most recently Chairperson and main cheque signer. All roles have been challenging and rewarding, but my most recent incarnation as the Chairperson was perhaps the most challenging of all.

Invaluable colleagues such as Ben Thomson, Diane Forsyth, Dale Johnson, Carolyn Grant, Wally Dethlefs, Debbie Kilroy, Helen Gadsen, Roksana Khan, Andrei Cirka and Geoff Coakley have made any difficult tasks just that much easier and I thank them wholeheartedly for their support and advice. I would also like to extend my thanks to all past Committee members, in particular Tony Parsons and Rachel McLaren who gave a great deal of time, energy and expertise to YANQ.

YANQ is very lucky to welcome Debbie Kilroy (member) into the position of Chairperson, Carolyn

Grant (former Secretary) into the position of Vice Chairperson and Roksana Khan (member) into the position of Secretary. Deb, Carolyn and Roksana have simply fabulous skills and a great deal of energy to offer and YANQ can only benefit from their guidance.

I guess all that is left to do is to thank the staff at YANQ and it is difficult to know how to do this as there is so much to thank the staff, both present and former, for. Perhaps I can do this best by stating what I will take with me. From Penny, I take with me a greater knowledge of what commitment means. From Sandra, I take with me a greater understanding of what participation means. From Susan, I take with me a greater understanding of encouragement (and fashion!). And from Judith, I take with me a greater understanding of support. I haven't had the privilege of knowing Margaret or John for long but I thank them for coming to work at YANQ as they are both exceptional workers.

So, so long, thanks again and I'll see you all (no doubt) at the YANQ AGM.

Sue Wright

What a response!

A big thanks to the 87 members who responded to the first annual YANQ membership survey. It was by far the highest response rate we've had in relation to any survey. The survey responses have certainly painted a clear picture of YANQ's ability to meet your needs over the past 12 months and have given us a good indication of your priorities for the coming financial year. Here's a snapshot of the responses we have received.

- 43% of respondents indicated the production of publications were YANQ's biggest achievement in 1997 (including *Network Noise*, *transitions* and *In fact*), followed by networking at 20% and policy consultation.
- 33.7% of respondents said that YANQ does not need to do anything differently in 1998 and 17.9% suggested that promotion of YANQ should be increased.
- The three biggest challenges for the sector were identified as funding provision, local service provision and services staying relevant to young people.

Young people's participation and managing workloads were identified as the biggest priorities for organisations.

Youth issues on the Net

International Youth Foundation

Founded in 1990, the International Youth Foundation is an independent, international, nongovernmental organisation dedicated to the positive development of children and youth, ages 5 to 20, world-wide.

<http://www.iyfnet.org/>

Youth Sector Training Council

Have your say about what you see as the role of the youth worker in the 21st century.

<http://www.ystc.org.au/ffront.htm>

Central Texas Youth Services Home Page

An example of a US organisation using a simple homepage to promote services.

<http://www.io.com/~owen/ctys/youth.html>

Disability on the Internet

A directory of disabilities sites on the internet.

<http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/4746/gva2gc.htm>

Bushnet

Internet access for local schools in rural Far North Queensland

<http://www.bushnet.qld.edu.au/o>

Women's Health Queensland Wide

A community-based information service funded by Queensland Health and the Federal Government.

<http://www.womhealth.org.au/h>



Queensland Government

Gateway to State Government internet resources, including election, budget and legislation information.

<http://www.qld.gov.au/>

YANQ Survey

A survey to get some contacts happening to work together for change by young people.

<http://smople.thehub.com.au/~yanq/survey.htm>

Australian Politicians on the Web

Links to the WWW pages of serving Australian politicians.

<http://ccadfa.cc.adfa.oz.au/~adm/politics/pollies.html>

The Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies

Publishers of the quarterly journal, Youth Studies Australia, and producers of specialist publications and electronic information for the youth field.

<http://www.acys.utas.edu.au/ncys/>

Youth Affairs Research Network

Electronic mailing list and database of research projects

<http://yarn.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/>

Queensland Courts

Information on courts

<http://www.courts.qld.gov.au/>

Website reaches out to prevent suicide

The launch of a new website aimed at preventing suicide among young people is a world first according to the Reach Out! team.

With distinct areas on the website for young people (*Chill Out!*), their family and friends (*Family and Friends*), and professionals who deal with them (*Professional Forum*), the Reach Out! site offers a new approach to providing much-needed information, assistance and referral. In the *Who Cares?* area (a sophisticated map-based database) you can type in your address and be shown relevant services in your local area.

On-line advice covers issues such as drugs and alcohol, relationships, sexuality, family problems, self-esteem, pregnancy, social issues, unemployment, confusion, isolation and depression and is presented in a friendly, non-threatening way (including stories by young people and profiles).

Contact: www.reachout.asn.au

Youth suicide prevention on the web

You can now find out about more than 800 youth suicide prevention programs carried out by Australian government, community and private organisations — without leaving your chair!

Just visit the Youth Suicide Prevention Communications Projects website at

<http://www.aifs.org.au/external/ysp/menu.html>

update Youth Allowance

On 12 March 1998, the Senate passed an amended version of the Social Security Legislation Amendment (Youth Allowance) Bill 1997.

The parental income testing of unemployed 18 to 20 year olds remains in the Bill despite lengthy debate and numerous concerns raised by various Senators about the impact of this change on families. However, the ALP, Australian Democrats and the Greens all proposed numerous substantive amendments, a number of which were passed.

While the retention of the parental income test requirement for unemployed 18 to 20 year olds will impose hardship on many young people and their families, the successful amendments have improved the Youth Allowance, particularly as it will be applied to under 18 year olds. For example, exemptions to the study or training requirement have been included in the legislation; and under 18 year olds can choose to enter into a Youth Allowance Activity Agreement as an option, and access case management. There are also improvements in the independence test for 18 to 20 year olds, and a shorter duration period before Centrelink will recognise marriage-like relationships. Below is a summary of the major amendments that passed and some of the amendments which were proposed but failed to win passage.

The amended Bill now returns to the House of Representatives. Should the Government not accept all or part of the Bill, it will then go back to the Senate for further discussion and another vote on the disputed portions.

Successful amendments

- Exemptions to the full-time study or training requirement for under 18 year olds

This amendment lists the exemptions to undertaking full-time study or training for under 18 year olds as outlined in DSS's

policy guidelines. The list is comprehensive (17 exemptions) and includes situations such as illness, pregnancy, caring for an incapacitated family member, death in the family, refugee situations, homelessness, and participation in case management. While most exemptions will be reassessed after 13 weeks, the period of exemption can last longer at the Secretary's discretion. Incorporating the exemptions into the legislation firmly establishes these guidelines into law, and prevents DSS from altering the exemptions without bringing it back to Parliament and obtaining a legislative amendment.

This amendment also set 1 January 1999 as the commencement date for the requirement that under 18 year olds must be in full time education in order to qualify for the Youth Allowance. While the Government had indicated their plans for a 1999 start-up date, the amendment sets the date in legislation and provides some certainty to people affected that the provisions will not be enacted at an earlier date.

• Case management

Another amendment ensured that in cases where a young person is suited for and agrees to participate in case management, but there is no case management placement available, the young person will be entitled to a Youth Allowance payment. The prevailing argument was that young people shouldn't lose benefits just because a service (case management) wasn't being provided where they lived.

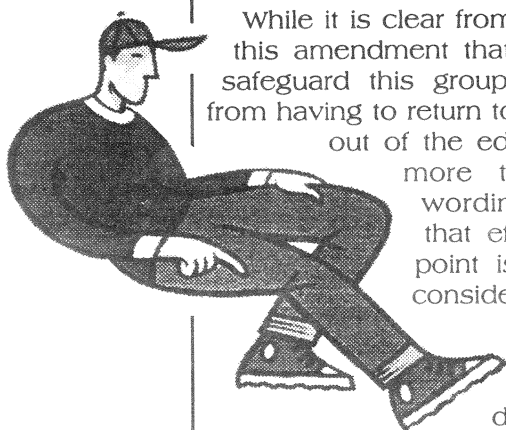
• Participation in a Youth Activity Agreement

This amendment provides under 18 year olds with an alternative to formal education and training by allowing them to enter into a Youth Allowance Activity Agreement and participate in a variety of approved activities, such as job search, paid work experience, development of self-employment, and unpaid voluntary work proposed by the person, as well as a course of education or a training program. This amendment gives the choice of

activity (i.e. education, training, or participation in an Activity Agreement) to the young person.

- **Under 18 year olds who have already left school**

This amendment removes the obligation to attend full-time education or training in order to receive the Youth Allowance for those 16 and 17 year olds who did not return to school at the beginning of the 1998 school year. Specifically, the amendment states that the full-time study/training obligation does not apply to those people who last left school more than 12 months before the commencement of the Act.



While it is clear from the discussion on this amendment that the intent was to safeguard this group of young people from having to return to school after being out of the education system for more than a year, the wording may not have that effect. The sticking point is when the Act is considered to commence as all the provisions except those dealing with the under 18 year olds are slated to commence 1 July 1998. If July 1998 is considered the commence date for the Act (even though it is not the start-up date for these provisions) it will not remove the study/training obligation for this group of young people.

- **More flexible independence criteria**

As stated in the Bill, one of the criteria for determining whether a person is independent required that they support themselves through paid work for at least 18 months and earn at least 50% of Average Weekly Earnings during the calendar year in which the 18 months started. That percentage translated to around \$17,000. The successful amendment substituted the 50% of AWE for 75% of the maximum Commonwealth training award payment. While the specific training award payment was not cited, AYPAC's calculations, using the highest training award payments possible drops that earned amount down to around \$12,500.

Another option for proving independence stated in the Bill required a person to work part-time for at least 20 hours per week for at least 2 years. The amendment substituted 15 hours for the 20 hours, and debate on the proposal cited the Government's use of 15 hours as the benchmark for a successful 'employment outcome' in the new employment services market as the rationale for a more reasonable interpretation of part time hours.

While the overall requirements that must be met to prove independence remain more stringent than those currently in place for the unemployed, they are less restrictive than current AUSTUDY work history requirements. The amendments reflect a more realistic estimate of what 18 to 20 year olds earn and the number of hours they are likely to have worked in part-time and casual employment. While in no way compensating for the loss of independence imposed by the parental income test, these amendments will allow more young people who have been part of the work force to qualify as independent.

- **Homeless criteria improved**

One amendment removed the requirement that, for the purposes of proving independence, both parents have to be in jail for at least 10 years. The change removed the 10 year provision so that young people could qualify if their parents were in jail regardless of the period of time. Another amendment allows young people to be deemed independent if their parents are unable to provide them with a suitable home, i.e. the parents are homeless.

- **"Unsuitable" work definition improvements**

This amendment added two clauses to the definition of "unsuitable paid work": A place that is not accessible by public transport and the person does not have access to other means of transport; and the work requires a person to move from their home.

The amendment also added the clause concerning work that requires a person to move away from their home in the section dealing with 'work for unemployment payment' (Work for the Dole). The amendment means young people cannot be required to participate in a Work for the Dole placement if it would require them to

update Youth Allowance

move.

• Marriage-like relationships

This amendment changes the definition of a Youth Allowance couple by decreasing the period of time in a marriage-like relationship from the Bill's 2 years to 12 months (6 months in special circumstances determined by the Secretary). The Government did not oppose this change, stating that the 2 year figure was chosen as a compromise between the different definitions which exist for Social Security payments and AUSTUDY.

• "Reasonableness" clause

This amendment shifts the burden of proof in cases of non-compliance back onto the Government. The current provisions in the Act have a two step test concerning failing to comply with 'reasonable steps'

a) the main reason for failing to comply involved a matter that was within the person's control; and

b) the circumstances that prevented the person from complying were reasonably foreseeable by the person.

This amendment adds a third step which requires the Government to show that the person did not act in good faith and to the best of their abilities to comply with the requirement. While this may seem like an esoteric point, the reality is that many Social Security clients have been breached for failing to meet this reasonable steps test and it has taken Administrative Appeals Tribunal decisions to overturn them.

• Waiting period for newly arrived residents

While the amendments to remove the newly arrived residents 2 year waiting period for both the Youth Allowance and Special Benefits were defeated, there was sufficient concern about lack of access to the Special Benefit (especially in light of the recent court ruling that granted Special Benefits to a newly arrived resident family) for Senator Harradine to move a motion that the matter be referred to the Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee for inquiry, with a report due back to the Senate by 2 April 1998. There will be a hearing on the matter in Canberra on 27 March and there is a possibility that the Senate may take some action on the

waiting period for Special Benefits.

• Notification improvements

There were several amendments which improved notification requirements. These include:

- specifying written notification to Youth Allowance client on matters related to their benefits

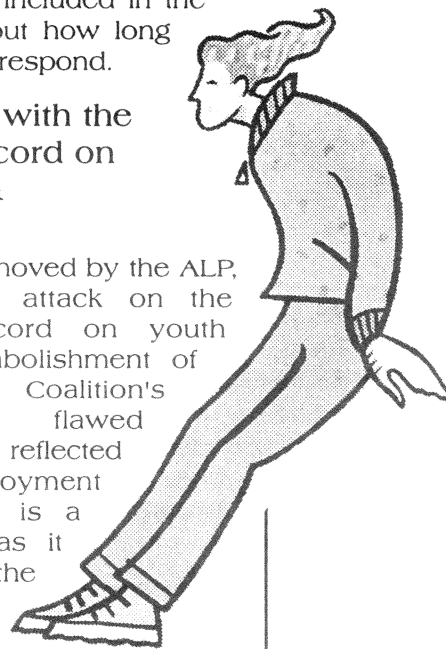
- that notification clearly explain the consequences if the client fails to comply

- that time frames be included in the legislation which set out how long clients have to comply/respond.

• Senate concerns with the Government's record on unemployment & employment

The last amendment, moved by the ALP, is a lengthy verbal attack on the Coalition's track record on youth unemployment, the abolishment of CES, and the Coalition's "fundamentally flawed employment policy" as reflected in the new employment services market. It is a curious amendment as it has nothing to do with the enabling legislation for the Youth Allowance. Senator

Newman said of it that "the government does not think very highly of the drafting, but we will not oppose you". (See Hansard, 12 March 1998, p. 657 for the amendment).



Unsuccessful amendments

• Parental income test/age of independence

There were numerous amendments from all non-Government parties which attempted to remove the parental income test and return the age of independence to 18 for unemployed young people. There were also several amendments that sought to lower the age of independence for students to 21 and, alternatively, to set 18 as a common age of independence for both students and the unemployed. The initial debate on the second day of deliberation indicated that Senator Harradine was opposed to the parental income testing because of the impact on

update **Youth Allowance**

families and the lack of appropriate tax benefits to offset the increased financial burden of supporting unemployed adult children. However, as you would be aware, Senator Harradine secured sufficient commitments from the Government that his concerns would be addressed in the upcoming tax reform package for him to support the Government's position and maintain the parental income test.

While the Government has maintained that the Youth Allowance does not represent a savings measure and that additional funds will be spent, figures were placed on the record that show how much is being saved by moving the age of independence for the unemployed to 21 years old. According to DSS figures, the cost of bringing the age of independence for unemployed back to 18 years would be \$135 million per year; to reduce the age of independence for students to 21 years would cost \$178 million per year. The Government maintains that these "savings" off-set other expenditures and that the Government is spending an additional \$212 million over 4 years on the Youth Allowance. However, it has not been made clear what expenditures are covered by that \$212 million

• Removal of the actual means test

There were several amendments that sought to either remove all references to the actual means test (AMT) or modify it considerably. The ALP withdrew their amendment to remove the AMT after obtaining a guarantee from the Government that it would offer an amendment that would set the AMT in legislation and would introduce this amendment at the earliest opportunity (probably the Youth Allowance Consequential Amendment Bill).

• Extend the income bank to the unemployed

This amendment would have, in effect, reinstated a form of Earnings Credit Scheme which was abolished in the Coalition's first budget. Students are allowed to 'bank' up to \$6,000 per year before their benefits are reduced and this

measure recognises that students often earn their income in blocks during school holidays rather than spread throughout the year and need to bank their money to pay for educational expenses. The argument was put that many unemployed young people similarly earn their income in seasonal periods and have equally legitimate expenses related to looking for work.

• Two year waiting period for newly arrived residents

This amendment would have lifted the waiting period to provide access for newly arrived residents to the Youth Allowance and Special Benefits

• Rent Assistance improvements

There were several amendments which attempted to lower the eligibility threshold for Youth Allowance Rent Assistance clients to that of other Social Security beneficiaries, and to remove the one third reduction in Rent Assistance benefits for those in shared accommodation.

There was also an amendment that extended Rent Assistance to two groups of young people without having to meet the 'required to live away from home' test. The first group is over 21 year olds (students) who are living permanently and indefinitely away from the parental home. The second group is under 21 year olds who have been out of the home for at least 18 weeks and have been employed for 13 of those 18 weeks. The rationale for the amendment was that the Government should not insist that 21 year old adults must live with their parents, and that under 21 year olds living away from home with a work force attachment should receive Rent Assistance. The Government did not support this amendment as it believed it was too broad and would provide benefits to young people who do not need to live away from home.

If you would like further details on any of these amendments, AYPAC has annotated copies of the Senate debate and a copy of the original legislation and amendments.

This Up2date supplement was produced by the Australian Youth Policy & Action Coalition (AYPAC), March 1998. AYPAC is Australia's national youth affairs organisation. Up2date is AYPAC's monthly newsletter that includes articles, resources, news and a calendar of events associated with youth issues. For more information about AYPAC, its activities, membership and subscription to Up2date contact: AYPAC, PO Box 204, Ainslie, ACT 2602. Ph (02) 6247 1666. Fax (02) 6247 1799. Email aypac@tpgi.com.au

Australian Youth Policy & Action Coalition Up2date supplement

SEQ NAIDOC MURRI WEEK

5th - 12th July

SEQ NAIDOC BALL

Friday evening, 26th June 1998

Aim 4 More • Kambala • Hot Chocolate
Angus Rabbit and the Never Never Band

\$40
PER TICKET

SEQ NAIDOC AWARDS

Regional Awards to Indigenous Australians

Week's Activities

Friday, June 26th SEQ NAIDOC Ball and Awards Night

Sunday, July 5th Opal — Joyce Wilding Hostel Open Day

Monday, July 6th Official Launch Day King George Square

Tuesday, July 7th Uni, TAFE, AICCA Open Day

Wednesday, July 8th Schools, Pre-Schools, Day Care

Thursday, July 9th Community Groups, Agencies, Fun Days
ie. Correctional Centres, Ipswich, Zillmere

Friday, July 10th Family Fun Day at Musgrave Park

Saturday, July 11th Wynnum and Sunshine Coast Family Fun Days

ATSIC



**FIRST
CONTACT**
For more information, call
First Contact: (07) 3895 8177

No tickets available
on the night.

All tickets will be
presold.

From then to Now

NAIDOC Week is the highlight of the year for many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their supporters.

However, NAIDOC has undergone a number of changes in recent times. For example, the national community of NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee — from which the acronym NAIDOC is drawn) was wound up in 1996 and some regional committees

have ceased to operate. However, Indigenous people around the country continue to celebrate NAIDOC Week at various times of each year.

In mid 1997, ATSIC (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission) established an Indigenous advisory committee drawn from key Indigenous organisations throughout the country to examine NAIDOC and make recommendations on the

way it could be celebrated in the future. An announcement on the long-term future of NAIDOC is expected to be made during NAIDOC Week in July 1998.

**South East Queensland
NAIDOC "MURRI WEEK 98"**
is supported and sponsored by
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Commission and the
Team at First Contact Aboriginal
Corporation for Youth

New Act increases police powers

Proclaimed in May, the new Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 1997 increases police powers and is likely to have a significant impact on young people.

The Act's key purposes are to grant additional powers requested by police, and to consolidate powers set out in a number of Acts by pulling them together in one place. Police powers in other Acts will be rescinded over the next two years or so, but currently powers exist in both the old Acts and the new.

Major new powers and responsibilities

Major new powers included in the Act relate to:

- entry and search of places
- search of persons and vehicles
- demand name and address
- move-on powers
- arrest and notice to appear
- detention for questioning and investigation
- covert surveillance

Entry and search of places

This gives the power to police to enter and stay in private dwelling without a warrant. If the property is a dwelling, this can only be with the occupier's consent. It also gives the power to enter a place reasonably suspected of being a crime scene or to reach a crime scene.

Search of persons and vehicles

Police now have powers of search without a warrant where there is suspicion of an unlawful weapon or dangerous drug;

unlawfully obtained or tainted property; an implement for housebreaking, stealing a vehicle or administering a dangerous drug, something intended to harm self or others; or evidence of the commission of a seven-year offence which the officer reasonably suspects may be concealed or destroyed.

In order to search a vehicle or person, police are empowered to take the vehicle or person to an appropriate place for that purpose.

Police can enter or search a place without warrant if they reasonably suspect evidence may otherwise be concealed or destroyed and then must as soon as practicable apply for an order to authorise the search.

Demand name and address

Name and address can be demanded by a police officer if they find a person committing or reasonably suspect a person has committed an offence; reasonably suspect a person is a witness to an indictable offence; or are attempting to execute a warrant. An officer can also require supporting evidence of the person's name and address if it is reasonable in the circumstances.

Move-on powers

This section of the Act gives police the powers to direct a person or persons to leave certain locations listed below if their presence is causing anxiety to a reasonable person at the place; interfering with trade or business; disorderly, indecent, offensive or threatening; or disrupting the orderly conduct of any event.

- outside pre-schools and child care centres;
- outside schools;
- near automatic teller machines;
- outside shops and licensed premises;
- railway stations and surrounding land;
- and 'notified areas'.

A notified area is one which is agreed will become subject to these 'move on' powers. For this to happen a local authority makes application to the Minister for Police for a particular area to become a notified area. Currently it is unclear what, if any, guidelines exist to guide decisions in regard to what should be approved as a notified area.

Arrest and notice to appear

Detention for questioning and investigation

The Act introduces a 'notice to appear' as a new way of dealing with an offence (this is new for adults; a similar provision exists in the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*). This is a notice served on a person, which states the offence and when the person is required to appear before a magistrates court. A police officer may also take fingerprints and photographs. If the person fails to appear in court, the court can order an immediate arrest.

Power to arrest has been extended by this Act but only part of these powers affects juveniles. Police now have the power to arrest an adult or juvenile for questioning and

investigation over an offence the person is suspected of, but not yet been charged with, committing. This offence must be an indictable offence, which means it must have a maximum penalty of seven years (this includes offences such as receiving a stolen chocolate bar and possession of marijuana).

The initial detention period is up to eight hours, during which questioning can take place for a maximum of four hours. The person can be detained longer if there is an extension given by a magistrate or Justice of the Peace. The person can then be detained for a further eight hours of questioning plus some time for 'time out'. Only a magistrate can extend detention for questioning beyond this.

Some safeguards have been included in relation to detention for questioning including:

- the right to telephone a friend, relative or lawyer and to have them present during questions, although this person can be excluded for 'unreasonably interfering' with questioning;
- if the person has not arranged for a lawyer to be present and they are indigenous, the police office must advise the Aboriginal Legal Aid although this does not apply where the officer suspects the person is not disadvantaged in comparison with members of the Australian community generally;
- juveniles are allowed an 'interview friend' present. This person could be a parent, guardian a lawyer or a relative or friend. Police must advise a parent and head of DFYCC of the arrest;
- the right to an interpreter;
- questioning must be electronically recorded.

The Act also allows for the arrest of an adult if it is to prevent continuation of an offence; to establish the

person's identity; to ensure appearance at court; to obtain or preserve evidence or to preserve the safety of any person.

The Act allows for the discontinuation of the arrest or 'unarrest' if the reason for the arrest no longer exists or it is more appropriate to proceed by a Notice to Appear (in court).

Covert surveillance

This section extends police powers to use listening and tracking devices and visual surveillance devices.

Concerns

It is unclear how a number of sections in the new Act will operate, and it is also unclear how some sections will articulate with other Acts. For example, is the 'interview friend' the same as the independent person identified in the Juvenile Justice Act? And what guidelines will be used in approving new 'designated areas'? Such issues will only become clear as sections of the Act are enacted and challenged and precedents set.

The use of move-on powers is one which we as a sector must attempt to monitor despite the obvious difficulties in doing this. YANQ will, in coordination with the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC), be developing a proforma for people to capture stories of young people's experience of the Act.

Particularly, we need to be vigilant of how the powers of arrest are used, since this section has potential to be used to harass some groups of people, as do the move-on powers. Searches of vehicles and cars gives police wide discretionary powers and this too is an area to monitor.

YANQ acknowledges the work of the Criminal Justice Commission in its publication Police Powers and Responsibility Act 1997: the short version from which much of the factual information used here was sourced.

Contact: Penny Carr



Clearing the Way:

The "Here for Life" Youth Sexuality Project has developed "Clearing the Way", a professional training package which aims to:

- increase participants' awareness of the issues faced by young people with same sex attractions;
- develop an appreciation of how these issues can exacerbate barriers to support for these young people;
- promote understanding about the mechanisms by which these difficulties place them at suicidal risk; and
- foster in participants an insight into how values, attitudes and stereotypes prevalent in the wider community about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people can impact on the supportive role played by professionals working with youth.

For further information contact Anthony Aris or Graham Brown at the "Here for Life" Youth Sexuality Project on (08) 9429 9900.

YANQ under review

Interested members can participate in a review of YANQ currently being carried out for its major funding body, the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care.

The review was requested in late February this year by then Minister for Families Youth and Community Care Kev Lingard. The review aims to assess whether YANQ's outputs and outcomes represent value for money for the Department. Interestingly, YANQ underwent an external evaluation less than two years ago.

The current review is being carried out by Carlene Riley, seconded to the Department from Education Queensland. As part of its assessment, some YANQ members will be randomly targeted in coming weeks to provide information. Should you be contacted, it is worth keeping in mind that the review aims to:

- identify what the Department wants from YANQ as a result of the funds which it provides,
- assess the extent to which YANQ satisfies these expectations,
- assess the extent to which mechanisms used to negotiate, collaborate and report on how YANQ meets its obligations as identified in the Terms and Conditions of Grant Agreement meet the needs of both parties, and
- make recommendations in relation to the above, to enhance productive partnerships between YANQ and the Department and facilitate YANQ's achievement of its Terms and Conditions of Grant Agreement.

YANQ's funding for the current financial year was delayed by some eight months even though it was only the second year in a triennial funding agreement with the Department. In light of this and other pressing priorities, YANQ requested the Department to delay the review until the end of the current financial year. However, this request was denied. By the time you read this article the review will almost be complete as the timeframe was very short.

If you are not randomly selected to participate in the review and would like to talk to Carlene, call her on (07) 3225 1165 or fax (07) 3221 5373 as soon as possible.



New project on young women and juvenile justice

A new project will see young women carrying out interviews and running community forums to research their peers' experiences of the juvenile justice system.

The young women's project, run by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, is gathering information for use in developing future juvenile justice programs for young women. The project will ask young women who have recently experienced a juvenile justice order to identify:

- whether they prefer gender-specific programs and services or are happy to participate in those whose primary clients are young men;
- the strengths of existing programs, service and service provision; and
- aspects of existing programs, services and service provision that could be enhanced.

While young women are less likely than young men to enter the juvenile justice system, national and state trends show increasing numbers of young women are appearing before the Courts and being placed on juvenile justice orders as a result of offending. As the number of young women on orders increases, issues relating to effective responses for this client group become more significant. Most current juvenile justice programs have been developed primarily around the needs of young men.

Where possible, the project will involve young women in the planning and delivery of the project. Young women in detention have been consulted about the design of the questionnaire and other aspects of the project, while an indigenous young women's group is providing project advice. Young women will also be conducting interviews and running consultation forums.

The project is supported by a reference group comprising representatives from government and non-government agencies that work with young women.

*Contact: Leanne Beikoff, Department of Families,
Youth and Community Care,
(07) 3224 2529*

Job Network — what's new?

Employment support services underwent a massive change on 1 May when the CES was replaced by the Commonwealth Government's new system of labour exchange services, known as 'Job Network'. The new system will bring big changes to the lives of unemployed people, including those 25 years and under. Major features of the new system are outlined below.

Classifying job seekers

Centrelink clients, including unemployed young people, will be classified according to the type of employment assistance required. This will be done through a computer system called the Jobseekers Classification Instrument. It will develop a *score* to determine comparative difficulty in attaining employment and decide the amount payable to an employment provider.

Job Matching

'Job Matching' is provided by employment providers and was previously known as FLEX 1. The

service is provided on a fee for service basis and DEETYA will pay the provider a set fee if the provider obtains a defined outcome such as finding employment for the client.

Job search training

This service will help people develop skills in looking for employment such as resumes. Job search training will only be provided to people who have been unemployed for six to twelve months and only for a period of three weeks.

Intensive assistance

Intensive case managed assistance is available for 12 to 18 months. Eligibility will be determined by the Job Seeker Classification Instrument or at a later review stage.

Community support program

The tendering process for this program has not been finalised. It is intended to provide specialist services to people with significant barriers to

employment. It will not necessarily be provided by an employment provider.

Concerns

- Some providers may provide poor quality training and other assistance. Providers may target only those who are most likely to get jobs in order to maximise profits or because competitive price tendering pushes down service payment levels.
- Numerous community sector and specialist services who helped the most disadvantaged unemployed young people have not won tenders and have, therefore, been forced to close.
- Consumer protection mechanisms and grievance procedures are not adequate with the power base resting with service providers.
- Centrelink will not refer young people to State funded employment programs.

Resourcing for job creation and employment assistance remains inadequate.



SEA of Hands - Organised by ANTaR. Held at Brisbane Botanical Gardens, April 1998

conferences/training



Australian People's Forum on Youth Suicide

The Australian People's Forum seeks to bring together representatives from all areas of the wider Australian community to better understand the issue of youth suicide and develop workable solutions to prevent this tragic problem. The forum has been put together by Here For Life.

Dates: 10 - 11 August 1998
Venue: Canberra

For more info contact Here For Life 1800 359 770 Fax (03) 9329 1565

Learning Communities, Regional Sustainability & the Learning Society

Various segments of the conference will be used to investigate the links, requirements, indicators, interpretations and successful outcomes of sustainability. Day 3 of the Regional Futures Conference (19 June) and the Young People, Work and the Future Forum (20 June) may be particularly relevant to the youth sector.

Dates: 13 - 20 June 1998
Venue: Launceston, Tasmania
For more info contact (03) 6226 2092, fax (03) 6226 7493

Sexual Abuse Seminar

Looking at the issue of sexual abuse with relation to its impact on survivors and responses to dealing with perpetrators, reporting and legal requirements. Keynote speaker will be Professor Barry Nurcombe,

Director of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Royal Brisbane Hospital.

Dates: 10 - 11 June 1998
Venue: Nambour, Sunshine Coast
For more info contact Claude at SCYFS on (07) 5443 9070

National Juvenile Justice Conference

The conference will address topics such as indigenous and non-indigenous juveniles; community policing; funding of youth programs homelessness, drugs and suicide; police and juveniles; the courts and juveniles; detention (does it work) what are the alternatives; and deaths in custody.

Dates: 15 - 17 June 1998
Venue: Cairns

For more info contact Indigenous Conference Services Australia (07) 4033 6480 fax (07) 4033 6485

Everybody's Business - 2nd National Conference on Children and Young People and Domestic Violence

This Conference will provide an opportunity to reflect and discuss current practice, research and policy and to focus on the impact domestic violence has on children and young people. The conference will emphasise the need for collaboration between the domestic violence, child protection, health, education, legal and welfare sectors in providing a comprehensive and quality response to children and young people affected by domestic violence.

Dates: 30th September - 2nd October

Venue: Brisbane

For more information contact DVRC on (07) 3217 2544, fax (07) 3217 2679 or E-mail DVRC@uq.net.au

1st national Conference on Drugs and Young People

Major conference themes incorporate drug prevention and education, adolescent mental health, drug treatment, and law and justice related drug issues. The conference gives workers a chance to share their expertise, to hear about programs within Australia and overseas, to review resources, and to hear from national and international experts.

Dates: 22 - 24 November
Venue: Melbourne

For more information contact the Conference Secretariat on (03)9278 8100, fax (03) 9328 3008 or E-mail events@adf.org.au

Interagency meetings

continued from page 23

South Burnett Youth Development

Network Contact: Gail Padgett, PO Box 197, Kingaroy Q 4670 (071) 622 722. 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, Maroochydore.

Toowoomba Youth Organisations

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



DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

Grants for Capital Projects for Children or Students with Disabilities

1999 Funding Round

Applications are invited, from registered incorporated **non-government non-school organisations** only, for grants to assist with capital support and equipment for children or students with disabilities.

Grants are provided under the Commonwealth's Special Learning Needs Programme. The grants will be for capital facilities (minor, as well as major) and equipment that is integral to the provision of educational and therapeutic services for children or students with disabilities and which improve their participation and achievement in education.

Grants will be for commitment in 1999.

An *Application Form and Notes for Guidance of Applicants* may be obtained from:

Special Education Section
Literacy and Special Programmes Branch
Schools Division
Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs
GPO Box 9880
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Information Hotline: (02) 6240 7556

Email address: erica.o'sullivan@deetya.gov.au

or viewed at <http://www.deetya.gov.au/divisions/schools/forms.htm>.

The closing date for applications is 17 July 19998.

Youth Cultural Events Program 1998

The Department of Families, Youth and Community Care is pleased to announce the availability of funding to conduct a Youth Cultural Events Program. The program provides opportunities for young people to develop their participation within their communities through a variety of arts and cultural activities.

The theme is "Young People's Arts and Culture" and events can be held any time between July '98 and June '99.

Eligible organisations are invited to apply for funding under the Youth Cultural Events Program. Up to \$1,000 is available for local activities or \$3,000 for regional activities.

Applications close 19 June 1998.

Guidelines and application forms are available from the Department's Regional Office in your area or contact Ms Phil Jackson on (07) 3225 1458.

DEPARTMENT OF
FAMILIES, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CARE

Working with Communities to Create a Caring Society



APPLY FOR FUNDING NOW

Applications are invited for Networking the Nation—the Commonwealth Government's Regional Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund.

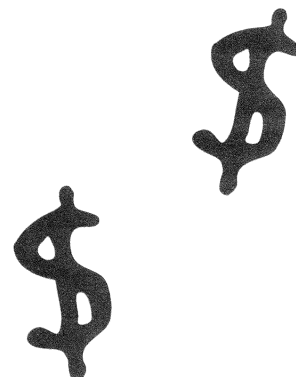
A total of \$53.1 million is provided for Queensland projects.

Networking the Nation assists regional, rural and remote communities improve telecommunications infrastructure and services in their area.

So far approx \$49 million has been provided to more than 90 projects around Australia—projects which are improving internet availability; providing training and access to online information; increasing access to health, education and other services; enhancing regional marketing activities; encouraging electronic commerce and export opportunities and helping to create jobs.

Find out more by visiting our website at **www.dca.gov.au/rtif.html** or call the Secretariat toll free on **1800 674 058**

Networking the Nation is an initiative of the Commonwealth Government and the Department of Communications and the Arts provide the Secretariat.





YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION



Information for Parents

This booklet will be useful for all parents who are concerned about the issue of youth suicide in Australia. It targets parents who want specific information about suicide risk factors and ways they can help young people who may be thinking about suicide.

For more information contact the Young People at Risk Program, West Moreton Community Health on (07) 3817 2426 or (07) 3234 0672.

Free report on young people and local government

Members can access a free report produced by the Department of Local Government in New South Wales on how local Councils consult with young people.

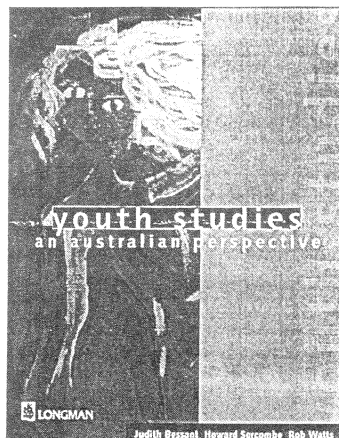
The report found that focus groups were the mechanism considered most effective for consulting with young people, with 30% of Councils using this model. It also found that around one-third of councils have a youth council and most of these have their own budget allocation.

Copies of the report are available at www.dlg.nsw.gov.au or contact Karen Paterson (02) 9793 0826. paterson.k@dlg.nsw.gov.au

Youth Studies: an Australian Perspective

This is an introductory text for youth studies students at university and TAFE level. It examines issues to do with young people, their place in society and the practices of human service professionals who work with young people.

Phone (02) 94288000 to order your copy.



Youth Homelessness: Early Intervention & Prevention

This book examines the issue of youth homelessness in the context of relevant social and educational policies. It puts forward powerful arguments for early intervention and prevention and suggests new approaches for schools, community based organisations and Governments.

Phone ACEE on (02) 95652948 to purchase your copy.

"Competing Models of Schools and Communities"

Examines of competing theories and models of school-community relationships. Implications are drawn and recommendations are made as to the ways in which schools might better provide the necessary family and social supports essential for the growth and development of all children.

To purchase your copy contact the Australian Centre for Equity through Education (ACEE) on (02) 95652948.

Better ways to manage your organisation

As many small community organisations struggle to survive, the Queensland Council of Social Service has published a discussion paper outlining ideas for more effective management of these organisations.

The *Discussion Paper on Community Management Models* outlines several current management models and ideas for better management. These include:

Greater cooperation among services in carrying out management tasks by:

- separate services using chain and bureau services
- separate services moving to shared premises, sharing services and facilities
- services merging to form one management body and co-locating

Collaborative governance

- A collaborative structure that allows for local management and delivery with higher level functions pooled at a regional or community level.

Contact: QCOSS (07) 3832 1266

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.

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.
- ☞ **Beauresert Interagency** Contact: Marg Moss, Beauresert Community House, 4 Davis Street, Beauresert, Q 4825 (07) 5541 3762. Meets monthly at Illoura Centre, 31 Duckett St, Beauresert.
- ☞ **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: Gerina Appo, Gold Coast Youth Service, PO Box 8636, Gold Coast MC Q4217 (07) 5572 28919. Meets monthly at Stephens Community Centre, Lynmuller Lane, Stephen, Q 4227.
- ☞ **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 Farrwell, 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.

(cont page 20)

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

- Discounts 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: (____) _____
Fax: (____) _____
Code: _____
Code: _____

email: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY APPLIED FOR

Young Person Income < \$25,000 ☐ \$10.00
Individual Income < \$25,000 N-G ☐ Govt ☐ \$25.00
Income > \$25,000 N-G ☐ Govt ☐ \$40.00

(Individuals must pay by personal cheque, money order or cash)

Organisation Funding < \$100,000 ☐ \$55.00
Funding \$100,000-250,000 ☐ \$95.00
Funding > \$250,000 ☐ \$150.00

No funding - apply to YANQ for special consideration

Government Department or Service ☐ \$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