



Network Noise

Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

December '98 - January '99

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Welcome to the final edition of Network Noise for 1998

I'm pleased to say that I have been appointed Director of YANQ and am looking forward to a long-term relationship with readers. I would like to give a fond farewell to Pam de Jonge who has been a great support as the locum Policy Officer at YANQ. Pam is now working with Department of Housing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Program as the Community Housing Project Structure Support Officer. I will also take this opportunity to welcome Carolyn Grant as the newly appointed Policy Officer. There have been some calls for the return of individual profiles within the Network Noise so please take the time to search

through the newsletter and find out all about Carolyn. The Youth Consultative Network (YCN) and the Youth Advisory Forum (YAF) projects have come to an end with remarkable outcomes from both. We farewell Abbie, Hanna, Aisha, Heather and Natalie as project staff, however YANQ will be continuing to support YCN as a network through the coming years.

The conference up in Townsville went very well. For those who attended, well done for the positive energy that encompassed the conference and the themes of Reconciliation and the Construction of young people. This edition of network

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Welcome to country by traditional owners

Network Noise

is the Youth Affairs Network of
Queensland (YANQ) Inc. newsletter,
published every two months.

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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

to Michelle Mladenovic
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March — April Issue
1 March 1999

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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.

Noise has been largely dedicated to the conference and to especially give information to members who were unable to attend. Some of the Key Note Addresses are being published in the upcoming edition of the newly returned Transitions Journal!

It is exciting to see our National Peak Body, the Australian Youth Policy and Action Coalition (AYPAC) continue to do amazing work as a non-funded organisation. I recently attended AYPAC's board meeting in Canberra which YANQ is a member. Policy highlights include analysing the Youth Allowance and putting in submissions in relation to Junior Wages. I also attended the AGM where I was voted onto the Executive of AYPAC. This will increase our links with federal policy makers and how we as a State Peak can have an impact. Also we will be supporting the ongoing AYPAC newsletter so if anyone has relevant national articles please let us know.

Update on YANQ's external review

The review of YANQ by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, which was coordinated by Carlene Riley, Senior Evaluator, was completed and the document made available, dated June 1998. A brief outline of the outcomes from the Executive Summary of the review document are as follows:

- YANQ is operating effectively as a peak organisation for the non-government youth sector in Queensland.
- A positive and mutually supportive relationship exists between staff of YANQ and officers of OYA.
- YANQ has a unique position to identify best practice responses and/or solutions to the issues it raises.

- YANQ has a capacity to identify grass roots issues.
- All groups gave strong support for YANQ
- YANQ is fulfilling some key aspects of its Terms and Conditions of Grant.
- YANQ publications are valued and appreciated by its membership
- YANQ is able to give breadth and credibility to the process.
- YANQ may benefit from being more strategic in raising the level of debate and community concern about youth issues.
- There is a willingness for and value in collaborative work by community peaks.
- It is likely to be beneficial for YANQ and OYA to identify, articulate and act jointly to create synergy in situations where a joint approach will maximise outcomes for young people.

Like all members, I have thoughts and vision for the future of YANQ. My main aim is that we become increasingly accountable to members. My vision is to accomplish this by introducing organisational systems that will enable consultation and input to occur for members from urban and rural areas. Regional visits will need to be planned in a systematic way as well as responding to the media, developing policies, facilitating working parties etc, etc... WOW! What a lot of work to be done, but I'm sure we will get there together. The next few months will be focussing on these systems so the 1999 will be a productive year.

I hope this edition is interesting reading please contact others or myself in the office at any time. Merry Christmas and happy New Year to all.

Bernice Smith
Director

5th State Youth Affairs Conference

During the recent State Youth Affairs Conference the issue of *the construction of young people* was raised. A series of discussion groups were formed to explore this important issue. The discussion groups divided up the issue of *the construction of young people* into six guide questions for easier understanding. The questions and summary of the discussions are as follows:

Question 1: How valid is the notion of *the construction of young people*?

The majority of groups identified external influences such as the media, peers, education system, religion, legal system, and other social processes as major contributors in the construction of young people. Parents and other family members were also perceived to be contributors in the construction of young people, but not to the same degree as the other influences mentioned.

⌘ Government departments contribute by deciding when young people can work, leave

school, and begin a sexual relationship.

⌘ Judgements made by all parties contribute in the construction of young people. Young people's actions are constantly being *judged* by the system of *good v bad* and *right v wrong*.

⌘ Ageism and power imbalances contribute in the construction of young people.

⌘ Young people have very little input into policies that construct them. What input they do have can often be tokenistic.

⌘ Societal issues such as homelessness, youth suicide and employment can deconstruct young people. They also have the potential to dishearten young people and make them believe they have no power to control their own lives or destinies.

⌘ Other groups in our communities such as the aged, indigenous, and ethnic people disempower and marginalise young people.

Question 2: How does your agency/organisation construct young people?

The views of the various groups ranged from notions of *young people being encouraged to participate in community to young people needing to be controlled in public spaces*.

⌘ Choices available to young people can make the difference.

⌘ The value base of an organisation/agency can contribute to the construction of young people.

⌘ Organisations/agencies often exist around the notion that young people need to be looked after because they lack the ability to do so themselves and that people under 18 years of age are not responsible.

⌘ Organisations/agencies sometimes view young people as being 'at risk' of certain behaviours.

⌘ Government constructs young people through notions of *mutual obligation*.

⌘ The majority of views related to young people having their needs met in more specific ways and not solely determined by others.

⌘ Organisations/agencies should be more client focused and empower young people with the opportunity to control their own lives and successes.

Question 3: How do you as a worker construct young people?

People seemed to view this question in the context of the limits involved in working with young people.

⌘ Most stated that the number of services available to young people are limited due to funding constraints, and therefore young people are constructed by the parameters of a particular program.

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Young people attending the conference

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- ⌘ The terminology used by workers can construct young people.
- ⌘ Workers empowering young people can often give them the latitude to construct themselves.
- ⌘ Appropriate referral processes can assist in positively constructing young people by not limiting their service choices.
- ⌘ Young people can often be positively constructed through social networks.
- ⌘ Construction of young people can occur through the prevention of youth suicide, abolition of homelessness, and other safety factors.

Question 4: Problems that can occur in the youth sector?

This question provided an insight into the issue of gaps in service provision that often means young people fall through these gaps.

- ⌘ Policies and funding can stifle the way we work with young people.
- ⌘ The lack of young people in youth work can create the potential for the youth sector to *lose touch*.
- ⌘ Lack of housing options for young people often means the street is the only viable option.
- ⌘ The family unit and/or parents sometimes do not possess the skills needed to address issues impacting on young people, which can result in a lack of role models.
- ⌘ The notion of the worker as the *saviour* creates the dilemma between control and empowerment.
- ⌘ Changing social beliefs, values and structures in society can create problems in the youth sector.



Peaceful demonstration in Townsville against racism

- ⌘ Not realising that young people also have rights was another problem identified.
- ⌘ One discussion group decided that people in the youth sector create problems by actually defining young people as a problem.
- ⌘ We need to take a step back and look at new ways of looking at young people as a group who have no fewer or no more problems than any other group in the community.

Question 5: Who constructs young people (common themes only)?

Common themes identified in the discussion groups were as follows:

- Media
- Youth sector
- Communities
- Legal system
- Culture
- Individuals
- Production and marketing
- Parents/families
- Education system

Question 6: Other issues raised during discussion

Many other issues were raised in the discussion groups. The highlights are as follows:

- ⌘ Role models and mentors are very important factors in young people's lives. This issue raised the question of

whether parents share the benefits of teenage young people's experiences.

- ⌘ Shifts in family perspectives relating to control issues is an important development.
- ⌘ It is valuable to look at what we are doing to contribute to the problems impacting on young people, and ways in which we can assist in changing this.
- ⌘ Issues are fluid and change over time. There is therefore a need to keep in touch with new and emerging issues.
- ⌘ Workers need to be updated on all new events, changes and emerging issues.
- ⌘ Young people who secure employment are often viewed as mature, and therefore no longer 'young'. However, it was suggested that *transition is a personal thing*.

Conclusion:

The discussion groups generated some very valuable ideas and information that is invaluable for the youth sector and YANQ as the peak body. Many thanks to all participants, and to Robyn Grant for assisting in summarising the information.

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Conference Resolutions — 40 signatures required

1. That the Youth Consultative Network is formally supported by the youth sector as one of the mechanisms that the government should use to consult with young people. That the Queensland government provides resources to the YCN to pilot a three year consultation mechanism around policy and program which affect the lives of young people.
2. Young people be actively encouraged and resourced to facilitate workshops on young peoples participation in service development and service delivery at future youth conferences and within the sector.
3. That the youth sector in Queensland not support the development of the Australian Youth Workers Association, until there has been more information on the establishment and the need for such an association.
4. That YANQ lobby Education Queensland to provide support and resources to uphold their responsibility for education of all young people — including young people who may be enrolled but not attending mainstream school and young people excluded from mainstream school.
5. That YANQ seek out funding to employ an Indigenous worker, subject to consultation with indigenous workers/agencies.
6. That this conference support a young peoples housing plan being adopted and implemented by the Queensland Department of Housing as a matter of urgency.
7. That YANQ to lobby the government for recognition of life skills and hands on experiences, community knowledge and responses for equal pay opportunities for indigenous workers.
8. That YANQ to lobby the government to ensure that funding be provided for murri youth affairs conference, and that YANQ provide support and assistance with the development of such conferences.
9. That YANQ lobby the government to ensure that the community target group assist towards policy/program development (not just the administration sector) of community organisations, eg elders and young people.
10. That YANQ lobby the government to ensure that more culturally appropriate services with cultural/traditional resources are provided, and recognise that these traditional practices have always been present. (For example to acknowledge that within the funding guidelines, the need to address mens and womens business).
11. That YANQ lobby the government to ensure that there be better distribution of funds to prevention services to prevent young people from offending.
 - Drug and alcohol
 - youth prostitution
 - accommodation
 - sex health
 - suicide
 - violence/crime
12. That YANQ lobby the government to ensure:
 - True history be taught in schools
 - Mandatory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies for all, beginning in primary school
 - Mandatory cross-cultural training for all teachers and



Participants in one of the discussion groups

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other Education Queensland employees and youth workers

- One person can make a difference
- Find common ground as a strategy to combat racism
- The only thing needed for the perpetuation of evil is for good people to do nothing

13. We propose a resolution that YANQ investigates the financial and social impact on young people, who will no longer be eligible for the common youth allowance as of January 1999. We require that YANQ, on behalf of young people, lobby government to ensure adequate resources and scope of options are made available to young people who are being forced to be re-integrated into education and training to maintain their right to an income!

14. The Youth Affairs Conference recommends that YANQ actively pursue the amendment of the Vagrancy Gaming and Other Offences act conditions, that

discriminatively persecute young people in possession of aerosol related products.

15. Funding is still available for training across the state. We believe the money should be consolidated into one integrated training strategy that will provide coordinated training across the state.

16. That the Office of Youth Affairs resource at least one worker and resources in the facilitation and development of a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgenderist youth strategy.

17. That the Conference fully endorse YANQ coordinate the debate in relation to the impact on young people and the youth sector of the move to establish a profession association for youth workers.

18. That the Conference support the development of a non-English speaking background youth strategy in the Office of Youth Affairs.

19. That YANQ pursue the repeal of the State "Move On" laws with the State Government, as these laws infringe young people's civil liberties as outlined in the Declaration on an Inclusive Society.

Your invited....

Your invited to attend first working party meeting to discuss the progression of Conference Resolutions.

When: Wednesday 10 February 1999, 10.30am

Where: YANQ,
317-325 George St,
Brisbane

Please RSVP by Wednesday 3 Febraury 1999 to Margaret on 3236 5400. Teleconference facilities available.

Watch this space

Reconciliation/Racism

As a result of incidents at the 5th State Youth Affairs Conference there has been lots of discussion around the development of a Statewide Strategy.

Also see flyer enclosed and page 11 for resources available from the Council of Aboriginal Reconciliation

Departmental changes in government

The functions formerly undertaken by the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DEETYA) will be split between the Department of Employment, Work Place Relations and Small Business (DEWPRSB) and the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DETYA). At this stage, it appears that education, vocational and entry level training and youth issues will fall under the DETYA portfolio. Employment Services (ie Jobs Network) will fall under the Employment and Work Place Relations portfolio.

DETYA Newsheet, Nov 98

New email addresses!!

YANQ staff now have personalised email addresses. The generic address — yanq@thehub.com.au is still current.

Bernice Smith
bernices@thehub.com.au

Margaret James
mjames@thehub.com.au

John Bamborough
johnbam@thehub.com.au

Michelle Mladenovic
michm@thehub.com.au

Carolyn Grant
cgrant@thehub.com.au



Policy updates and debates

from the 5th State Youth Affairs Conference

Social and youth Policy

1. Social and Youth Policy needs to be linked together.

2. Crime Prevention to have a social framework (discussion on protocols between departments is needed).

3. 'integrated' approach and 'place' management.

- Discussion took place around the issue of defining what place management means? It can be defined as a specific geographic location or community that is targeted for Crime Prevention.
- This raised the question of how target areas are identified, defined and by whom?
- Will the level of infrastructure in a community be a key guideline?
- How are 'Hot spots' chosen?
- How are Rural and Remote areas defined?
(More information on these questions will be available soon through Office of Youth Affairs).

4. Community Renewal Program

- What is the difference between URBAN Renewal and COMMUNITY Renewal? Community Renewal includes community development and joint departmental strategy.
- There should be a consultation process and a discussion paper to be occurring soon.

5. Crime Prevention

- \$ 3.5 million over four years for Youth Crime Prevention
- YACCA program may receive a portion of this financial support. Other areas that have no YACCA's may be accessing this money also.
- Will existing YACCA programs be extended to support future new areas to have YACCA programs?

6. Youth Advisory Forums

- Why did they go out to local government? It was seen that the infrastructure would be a support.
- How can young people that were involved continue to input their ideas?
- What will the Youth Charter be able to do? It will look at a commitment to see how young people will be supported within their community.
- How is information on the Youth Charter going to reach young people? At the moment it is in a policy statement. This statement needs more development. This however has not been budgeted for and will be put forward for inclusion in next years budget.

7. Alternative Schooling

- The impact of not having appropriate or different alternative schooling programs has had a huge impact on YACCA programs.
- What is the DFYCC doing to look at this? It was highlighted to take on this issue as important. Also discussed

was how statistics often indicate the need for YACCA'S and alternative schooling, the statistics however do not necessarily show the impact on NESB young people who are not accessing schools. Also highlighted again was that the link between departments is a problem. An example was the tension of the joint project (Multi-Funded Flexi School) where funding issues arise every year.

YANQ is currently feeding back into MACATSIE for alternative education models for indigenous youth. * If people have models or information regarding this please contact YANQ on (07) 32365400

Grazia Catalano — (*information provider*) Youth Program, DFYCC

Bernice Smith — (*facilitator*) YANQ

Suzanne Thompson — (*facilitator*) YANQ Management Committee member

Housing Policy

Robert Schwarten (Minister for Housing) has recognised that housing as it relates to young people is a priority issue, and has responded by initiating the following:

- Youth Community Housing Initiative (YCHI)
- Capital available/long term solutions/community managed
- \$ 3.5 million in resources made available to fund the YCHI

The YCHI is primarily concerned with the development of boarding house style accommodation as the solution to young people and housing issues.

1. Boarding Houses

The government of the day perceives this as the solution to housing issues that impact on

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young people. There has been one model developed and established on the Gold Coast under the Community Housing Scheme. There are several issues surrounding the concept of boarding houses. They are:

- On-going and appropriate support mechanisms for young people in this form of accommodation
- security for the future
- security of tenure
- tenants' rights

The group discussed concerns relating to the boarding house approach being paternalistic in nature, or the notion that young people need supervision.

However, proponents of the Miami Apartments said that this model is not the traditional form of boarding house accommodation we all usually relate to (for example, management of Miami Apartments support the notion of tenants having residential tenancy agreements). There is also the potential to develop a good practice model based on the notion of external supported accommodation. These apartments are fully furnished, secure, and offer long-term tenures for young people aged 16 years and over.

2. Public Housing

- The issue of young people under the age of 18 years being denied access to public housing was raised as a major concern in the development of housing policy. It was suggested that this eligibility criteria is based on age discrimination.
- There are long waiting lists that also effect young

people's access to public housing.

- The SEQYAC *Youth Housing Design Project* sought to look at ways in which the development and construction of public housing and community housing could be more responsive to the needs of young people. The recommendations were rejected by the previous government, however, Robert Schwarten has committed to revisiting these.

3. Affordable Housing Unit

This is currently being established, and will focus on encouraging local councils to take into account low-income earners needs in the development of housing projects.

4. Specific Policy Issue

The impact of the Youth Allowance was raised as a major policy concern now that the receiver gets less than an adult "benefit" (income support) until they are 25 years of age. (Previously 18 years of age)

5. Student Housing

Should funding for student accommodation come from the Low Income Housing Fund or from private investments?

6. Other Issues Raised

- The links between housing and support need to be clearly articulated and strengthened. This is achievable at the local level around the development of broad policies to guard and support this practice that ensure resources are available for support mechanisms?
- 1994 draft paper *Housing and Young People in Queensland* was written to support the development of a youth housing strategy. The Minister for Housing is being asked to consider this strategy.
- NESB young people do not access SAAP services. The needs of this group are not being met.

- The Youth Head Lease Transfer Scheme has been reviewed (CAP REVIEW). The results of the review are not available yet.
- Housing initiatives also have to take into account young people's needs for furnished accommodation.
- Bond Lease Scheme. Issues were raised in relation to the kind of information required for eligibility, which creates a great deal of uncertainty and problems for young people. Examples of information requested that creates difficulties include statements of income, identification, personal details, letter from social or community worker. SEQYAC are lobbying for the provision for support of debt bond loan forfeit mechanisms when share house arrangements break down.
- There was no community consultation around the development of the bond loan policy. This is concerning. Young people should be encouraged to keep a detailed record of loan payments. Young people can access the Housing Appeals Process through the local area offices. This information is not very well promoted. Housing Area Office staff need training to understand the flexible application of policies.

Simon Dilly — *South East Queensland Youth Accommodation Coalition*

Bernice Watson — *Senior Policy Officer - Department of Housing*

John Bamborough — *(chair) YANQ /Tenants' Union of Queensland Steering Committee member*

NOTE: Information from other policy updates and debate sessions is still being gathered and will feature in the next Network Noise.

Youth Action Program

Education Queensland's pilot youth project takes off!

This year has seen an exciting development for state high school students with the introduction of a new 2 year pilot project, the Youth Action Program, YAP. Based on similar schemes up and running in Victoria and Western Australia, Education Queensland has implemented their own project that aims to capture the developmental needs of youth in this state.

YAP has been active within 10 pilot high schools throughout Queensland this year, with the goal of establishing a broad range of training options for students. YAP is designed to promote:

- skills acquisition;
- teamwork;
- leadership;
- community service;
- individual responsibility; and
- self reliance.

Each pilot school has funding for fifty students to participate within the YAP project. All schools have been linked with a nominated community service provider to help implement YAP. The service provider aims to fulfill the aforementioned training elements within the activities they undertake with students.

The core component of each school's program must include The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, a first aid course and training in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

Presently, the pilot schools are well into their programs and are making great progress toward reaching their goals. At the end of the year 15 more schools will be joining the project for 1999. It is envisaged that the project's success will allow the scheme to be offered to all state high schools in the future.

*Will Kerkhof— Project Officer
Duke of Edinburgh's Award
Ph: 3224 8174*

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award joins in the Action

As a core component of the Government's Youth Action Program, The Duke's Award has been integrated to give students an opportunity for personal challenge and discovery, while obtaining an internationally recognised award.

The Award is a journey that fosters both individual and community spirit, while incorporating the fundamental

elements that YAP is trying to instill in its participants. All students need to complete the four sections of The Award:

- Service- encourages young people to put their enthusiasm into action in the community;
- Expeditions- Encourages discovery and adventure;
- Skills- fosters the development of personal interests and practical skills;
- Physical Recreation- encourages participation in physical recreation and improvement of performance and health.

The Award offers three levels of challenge to students; Bronze, Silver and Gold, increasing in difficulty respectively.

For further information about the Duke of Edinburgh's Award or the Youth Action Program, please contact Will Kerkhof on 3224 8174 or email: kerkhof@families.qld.gov.au



Traineeships in youth work

Organisations and Youth Workers anywhere in Queensland can now benefit from Youth Work Traineeships. The Youth Sector Training Council is the Registered Training Organisation for delivering Certificate III in Youth Work.

Organisations can take on a trainee for twelve months and receive incentive payments of up to \$4,000 towards the wages. Plus have the opportunity to train new staff according to the organisations needs and requirements.

Trainee Youth Workers receive a commitment to 12 months paid employment support throughout the course and gain a range of skills along with the nationally recognised qualification.

For more information, please contact Rose at YSTC on 07) 3852 2311. Detailed Information Kits are available and assistance with setting up Traineeships is also provided.

NESB youth issues network update

I hope all my good friends and colleagues are well and happy. Put it this way, if you're as healthy as NYIN, then you are not doing to bad at all!

Well, its that time of year again folks. Christmas is descending upon us rapidly, not to mention the New Year and all the hangovers we seem to continue inflicting upon ourselves! Nevertheless, I sincerely wish you all a great time over the festive season.

You may recall me mentioning on a number of occasions in this segment in the past, the research project taking place in the Gympie Region — Cultural Diversity: The Cooloola Story. You will be pleased to hear that we are nearing completion. The report is being pulled together as we speak, and an official launch for a time to be arranged in mid-January 1999 is also being planned. The two students, Astrid and Alice, who have worked on the research project for some time now, have done a fabulous job. The methodology has been sound, and the way in which qualitative interviews have been conducted is exemplary. The Reference Group concerned with steering the research is also planning to establish mechanisms through which the range of recommendations we will be suggesting can be implemented. Of course this is a critical element in the process, so keep an eye out for more details as they transpire. Oh, I nearly forgot! If anyone is interested in obtaining a copy of

the final report, please give me a call at YANQ and I will ensure you get one when they are available for distribution — I'm sure you will find it quite interesting!

The Community Advocacy For ESL Education (CAFEE) Network have recently distributed their ESL Issues Paper to key stakeholders. I am gradually receiving feedback, which at this stage seems to be very positive. Stakeholders are suggesting that the paper is keeping the

issue on the agenda in government, which is basically what we want to achieve anyway. The time has come for some concerted action in this area my friends. I mean, come on, how much longer can we bear to see NESB students disadvantaged throughout their life-span because the education system fails to value the fact that they have English as a second language. On the one hand, we are quick to proclaim Queensland as a culturally diverse State that values and respects all people irrespective of their cultural and/or linguistic diversity. While on the other hand, we are clearly not fostering opportunities for those who are from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds to reach their full potential at school — so how can we say that as a diverse State we value and respect diversity? It beats me my good friends, but alas, we will continue to advocate for what we believe to be the appropriate thing to do — ensure better educational outcomes for students from NESB's.



To conclude, I would like to bring to your attention, recent developments within the Office of Youth Affairs (OYA). As you are probably aware, OYA have not got a NESB Youth Strategy in place. This is a little concerning given that a strategy of this nature assists in shaping policy development, services, programs, and projects designed to meet the needs of NESB young people. However, there does seem to be a level of commitment to implementing the development of a NESB Youth Strategy. If this is the case, then it will represent a significant step forward in NESB youth affairs. So start talking about and help me keep the issue on the agenda — maybe you could talk about the issue at your interagency/network meetings? Keep an eye on this space, I will give you more information as it becomes available.

Bye for now comrades and take real good care of yourselves — its been a good year and I am sure the impending one will be even better! See you then.

*John Bamborough
NESB Policy and Network Officer*

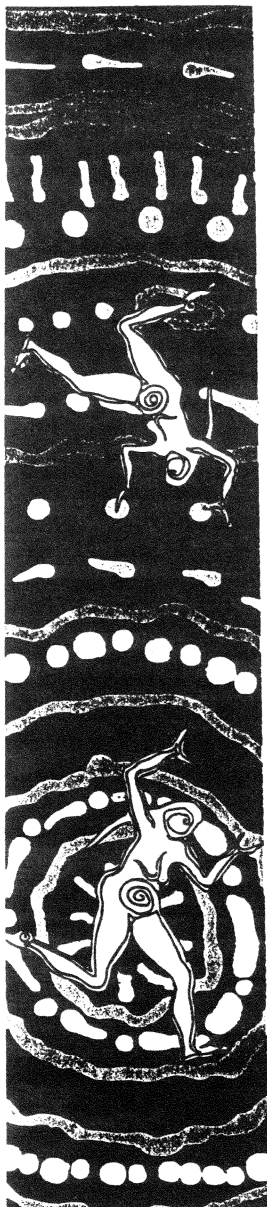
Transitions journal is back!

The first issue of new transitions will be out in late January (articles closed). There will be opportunities to contribute articles for the next edition.

The cost of the journal is \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members.

Please phone now to order your copy for January 1999!

For further information and guidelines for contributing articles, please contact Michelle on 3236 5400.



ISIS Training Project

ISIS — Centre for Women's Action on Eating Issues now has a training coordinator. This is a twelve month position funded by the Gaming Machine Fund. ISIS is funded by Queensland Health, Mental Health Unit.

ISIS is a community based organisation operating from a feminist perspective, offering an alternate approach to the bio-medical model currently dominating the treatment of eating disorders such as anorexia, bulimia and compulsive eating. A feminist perspective of eating issues recognises that young women develop disordered eating behaviours as a way of dealing with some greater conflict or underlying trauma experienced in their lives. Rather than primarily focussing on the eating behaviour, ISIS works with young women to explore the underlying issues through therapeutic group work and individual counselling.

ISIS also offers support to families, health professionals and the general community through providing information, referral, education & training. Training for organisations can be tailored to suit individual needs at a reasonable price.

As the only feminist service specifically dealing with eating issues in Australia, ISIS has developed a unique model of practice, particularly in the area of therapeutic group work.

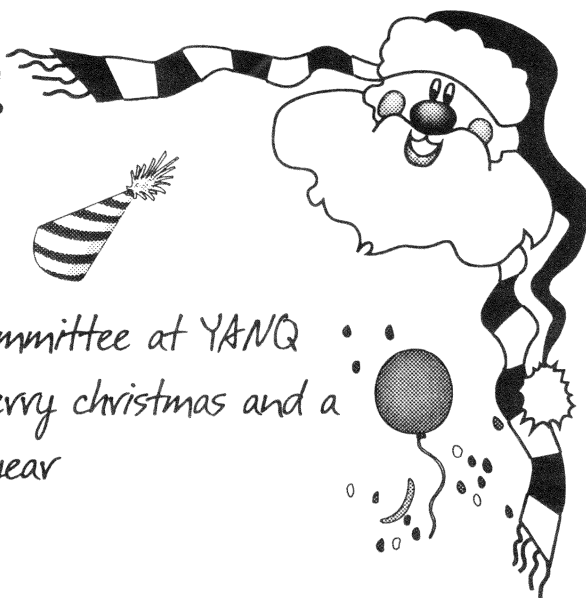
ISIS is now in a position to share this knowledge. We currently have funding to produce a training package for all those who are working with women affected by eating issues.

The Training Coordinator will be consulting with interested workers and people affected by eating issues. Questionnaires have been widely distributed and a Consultative Forum is planned for February 1999 in Brisbane. To include as many people as possible in the consultation process Focus Group discussions will be conducted in regional areas around Southern Queensland. For people outside these areas alternate arrangement will be organised.

Your ideas and contributions for the training manual are important, so if you are interested in a Focus Group to be held in your area or need any further information regarding training please contact Grace Concannon, Tuesdays to Fridays on (07) 3392 2233. ISIS also has a range of resources on eating issues available. For a resource information sheet please write to ISIS, 88 O'Keefe Street, Buranda Q 4120 or phone anytime on the above

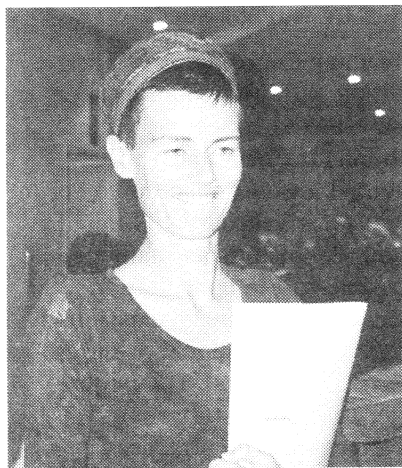
Season's Greetings

The staff and management committee at YANG would like to wish you a very merry christmas and a prosperous new year



Personal Profile

Carolyn Grant



Hi! I'm the new Policy/Networking Officer at YANQ.

Background

For those of you who don't know me I have been around the youth sector in Brisbane for the past three years, having moved here from Adelaide in December 1995 to take up the position of Policy/Coordination Worker at Zig Zag Young Women's Resource Centre.

Prior to my three years at Zig Zag I have almost a decade of history in the sector, working predominantly around issues of sexual violence, homelessness and child rape with young women, as a shelter worker, outreach worker and counsellor. I have worked in SAAP funded services in both South Australia and Queensland and have experience working with young people in a diverse range of areas including HIV/Aids and sexuality education, substance abuse and opportunistic sex work.

Employment interests

I have a keen interest in *women and the law* and *juvenile justice*.

For the past three years I have participated on the Management Committee of Backbone Youth Arts and have a strong commitment to community arts and creating opportunities for young people to experience multi media arts processes.

Since 1996 I have been employed as a contract trainer with the Youth Sector Training Council (YSTC) delivering Certificate III and Certificate IV in Youthwork. I thoroughly enjoy my work as a trainer, which has given me the opportunity to meet with many of you in the regions north and south of Brisbane.

When not at work

I am a single mum with two children - my daughter Tayla is 10 years old and rapidly approaching young person status, and my son Jordan is six years old.

I am currently enrolled in post graduate studies in Legal Studies and Criminal Justice and am thinking about signing up for some training in Gestalt Therapy.

I am committed to lifetime learning both formal and informal.

Likes

My two children (most of the time), sleeping, Doc Martins, travelling and spending time with good friends.

Dislikes

Racists, bigots, misogynists and people who espouse the rhetoric but trip up when they attempt to walk the talk.

The future

Looking forward to my work at YANQ, to catching up with many of you to exchange ideas, share information and generate strategies working towards improving policy, practices, programs and service responses, to generally improve the lot of young people and those who work with them.

Appealing against Youth Allowance decisions

How the AAT Can Help

The Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) is an independent tribunal that reviews a broad range of decisions made by the Commonwealth Government including decisions of Centrelink (Department of Social Security).

Can Youth Allowance decisions be reviewed by the AAT?

The short answer is yes. However the decision must first be reviewed by the Department ("internal review"). If the client is still unhappy with the decision, he or she can appeal to the Social Security Appeals Tribunal (SSAT). If the client is unhappy with the SSAT decision they can then appeal to the AAT. The client cannot go directly to the AAT for review.

What is "internal review"?

Internal review means that an officer of the Department must reconsider the decision that has been made. Centrelink has Authorised Review Officers (AROs) who can overturn decisions made in the regional offices. You can ask Centrelink for further information about this process.

What is the SSAT

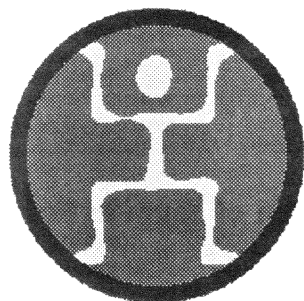
The SSAT is independent from Centrelink. The SSAT must reconsider the decision and either affirm, vary or "set aside" the decision and substitute a new decision. It is this decision that the AAT may then review.

What is the role of the Commonwealth AAT?

When the AAT reviews a decision it can decide that the decision taken by the government department or the SSAT is right, partly right or wrong. If the AAT decides that the decision is wrong the AAT then corrects it by making its own decision.

Administrative Appeals Tribunal
GPO Box 9955
Sydney NSW 2001
National Toll free number 1300366700

The Australian Youth Foundation



Indigenous Scholarship programs

The closing date for applications for our two scholarship programs has now passed and the selection committee will soon be reviewing the applications. Information for next year is available from our website at www.ayf.org.au or by contacting the AYF.

International Youth Exchange Participants Return to Australia

Our group of young people have recently returned from their visit to the Philippines where they worked for four weeks in projects operated by the Children's Youth Foundation of the Philippines. The program has received very positive coverage both in the Philippines and Australia. A number of the young people who participated in the program are available for follow-up interviews. For further information please contact me at the AYF.

International Partner Meetings

In 1997 the AYF entered into an affiliated partnership with the International Youth Foundation (IYF), based in the United States. This global Foundation has a mission to consult with partners in many countries

around the world in an effort to support successful programs which make a profound impact on the lives of young people. The IYF currently has partners across the globe including Ecuador, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Philippines, Poland, Slovakia, South Africa, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

During October the IYF hosted and 8th Annual Partners Meeting in Baltimore, USA. The meeting was particularly significant as it marked the first occasion that each partner Foundation officially met with the IYF Board. The AYF's Executive Director, Ms Ulrike Schuermann, participated in the meetings which included presentations on global trends and the implications for the youth of the world as well as sessions related to the Board's role in strategic development, learning and fundraising. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for information sharing and for highlighting global concerns and issues facing young people.

For further information about these and other AYF programs please visit our website at www.ayf.org.au or contact the AYF office of (02) 9357 2344.

Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation

The Council provides the following educational and promotional materials.

Renewal of the Nation

- ☐ Australian Reconciliation Convention Highlights
Video (2 hours)
Cost: \$15

Reconciliation Poster

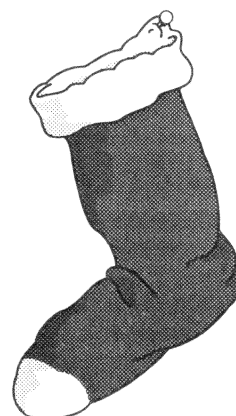
Painting by Dale Huddleston

- ☐ 3 x poster \$7.50
- ☐ 5 x poster \$10

Convention Proceedings (set of five books)

- ☐ Australian Reconciliation Convention - An Overview
- ☐ Reconciliation in the Community
- ☐ Human Rights and Indigenous Australians
- ☐ Documents of Reconciliation and Constitutional Issues
- ☐ Ideas for Action
 - ☐ Cost: \$5 per book
 - ☐ \$20 for the set

For more information and to order phone 1800 06267





Youth in Society

The Construction and Deconstruction of Youth in East and West Europe

A new book by Claire Wallace and Sijka Kovatcheva

Claire Wallace is Professor of Social Research at the University of Derby and researcher at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Vienna. She has worked for many years on the subject of youth research and has published a range of books and articles on this topic. She is secretary of the Research Committee on Youth for the International Sociological Association.

Sijka Kovatcheva is Assistant Professor at the University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria. She studied sociology at Sofia and then later at the Central European University in Prague and the University of Notre Dame in USA. She has worked on a range of research projects about young people in Central and Eastern Europe.

What people have said about the book

It draws upon a variety of sources to show how different ideas of "youth" were constructed in East and West Europe in the course of modernisation under both Communist and welfare capitalist regimes. More recently "modern" concepts of youth have been deconstructed and re-constructed by changes in state policies, the labour market, education and popular culture so that it is no longer so clear who youth are or how they can be helped.

To order this book:

Contact Customer Services, Macmillans, Houndmills, Basingstoke RG21 6XS, Fax: 01256 364733

ISBN: 0-333-65225-8

The "Sludge Crossing" Video Education Package

Background

Sludge Crossing Video Education Package is an innovative resource aimed at addressing the issue of Youth Suicide from a Health Promotion philosophy focusing on positive coping skills and life affirming decision making. The main aim of the package is to provide positive coping strategies for young people to deal with life's problems. The video and comic are based on the Original Stage Play as performed by the Big Toe Theatre Co. with the support of Youth Action Inc.

What's in the Package?

The Sludge Crossing Video Education Package contains three core components; the video of Sludge Crossing, a comic representation of the story and the facilitator's guide. The package has been designed in a way so that the two mediums — video & comic, can complement each other and maximise the different modalities in which young people learn. The comprehensive facilitator's guide will assist teachers, group leaders, youth workers and others who use the package to draw out it's educational value, by providing lesson plans, worksheets and briefing notes.

The package was designed as a tool to educate young people about coping strategies and problem solving skills and to creatively address youth suicide.

For more information and to order your package, please phone (07) 5478 2833

Teenager & Safe Partying! 10 Tips for Parents

A brochure for parents of Safe Partying which was produced and launched in Queensland has proved a great success. This brochure has been produced with great assistance from Queensland Health and assists parents cope with those adolescent parties that concern them all.

To order your copy of the brochure and other resources contact:

The Australian Lions Drug Awareness Foundation Inc.

PO Box 530, Springwood Q 4127

Ph: (07) 3341 3900 Fax: (07) 3341 0525

Email: aldaf@powerup.com.au





Regional Queensland

- ☞ **Bundaberg Youth Forum** Contact: Jan Molloy (JPET worker), Skill Centre, PO Box 694, Bundaberg Q 4670 (07) 4153 4233. Meets 1st Thursday of each month upstairs at Target Arcade, Community Development Office.
- ☞ **Cairns Youth Services Network** Contact: Desley Renton, YDO, Cairns City Council, PO Box 359, Cairns Q 4870 (07) 4044 3353. Meets 4th Thursday each month at Lifeline, Aumuller St, Cairns.
- ☞ **Central and North Burnett Community Service Network (YDIG youth sub group)** 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 (07) 4658 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 (07) 4982 0540. 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 (07) 4972 4855. Meets monthly (venue changes).
- ☞ **Hervey Bay Youth Sector Workers Network** Contact: Sue Lawler, PO Box 45, Torquay, Hervey Bay Q 4655 (07) 4125 0230. Meets last Tuesday of the month at the Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre, Taylor Street, Pialba.
- ☞ **Innisfail Youth Services Network** Contact: Rebecca Hyde, PO Box 887, Innisfail Q 4870 (07) 4030 2255. Meets monthly at the Alan Maruff House, Innisfail.
- ☞ **Mackay Youth Connection & Network Inc** Contact: Andrea Beard, YACCA, PO Box 3223, North Mackay Q 4740 (07) 4953 5577. Meets monthly at YACCA, 10 River Street, Mackay.
- ☞ **Magnetic North Youth Service Providers** Contact: Helen Lyn, PO Box 573, Townsville Q 4810 (07) 4771 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 (07) 4743 6689. Meets every two or three months (venue changes).
- ☞ **Rockhampton Youth Interagency** Contact: Tricia Millar, Youth Trek, 60 Elphinstone St, North Rockhampton Q 4701 (07) 4921 4488. Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12.30pm.
- ☞ **South Burnett Youth Development Network** Contact: Gail Padgett, PO Box 326, Kingaroy Q 4610 (07) 4162 5052. Meets monthly at the Child Health Bldg, Kingaroy.
- ☞ **Sunshine Coast Youth Workers Forum** Contact: Eric Moes, Maroochy Shire Council, PO Box 76, Nambour Q 4560 (07) 5441 8125. Meets every six weeks at Alcooringa, Ballinger Rd, Buderim.
- ☞ **Toowoomba Youth Organisations Network (TYON)** Contact: Ed Bradbury, Department of Education, PO Box 775, Toowoomba Q 4350 (07) 4688 4499. Meets monthly (venue changes).

South-east Queensland

- ☞ **Bayside Youth Link** Contact: Dayle Davidson, Wynnum/Redlands Youth Support Project, PO Box 511, Wynnum Q 4178 (07) 3245 7655. Meets monthly at Wynnum State High School, Peel St, Wynnum.
- ☞ **Beaudesert Interagency** Contact: Marg Moss, Beaudesert Community House, PO Box 374, Beaudesert, Q 4825 (07) 5541 3762. Meets monthly at Illoura Centre, 31 Duckett St, Beaudesert.
- ☞ **Beenleigh & District Interagency** Contact: Kerry Clayton, BAYS Assoc. Inc, PO Box 1147, Beenleigh Q 4207 (07) 3287 1290. Meets monthly at Community Health, Mt Warren Blvd, Beenleigh.
- ☞ **Caboolture Youth Network** Contact: Janine Botfield, Caboolture Shire Council, (07) 5495 0342. Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month at Dept. of Families, Youth and Community Care, Level 3, King Street, Caboolture.
- ☞ **Gold Coast Youth Network** Contact: Gerina Appo, Gold Coast Youth Service, PO Box 8636, Gold Coast MC Q 4217 (07) 5572 8919. 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 Q 4077 (07) 3372 2655. Meets monthly at CES Conference Room, Cnr Corsair Ave & Civic Centre, Inala.
- ☞ **Ipswich Youth Focus** Contact: Mark Smith, 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 Matthews (07) 3826 5107. Details to be advised.
- ☞ **Pine Rivers Youth Service Providers Network** Contact: Di Cotting, Youth Care Pine Rivers, 16 Lincoln St, Strathpine Q 4500 (07) 3881 2823. Meets every two months at Youth Care Pine Rivers.
- ☞ **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 Cascade Place, Hutchinson St, 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) 3252 3750. Meets every two months at Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Cnr Water & Rogers Sts, Spring Hill.
- ☞ **Youth Issues Task Force** Contact: Carolyn or Ignacio, The Peace Centre, 15 Church St, Goodna Q 4300 (07) 3818 2622. Meets monthly.

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.

For more information please call us on (07) 3236 5400 or 1800 177 899.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

(Contact) Name: _____

Ph: (____) _____

Organisation/Dept: _____

Fax: (____) _____

Postal Address: _____

Code: _____

Street Address: _____

Code: _____

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

email: _____

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