



Network Noise

Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

Quarterly Newsletter, July 02

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Youth Affairs Network of Queensland

30 Thomas St

West End Q 4101

(07) 3844 7713 or 1800 177 899

Fax (07)3844 7731

email yanq@pacific.net.au

<http://home.pacific.net.au/~yanq>

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Over Budgeted

The Federal Budget was delivered on the 14th May, followed by the State Budget on the 18th June. YANQ has examined both Budgets and made analyses of their relevance and impact on young people.

YANQ received local, State and National media coverage of our analyses and response to the Budgets.

YANQ is disappointed with the Federal Government's lack of support for young people within the 2002-03 Budget. The Budget contains very little potential for enhancing the lives of young people.

Overall, young people are among the big losers in this Budget. It is clear that the poorest and the least advantaged are being made to pay for the Howard Government's war games and the inhumane refugee and asylum seeker policies.

Given last year's interim measures arising from the "Youth Pathways" report, and the elevation of "Youth and Children" to ministerial portfolio rank, the youth sector had expected the further development of a number of youth focused initiatives.

Of concern were also the budget measures deferring a number of initiatives in the Australian's Working Together Strategy, as well as funding cuts to the Stronger Families Strategy announced under "revised down" funding levels.

Unemployment amongst young people is still a leading social concern. The Federal Government has demonstrated a lack of leadership and vision to change this situation. Furthermore unemployed young people are again disadvantaged by low rates of Youth Allowance and escalating costs of living.

YANQ is also disappointed with the State Budget as it has also neglected young people's issues. While showing a level of commitment to young people's engagement

with government and communities, YANQ is concerned that the Beattie Government has failed to adequately address a number of key issues impacting on young people in Queensland.

Although the Government is committing further resources under the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiatives, most of the resources are in the area of job training and apprenticeships. YANQ believes that responses to unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, cannot rely solely on retaining young people in school longer and offering training options. The key issue is that there are not enough jobs for young people.

A further concern is in relation to young peoples' health and well-being, and particularly the lack of youth specific detoxification and rehabilitation centres to deal with a growing drug problem. Young people who are trying to deal with their addictions have hardly any accessible treatment options. Youth workers from across the state are desperate for facilities to refer young people to. YANQ believes that the government must show clear leadership and a commitment to addressing this urgent need of young people across Queensland.

A major financial boost to the Department of Families of \$148 million over the next four years is welcomed by YANQ. However, the Department of Families needs to make a commitment to allocating this extra funding to meet the specific recommendations of the Forde Inquiry. This financial boost provides an ideal opportunity for the Department of Families to put greater emphasis on prevention and early intervention strategies.

YANQ is also of the view that in order for justice to prevail, government and churches must give full consideration to the issue of proper compensation for the victims of institutional abuse.

Network Noise

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CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

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

- workshops & events
- youth programs
- training events
- projects
- change of address
- latest resources
- research news
- innovations

Youth Affairs Network of Qld
30 Thomas St
West End Q 4101
(07) 3844 7713 or
1800 177 899
Fax (07) 3844 7731
e-mail yanq@pacific.net.au
Edited By Wez Draper

COPY DEADLINE

September 2002 copy deadline is
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YANQ STAFF

Director
Siyavash Doostkhah
Policy and Network Officer

NESB Policy and Network Officer
Michael Zgryza

Administrative Officer
Peta Ballard

P/T Financial Officer
Bronwyn Ketchell

YCN P/T Project Officer
Dian Meickle-John

Conference Co-ordinator
John Flannagan

Library/Admin Assistant
Simone Bennett

The views and opinions contained in this
publication do not necessarily represent the
views of YANQ. YANQ also does not
necessarily endorse training and resources
advertised in this publication.

YANQ welcomes a number of positive
initiatives by Education Queensland
including funding for more teachers, support
for students with disability, and the
foreshadowed reappearance of English as a
Second Language (ESL) framework.

The unmet funding for provision of
Alternative Education has again not been
directly addressed in this budget. YANQ
believes further consideration of the
Education Queensland's Alternative
Education trials, as well as the community
consultation around the Education and
Training Reforms Green Paper, must be
complemented by targeted consultation with
community based alternative education
providers. There is also a need for the

development of a continuum of outcomes
for students not engaging in mainstream
schooling. This is to ensure that the broad
educational, social and economic needs of
young people unable to engage in
mainstream education are addressed.

Finally, YANQ would like to see future
State and Federal Budgets incorporating
funding for a range of proactive programs
which can facilitate and celebrate the
cultural expressions of young people as
well as meeting their rights and needs. This
will not only ensure young people have
positive avenues to engage with their
communities but also reduces the need for
'knee jerk' reactions to issues such as the
law and order agenda.

Woomera Easter 2002

Over the Easter weekend, YANQ joined a
loose coalition of human rights activists in
developing what could be described as a
"temporary autonomous zone" in an area
adjacent to the Woomera Detention Centre
(Internment Camp).

The group of about 2000 protesters from
across Australia travelled to this remote
location for a show of solidarity with our
brothers and sisters behind the razor wire
and in opposition to the mandatory detention
policy, supported by the main political
parties in Australia.

The operation of these detention centres and
the violation of basic human rights by the
multinational company in charge of the
facility is not unlike the ruthless and brutal
conditions which these people have escaped
and sought refuge from.

Although YANQ is highly concerned about
the health and well being of children and
young people detained in these camps,
YANQ does not support the separation of
children from their families.

By far the most moving aspect of coming face
to face with people on the other side of the
razor wire was the screams of women and
children that came from the core of their being.
The cries of freedom, freedom, freedom.

If we are prepared to support the separation
of refugee children from their parents today,
it is of no surprise that we struggle to come
to terms with our past and to say sorry to the
stolen generation of indigenous people.

YANQ will continue to support the struggle
to close Woomera and other Detention
Centres and to prevent the construction and
operation of such facilities in Queensland.





2002 State Youth Affairs Conference

30, 31 October & 1 November 2002

SOUTH MOLLE ISLAND RESORT
(Mackay/Whitsunday region)

Changing Times ... Choices and Challenges in Shaping Our Future

The youth sector has been witness to, and participants of, significant change within the human service industry. Social policy and the service delivery system have shifted at a rapid pace. The conference will explore these changes, the use of strength based approaches in our work, the rights of young people and the development of partnerships within and across sectors through providing a dynamic conference environment that encourages critical debate.

The conference will be interactive, experiential and pitched at the new and very experienced. It will be an opportunity for those with an interest in improving the lives of young people to come together to share ideas, challenge perspectives and to shape the future of our sector.

Further information including travel arrangements, subsidy accommodation and call for papers will be available in the near future. Island accommodation (including meals) starts from \$87/night.

Changes at YANQ

Dear members,

As you have probably heard by now a few changes have taken place around YANQ. In April, Bernice Smith resigned from her role as the Director of YANQ. The position of Director is now being filled by myself (Siyavash Doostkhah).

The other development worth mentioning is changes to the NESB policy position at YANQ. YANQ's three year funding contract with Multicultural Affairs Queensland (MAQ) expired in March and no further funding has been available through MAQ until a new tender process is called, which is likely to be sometime in July/August.

At the same time the other funding partner for the NESB policy position, Office of Youth Affairs (OYA), has shown a higher level of commitment to the work carried out by YANQ's NESB policy work and have committed further funding for the position until the end of June. YANQ is looking forward to maintaining the three-way collaboration between YANQ, MAQ and OYA and the maintenance of NESB policy work as a core function of the State Youth Peak.

In the meantime here at YANQ, we have had to make some adjustments to our operations and look at how we can continue with one policy officer position (Michael) for the time being. One thing we are sure of is that we are going to have a busy six months ahead of us.

In the near future all YANQ members will receive a membership survey. YANQ conducts this survey every second year and the result will assist us in our review and planning processes. Please take the time to complete this survey as it is an ideal opportunity to give YANQ feedback in regards to various work that the organisation undertakes.

The Youth Consultative Network (YCN) pilot project in Caboolture, Cairns and Mt Isa is coming to an end. A full report including recommendations for further development will be finalised and available in the not too distant future.

The State Youth Affairs Conference is fast approaching us (30th, 31st October and 1st November). Cross out these dates in your diary and keep an eye out for information about this conference as it is promising to be a great opportunity to debate and explore the future of the youth sector and youth service delivery in Queensland.

Volunteers' Working with children check

The Commission for Children and Young People has released an information kit on employment screening for volunteers working in specific types of child related employment. The Commission aims to promote and protect the rights, interests and well being of all children and young people in Queensland.

It operates under the Commission for Children and Young People Act 2000. The Act requires people who want to work in certain types of child-related employment, paid employees, volunteers or people in child related businesses to apply for a Working with Children Check. The working with Children Check is a criminal history check.

The Commission assesses each person's suitability on the basis of their criminal history. People deemed unsuitable will be prohibited from working with children. Under the Act, mandatory screening has been in place for new paid employees since 1 May, 2001 and people carrying on certain types of child related businesses since 1 October, 2001.

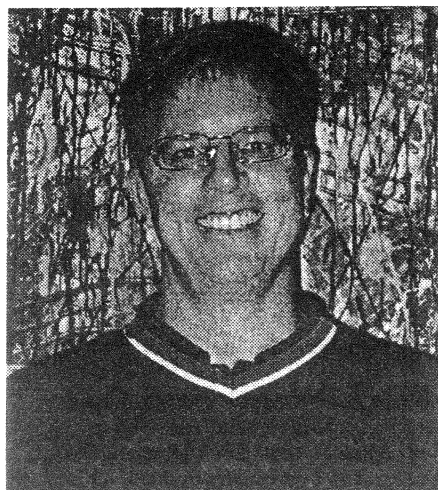
From 1 May, 2002 the screening of volunteer in specific categories of child-related employment is also compulsory.

This kit provides:

- An information sheet
- An application form for a suitability card
- A checklist, and
- A set of frequently asked questions and answers.

This information is also available on the Commission's website at www.childcomm.qld.gov.au. If you have any questions, please contact the Commission's employment screening hotline on 1800 113 611.

Personal Profile



Jeff Cheverton

Howdy! I'm happy to be involved with YANQ as a member of the management committee, but as a shy, retiring kind of personality, I find this *Personal Profile* business a challenge.

I work at Brisbane Youth Service in the Health Team and basically get to talk about sex and drugs all day with co-workers, young people and public servants. I've been interested in sex and drugs for some time now, but this is the first time in a long while I've been paid to focus on these issues.

Prior to BYS I worked with people with disability (including people leaving institutions and psychiatric hospitals) in the Queensland Housing Department. I also did some policy and planning work, and undertook a review of peak bodies in the housing sector. The Queensland Public Tenants' Association was funded from this process.

Prior to my public service "odyssey", I worked in the community sector for five years as a disability advocate in peak and statewide organisations including Queensland AIDS Council, Queensland Advocacy Inc. and the Queensland Disability Housing Coalition. During this time I was a committee member of Queensland Shelter and National Shelter, the peak bodies advocating for the interests of low-income housing consumers.

In my official "young" days, I was a committee member of SICH, a national advocate for community health, and a founding member of Brisbane's Lesbian and Gay Pride Collective, which challenges the public on lesbian and gay rights and organises an annual queer cultural festival.

Advocacy for social justice is my passion, and having fun my driving force. I support the principles and philosophy of YANQ, and I look forward to broadening my understanding of the youth sector by working with YANQ.

General Update

Age Discrimination Legislation

The Australian Government recognises the need for Australians of all ages to participate fully in our society. Great importance is placed on the economic and social contribution that Australians of all ages can make to our community in a wide range of activities. Furthermore, the Government takes very seriously allegations of discrimination and condemns discrimination in all its forms.

1. In light of these important concerns, the government has announced that it will develop legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of age.
2. The Government recognises that age discrimination legislation must be balanced and fair, taking into account the needs of both business and community. At the request of the Commonwealth Attorney-General, the Hon Daryl Williams AM QC MP, the Attorney-General's Department has begun consultation with business and community organisations to assist in developing the legislation. These consultations will help to ensure that the legislation strikes the right balance between the need to eliminate unfair discrimination on the basis of age and to need to ensure sufficient flexibility to allow for situations where age requirements may be necessary – for example in relation to social security, youth wages and job training.
3. Information about this initiative is available on our website at: www.ag.gov.au/Department.html
Further information will be made available as more detailed proposals are developed.
4. If you would like to discuss your views with us or seek further information about the development of the legislation at this stage, please contact Matt Hall on 02 6250 5648 or matt.hall@ag.gov.au

Life Devoted To Helping Others

Former Queenslander of the Year and community development officer with Southbank Institute of TAFE, Margot Appleyard, died on April 10 aged 58. Ms Appleyard, who died of cancer, worked at the Southbank Institute from 1994 to December 2001. She was awarded Queenslander of the Year in 1999 in recognition of her work to keep young people employed and out of prison. The daughter of a wharf worker, Ms Appleyard grew up in a close-knit community with a philosophy that by working together, a community can provide opportunities for all. Ms Appleyard worked with disabled and homeless people before joining Southbank Institute of TAFE. At the institute, she researched community needs, and then linked government departments, community groups and the private sector to fund and provide appropriate courses for young people. Ms Appleyard once described working with young people as not just a job, but a way of life. She took an active role in many community groups and advisory committees including the Lord Mayor's Youth Drug Strategy and Youth Suicide Prevention Steering Committee, and Centrelink's EdLever Project Committee. She received the Lord Mayor's Australia Day Citizen Award in 1997. (from *Southern News* 16th May 2002)

Telstra Directory Assistance

Did you know that there is a number for directory assistance that is FREE. It is 1223 (as opposed to 12 455 where this is charged at 25 cents) and is exactly the same service. Apparently Telstra under Government law is supposed to provide a free operator service - hence the number 1223. They are trying to make as much money as possible with the number 12455.

Free the Refugees

Do you know the facts?

- 1:76 Tanzania hosts 1 refugee for every 76 Tanzanian people
- 1:530 Britain hosts 1 refugee for every 530 British People
- 1:1583 Australia hosts 1 refugee for every 1583 Australians

To find out more about the refugee situation contact the Refugee Action Collective
Refugee_action@pacific.net.au

Youth Poll 2002

Each year the Australian Democrats ask young Australians for their views on a variety of issues ranging from employment and education through to sex, drugs and entertainment. The Democrats' Youth Poll provides young people with an opportunity to have their voice heard on issues that affect their lives. The Democrats then analyse and publicise the results, drawing them to the attention of governments, parliamentarians, and the general community.

The survey forms are available online by visiting youth poll 2002 at www.democrats.org.au. The answers are confidential, anonymous and are not considered an endorsement of a political party.

QLD Health HIV/AIDS, Hep C and Sexual Health Website for Young People

Over a number of months, YANQ has been pleased to be a part of a reference group convened by Qld Health to advise and contribute to the content and design of a redeveloped website for young people addressing HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, and sexual health issues.

Research has shown that many young people are using the Internet as their major source for information, particularly on issues about which they may be reluctant to engage adults in discussion. While the new website has been developed specifically for secondary school students (13-17 years) as a website resource that will assist both students and teachers implementing the new Health and Physical Education Curriculum, wider promotion of the site throughout the youth sector will assist any young people able to access the website with gaining information, especially marginalised and disadvantaged young people not in the school system.

As well as professionals working across the Government and non-government sector contributing to the content, young people from a wide range of backgrounds and cultures have been involved in the design of the website. Consequently the website gives accurate information in a format that appeals to young people.

The aim of the website is to improve young people's understanding of sexual health and blood-borne diseases thereby reducing the risk of sexually transmissible infections (STI's), other blood-borne diseases such as Hepatitis C and unwanted pregnancies.

Information in the website has a strong focus on which behaviours are risky, and how young people can minimise their risk by adopting safer practices. Young people are particularly at risk of STI's and blood-borne viruses such as HIV and Hepatitis C as they are more likely to engage in risk-taking activities.

The website also encourages young people to talk about issues with parents, responsible adults and professionals. It gives details of services across the state as well as links to a wide range of other reputable websites with more detailed information on a variety of topics. Queensland Health is concerned with a holistic view of health and encourages young people to talk through issues so as to reduce anxieties and fears that young people may have about their own abilities, characteristics and relationships.



Children's Session Ends Unhappily Ever After

By Caroline Overington, Herald
Correspondent in New York, May 13, 2002

Two years of negotiations culminated in a non-stop, two-day meeting at which tempers flared and behaviour deteriorated, and the result is something that satisfies nobody.

So ended the United Nations' historic Special Session on Children, the results of which have left virtually all participants more frustrated than triumphant.

The session was attended by 180 nations, all of which were expected to adopt a global document on child rights called "A World Fit For Children". They did so but, following determined lobbying by the United States, the document is somewhat different to its original form.

The US succeeded in having the term "reproductive health services" removed from the document, despite fierce lobbying from Britain, most of Western Europe, and many of the Catholic countries in Latin America, which had wanted it included among the list of health services to which girls are entitled.

The US says the term implies abortion on demand for adolescent girls. Its opponents say it suggests only that where abortion is legal, it ought to be safe.

The US also succeeded in keeping references to the execution of children out of the document. It failed, however, to get "sexual abstinence" and "fidelity" listed among the tactics for reducing disease and unwanted pregnancy.

The document had hung in the balance for most of the session. It needed to be signed by midnight on Friday, and made that deadline with minutes to spare. Applause broke out around the table.

Afterwards, however, several negotiators left the meeting muttering darkly. The compromise was not a happy one.

Carol Bellamy, the chief executive of the UN children's rights body, UNICEF, said: "This meeting is not a success or failure based on whether it has an outcome document. It is a success or a failure based on what happens after the meeting."

The document commits (but cannot impel) nations to promote the health and education of children, and to protect them from abuse, violence and exploitation. There is special mention of the fight against HIV-AIDS.

This story was found at:
www.smh.com.au/articles/2002/05/12/1021002414182.html

Telecommunication Industry Ombudsman – Consumer Consultative Forum

In April, YANQ was invited to be part of a forum convened by the telecommunications ombudsman to look at process and issues – especially in regard to young people and mobile phone debts, and discussion around misrepresentations by sales people, financial over-commitment by young people, and poor access to complaint-handling systems both by companies and consumers.

One of the key outcomes was for young people and youth workers to have access to good clear information about the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman and what they can provide.

The Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (TIO) is an independent, non-government body that has the authority to investigate complaints about: Billing, Faults, Mobile Phones, Standard Telephone Services, Pay Phones, Internet Access, Privacy Matters, Land access, Operator and directory assistance, White pages, Breaches of the Customer Service Guarantee and other industry codes

Contact the TIO by:

Freecall: 1800 062 058

Freefax: 1800 630 614

TTY for hearing or speech impaired people
1800 675 692

Translator & interpreter service 13 14 50

Web: www.tio.com.au

Young Workers Advisory Service - YWAS

The Young Workers Advisory Service (YWAS) is a new initiative of the Queensland State Government, and is funded by the Department of Industrial relations. YWAS was established to provide young people under 25 with information, advice, assistance, representation, and advocacy on all work-related matters including discrimination, unfair dismissal, workplace bullying and sexual harassment. The service also issues well-designed fact sheets on issues such as

- Basic rights at work
- Anti-discrimination and equal employment opportunity
- Unfair dismissal
- Apprenticeships and traineeships

For more information visit their website
www.ywas.org

The Crime of Poverty: Young People, Poverty and Injustice in Qld

Four speakers presented papers on the issue of poverty among young people at the Queensland University of Technology, Faculty of Law, School of Social Justice Studies on May 23rd.

John Morris, Australian Coalition for Economic Justice (ACEJ);

Shirley Watters, Director, Queensland Council of Social Services (QCOSS);

John Tomlinson, Senior Lecturer in Human Services, Queensland University of Technology (QUT);

Siyavash Doostkhah, Director, Youth Affairs Network Qld (YANQ);

Dr Richard Hil, Lecturer in Justice Studies, Chairman and co-ordinator, QUT.

There are 22.5% unemployed 15-19 year olds and 10.5% 20-24 year olds according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). But in his presentation, the first speaker for the evening, ACEJ's John Morris said that that figure should be doubled while Shirley Watters of QCOSS said that they should be **more** than double the published ABS figures.

John Tomlinson senior lecturer in Human Services at QUT said that we are being "divided and conquered". He said, "If we don't stand shoulder to shoulder with others, the more powerful will pick us off one by one... One by one we become the victims only to find we are blamed for the victim status assigned us."

"The union movement a long time ago realised that if we don't hang together then we hang separately. But this is not a new idea. Aesop's Fables include the story about a sheaf of sticks being harder to break than each stick individually," said John Tomlinson.

"Economic fundamentalism, class indifference, sexism, racial superiority, ageism, discrimination against people on the basis of their disability and the failure to ensure that country people have access to necessary goods and services on anything like the terms available in cities – all these ideologies provide a point of divide, a point of departure and separation. Each of these ideological manifestations separate the self from the other."

All speakers agreed that Australian young people could no longer assume access to permanent paid employment, that they face increased insecurity and many will have difficulty achieving and maintaining sustainable living conditions.

Many are caught up in the debt cycle through HECS loans to pay for their years at university. When they could be saving up for a deposit on a home they are repaying the debt. They marry, pay high rents and have children and it is often too late for them to break out of the cycle despite a higher education.

Shirley Watters said that 75% of unemployed people live below the poverty line, and that unemployment itself is a significant cause of poverty. Her research revealed that economic growth and changes in the labour market are not equitably distributed. This led to increasing division between job rich and job poor households and increasing intergenerational joblessness.

163,000 long-term unemployed

Shirley said that there are 163,000 long term unemployed with 107,000 of them being out of work for more than two years.

She said that in addition to that were the 'hidden long-term unemployed.'

John Morris said the unemployed, in dealings with Centrelink, were subjected to excessive pressure. He quoted *The Report of the Independent Review of Beaches and Penalties in the Social Security System*, which said that Centrelink staff were "exposed to excessive pressure or incentives to impose penalties."

"Imagine that, there were incentives to impose penalties on the unemployed."

Morris blamed neo-liberal economics for the plight of today's high unemployment and poverty.

"Neo-liberalism wants minimum government interference in business believing that unbridled competition, market forces, will solve all our ills."

He said that neo-liberalism, which we know as "economic rationalism", has broken up our strong egalitarian society and was the prime cause for the ever widening gap between the "haves" and "have nots".

John Morris presented part of a study undertaken in 2001 by Peter Phillips, an Associate Professor of Sociology at Sonoma State University Santa Rosa California. It was undertaken by Phillips and students to determine the plight of Americans in the modern age.

The study said that "the wages for millions of the lowest paid workers in the US are failing to meet their basic needs. Today workers can be employed full-time and still have incomes below the national official poverty line."

"This wage disparity is amplified for workers in high cost regions who find themselves unable to afford rent, food, and basic necessities.

"This situation has been magnified by a quarter century decline in real family income for the bottom 40% of the workers in the US."

Phillips and his students interviewed people who were earning less than \$US8.00 an hour asking them how they would spend their money were they to earn a living wage.

For the purposes of the study, a \$400.00 a month average increase in disposable income was assumed for individual working over 20 hours a week, and a \$200 increase for individuals working less than 20 hours a week.

The results of the study indicated that if all 5,391 lowest-wage individuals living in Santa Rosa made a living wage, they would circulate in the local economy an additional \$24 million per year.

John Morris quoted from a lecture given by Dr Geoff Dow from the University of Queensland who said that his research had shown that, "All low unemployment countries of the post 1974 period have been high wage economies. The price of labour does not affect the demand for labour."

Shirley Watters highlighted, as did Siyavash Doostkhah, Director, Youth Affairs Network Queensland that unemployed youth in regional areas were seriously disadvantaged compared to their counterparts in the big cities.

Siyavash, who was based for a time at Deception Bay, said that the area had high youth unemployment and no facilities or permanent training programs to help them out of the mire. Half the population was under 25 years of age.

Although it is close to Brisbane, the nearest Centrelink offices and employment agencies are at Redcliffe and Caboolture. Round trip fares cost up to \$8.40 on the privately run bus services.

"The Caboolture area was rated as one of the fastest growing in Australia and also had a very high rate of unemployment. There are many pockets of very high unemployment in Queensland from Mt Isa to Wide Bay to Deception Bay."

He said that the Queensland Government was showing no leadership, and training programs were next to useless with no job outcomes. Some got meaningless work and hardly any pay.

"One time Macdonald's was considered the exploiter of the young worker but today they pay casual workers \$12 an hour, compared to those with apprenticeships getting on \$5.50 an hour in their first year.

"Apprentices are being exploited. In the hospitality industry, it is not uncommon to hire someone as a first year apprentice to do the menial jobs like washing dishes, pay them low wages, and then fire them, or force them to leave at the end of the year."

John Morris, Australian Coalition for Economic Justice
www.acej.cafeprogressive.com/index.html

Australians Against Racism

Schools Project 2002

Australia IS Refugees!

School children from around the nation are being encouraged to explore the lives and experiences of refugees as a step towards healing the cultural rift created by the asylum seeker debate. The project is the brainchild of writer Eva Sallis and designer Mariana Hardwick, founders of Australians Against Racism.

The "Australia IS Refugees!" competition is offered to year 10, 11 and 12 students, who will discover and write the stories of extraordinary Australians they can find in their family, neighbourhood and local communities.

"Now is a good time to remember and celebrate the contribution refugees and their families have made to Australia," says Eva Sallis. "Australia is the richer for having welcomed them, supported them in early settling-in stages, and for having grown as a result of their participation in building Australia to the vibrant society it is today." "Making children and young adults aware of these remarkable stories of survival and renewal can go a long way towards healing the damaged nation we are becoming in the contemporary asylum seeker crisis."

The initiative will be administered by a team of dedicated volunteers in Adelaide, with projects and essays to be submitted by September 30th for judging by a panel of eminent Australians, including Phillip Adams, Thomas Shapcott and Helen Garner. First prize will be \$2,300, and a trip to Geneva, personally sponsored by Professor Margaret Reynolds, President of United Nations Association of Australia. A presentation ceremony, in which Malcolm Fraser will present the prizes, will be held in Melbourne in December. For more details contact Eva Sallis on ph (08) 8303 5103, email eva.sallis@adelaide.edu.au or see www.australiansagainstracism.org

Quote

*"The call to abandon
their illusions about their
condition is a call to
abandon a condition
which requires illusions."*

Marx

YANQ Policy Platform Development

Thanks to members who have expressed interest in the development of a series of new policy positions for YANQ.

The six policy positions are;

- Health,
- GLBT Young people,
- Refugee and Asylum seekers,
- Suicide,
- Juvenile Justice, and
- Income Support.

At present, YANQ policy officers are drafting initial discussion drafts of these policy positions based on previous policy forum work, seminars, consultations and a variety of mechanisms whereby members have inputted on the above policy topics.

Members who have expressed interest will shortly be invited to comment and assist in the continued process of developing final drafts.

It is also hoped that through our regional and interagency visits schedule, we may be able to consult with further members in the field. We are also exploring the possibility of members being able to comment on the drafts "on line" through the YANQ website.

In November a new edition of the policy platform will be released, which will include the six new draft policies, these will remain in draft form for a period of time to enable members to comment, following which they will either be ratified (if no changes received) or remain as drafts for a further period of time with amendments.

Previous policy positions have also been reviewed and some have received minor updating following input. These too will be released as draft for comment by membership.

If you haven't expressed an interest to be part of this initial formulation of the new policy positions, please contact Michael Zgryza at YANQ and register your interest and the policy area of your choice.

Quote

*"Just beyond right
doing and wrong
doing there is a field.
I meet you there."*

Rumi

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition

Birth of a National Youth Peak

On 16th and 17th May 2002, young people, state youth peak organisations, national youth organisations and other people interested in youth affairs met in Canberra for the inaugural annual general meeting of the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC).

AYAC is an incorporated not for profit, non government association that aims to:

- Represent the rights and interests of young people at a national and international level
- Promote the well-being of young Australians
- Promote the participation of all young people in Australian society
- Provide policy advice to government and the broader community on issues affecting young people and the youth affairs field.

As well as electing a national representative council, the meeting, which was open to members of the organisation, discussed key policy issues that affect young people in Australia, key alliances and partnerships that can be developed to advance young peoples' interests and ways to strengthen the voices of young people in national policy discussions.

Independent Chairperson, Jamie Crosby said, "The interest in the newly formed youth affairs peak from organisations and individuals right across Australia demonstrates a desperate need for an independent voice on youth issues."

At the beginning of the two day process, AYAC boasted 64 members, who in turn represented thousands of young people. AYAC is open to two forms of members: National members and General Members. National Members are State and Territory peak organisations and National Youth Organisations. General members can be youth organisations, networks or individuals (including young people). This meeting marks the beginning of a nation wide membership drive.

Samantha Tyler, Young Spokesperson added, "This peak organisation will strengthen the opportunities for young Australians to comment directly on National issues that affect them."

Key policy issues discussed included the establishment of Federal age discrimination legislation, the call for a National Children and Young Peoples Commission, and the ability for young people to share our nations' wealth through jobs and income support.

"Although as an unfunded organisation we don't want to create expectations that we will be able to address every national issue that young people face, if energy and commitment were an indication of ability to promote the aspirations of young people the future looks very bright", Mr Crosby said.

Members of the National Representative Council will meet with the Federal Minister for Youth Affairs, the Hon Larry Anthony to discuss the new peak body, the issues raised over the course of the two days, and to seek government support for its operation.

Meetings are also planned with opposition and minor party youth spokespeople and key government departments.

For further information contact:

Samantha Tyler (Young Spokesperson) 0409158391

Jamie Crosby (Independent Chairperson) 0411443190

Janet Jukes (Treasurer) 0411484428

You might be interested in the results of the **Mission Australia 2002 Youth Survey**.

More than 2700 young people from right around Australia responded – which was pretty amazing!

For all the details, national and state based results, go to www.mission.com.au/cms/social/ and click on the 'view now' just below the pic. of the girl playing guitar!

NIYMA - National Indigenous Youth Movement of Australia

PO Box 874, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006 Ph (07) 3229 1575 Fax (07) 3229 1580
Email: niyamamob@hotmail.com

NIYMA IS... an independent public charitable trust which has been set up by five young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

NIYMA, the Movement is made up of three main parts...

National Indigenous Youth Circle

The Circle's aim is to be a national co-ordinating body for NIYMA as a whole. It is not a governing body, or a body which holds all the power, like other 'top-down' approaches. The Circle's role will be to co-ordinate and work out ways which we can engage, support and advocate for Indigenous young people around the country. The Circle will have 21 members from all over the country, and will meet three times a year.

National Indigenous Youth Community

The Community is a national network of Indigenous young people who want to become members of NIYMA. We will seek to link everyone up through radio, print, web, and television. NIYMA will encourage local solutions to local issues. For example, if a group of young people want to start a youth group, we will work with them and hook them up with local groups and agencies who can help them get started. If there are no services available in your area, we will seek to bring in appropriate people from the outside who can help with self-esteem, training, and all the skills needed. By being hooked up to other young Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders around the country, we can all learn from and support each other.

National Indigenous Youth Corroboree

Every two years, NIYMA will host and produce a national Indigenous youth corroboree. It will be a festival of culture, careers, performance, healing activities, and just a bloody great celebration of not only our survival, but our Thriving! We hope to be able to work with other Indigenous youth festivals, such as National Youth Reconciliation Week, and perhaps the Croc Eisteddford.

Apart from these three main parts, we will also be supported by an Elders Council, who are respectful of our needs, and will work with us in cultural and spiritual guidance.

NIYMA Youth Circle Applications...

If you want to apply to be a member on the National Indigenous Youth Circle, you must:

Be all of the above;

Be between the ages of 18 and 30 years at your last birthday.

For more information contact details above

LGBT Police Liaison Officers Program

YANQ was present at a forum in May to hear from and dialogue with Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson regarding developments of the LGBT Police Liaison Officer program throughout Queensland.

The program aims to provide a professional, non-discriminatory, accessible police service to members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) communities by developing an awareness and understanding of the LGBT communities, developing partnerships with LGBT communities, ensuring equality, accountability and professionalism in the police services contact with LGBT communities, and improving service delivery to LGBT communities.

The Commissioner noted a number of future developments for the program – training of over 70 new LGBT Police Liaison Officers, addressing homophobia in schools through the school based police officers, training and awareness raising for officers in the area of same sex domestic violence, evaluating the concept of a 'self-reporting brochure' to enable confidence and empowerment to report a crime, especially to those who may be victims of crime at "beats", continuing to work in partnership with the community at events such as the Pride Fair, and through crime prevention strategy initiatives with the QLD Aids Council.

Resources/ Publications



National Office for the Information Economy (NOIE)

have a website where people can do a search for Public Internet access.

Available at:

www.noie.gov.au/netspot/asp-bin/search.asp

The Australian Institute of Criminology has released *Research and Public Policy Series No. 40*

Homicide in Australia: 2000-2001 National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) see:

www.aic.gov.au/publications/rp/40/index.html

These websites are a comprehensive guide to Internet Cafes and other public internet and email access points in Brisbane and Queensland:

www.backpackaustralia.com.au/int_qld.htm

www.gnomon.com.au/publications/netaccess/qld.shtml

This website is also helpful for searching libraries available in Queensland. People can search by alphabetical listing of Local Government service locations and by Geographical browsing facility:

www.slq.qld.gov.au/pub/directory/internetaccess.htm

NESB/Youth Matters



From the NESB Policy Officer

It has been an intense few months with partial funding for this position ending, the ongoing commitment of YANQ to the NESB Policy Officer port-folio while we wait to hear about new funding rounds, various staff changes, and a number of added responsibilities as the organisation is short a policy officer.

Throughout this time, both my and YANQ's commitment is to the tasks of the NESB Policy and Network Officer in the positions' roles of networking, leadership, resourcing, and advocacy for the multicultural youth sector. The next few months will be a time of opportunity and new beginnings with new funding agreements, renewed directions, and the continued building on firm foundations built over many years.

Both myself and YANQ look forward to positive directions and outcomes in the next few months. Meanwhile the tasks and responsibilities continue.

Police Ethnic Youth Partnership Advisory Group

As foreshadowed in the last edition of Network Noise, various members gathered in April to consider the collected issues and concerns raised regarding police and ethnic youth relations, and to begin a process to address possible actions and strategies.

Broadly speaking, six areas of action were identified and are being further developed into a broad action plan to then be prioritised as resourcing allows. The six action areas are;

- Develop workshop/s on police & youth relations for delivery at the 2002 State Youth Affairs conference;
- Critiquing a number of QLD Police service initiatives to consider content and relevance in relation to the needs and issues of ethnic young people and young people generally;
- Consider ethnic youth education materials regarding police;
- Consider developing a public space forum in 2003 to consider a number of core and related issues;
- Development of a community/police training kit to enhance relations; and,
- Pursue the development of a QPS Youth Policy/strategic directions statement.

As soon as this matrix is further outlined. Members will again be invited to refine the plan and processes.

NESB GLBT Issues

I am still interested in hearing from people who would like to consider NESB GLBT issues and concerns in relation to a possible future research project. Contact me (Michael Zgryza) at YANQ (phone 07 3844 7713 or email mzgryza@pacific.net.au) if you are interested.

Voices From The Edge Seminar Report

In March, copies of the seminar report from the Voices from the Edge seminar (Young People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities and the issues of Self Harm and Suicide Seminar), were distributed to all participants. YANQ still has copies available for those of you who would like one. It is a worthwhile reflection of the seminar and a resource that will assist members in the area of CALD young people, self-harm and suicide and continued networking and development.

While not all presenters were able to submit their presentations for the report, the report is still rich in its contribution to this topic and future possibilities as expressed through the recommendations and very comprehensive examples and strategies noted at the end of the seminar.

Contact YANQ if you would like a copy of the Voices to the Edge Seminar Report.

Putting Families First – Multicultural Reference Group – Parenting Tip Sheets & Further Directions

I have written before about the work of the Putting Families First – Multicultural Reference Group which aims to assist the Department of Families by providing advice and developing resources with a focus relevant to families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and our work together on adapting and translating a number of the existing parenting tip sheets into various languages.

Sunday 26th of May saw the Premier Peter Beattie and Families Minister Judy Spence launch the Chinese language tip sheets, covering 4 topics - *Living with Babies, Helping Kids be Positive, When your Child Becomes an Adult, and Growing and Learning in the Family.*

As well as Chinese language translations, this series of tip sheets will also soon be available in Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian Vietnamese, and Arabic.

The reference group is continuing to examine the development of new tip sheets addressing specific multicultural family issues and the establishing of firm goals and directions for future resources.

NYIN

NYIN met in February and received updates on a number of works in progress, and dedicated most of the meeting's time to working through possible actions and strategies in relation to refugee and asylum seeker concerns.

The April NYIN meeting was unfortunately cancelled due to a variety of circumstances, but the next meeting will be on Tuesday July 1st, and will again attempt focus on educational issues, particularly now in relation to the Governments' Education and Training Reform Green Paper.

Muslim Youth Speak Out

On the 10th of May, I had the immense pleasure of attending a Muslim Youth Speak Out evening co-ordinated through the Islamic Women's Association and funded through the Office of Youth Affairs.

This was a wonderful brief interaction with Islamic culture as well as hearing of a number of issues affecting Muslim young people, from recognition of prior skills, cultural isolation of students, the distorted and often narrow view held about Islam, the need to make service providers aware about Islamic culture, building self esteem, the need to assist Muslim youth to clarify their own identity as Muslims living in a multicultural society, and how to respect others differences without having to absorb differences if they vary from one's own valued and beliefs, to the call to build a Muslim youth support group that can meet regularly to share their concerns and find solutions for their problems.

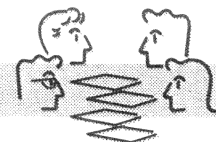
What came through strongly was the importance and benefit of the opportunity to speak out about their experience, and to have this heard and shared not only other Muslim young people but also mainstream services to deliver practical solutions to problems being confronted.

Until next time,

Michael

NESB Policy and Network Officer

Conferences Training/Events



Amnesty International Qld Students have the *Courage to Care*

Following the success of the inaugural 'Courage To Care' student human rights conference 2001 with a focus on Discrimination, Queensland students have shown that indeed they do care.

They have shown it in many ways including their interest in refugee issues. Students took part in the HREOC (Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission) Inquiry into Children in Detention in Australia by writing letters which became part of a submission. Others have invited students from Milpera State High School (this high school receives migrant students while they are still learning English) to visit their school, or have visited Milpera. Yet others invited the Afghan Tigers 11 Soccer Team to their school. The Tigers are a soccer team formed with the help of Camilla Cowley. Camilla realised that a soccer team provided a focus for unaccompanied refugee minors and gave them a chance to meet other students. Their name comes from a mountain range in the Hazara region of Afghanistan. The team has recently toured Qld, NSW and Canberra making friends and building relationships wherever they go.

Courage to Care 2002 will break new ground again!

We hear from students that there is a desire in today's uncertain world for a direction that offers self confidence and works towards positive results. It was in response to this desire for information and action that we introduced to students the concept of ethical behaviour. We at AI sincerely believe that a recognition of the indivisibility of human rights should be recognised and promoted by everyone. Amnesty International is committed to human rights awareness and to answering the information needs of Queensland students.

With this in mind, *Courage To Care* is being held on a school day - Thursday 5th September- following consultation with Education Qld. By selecting a school day we hope some students will find it easier to attend.

We have the support of Brisbane City Council and Visible Ink, which is a project of Council and young people working together on young people's issues.

This conference will be held from 9am to 4pm in the Balmoral room of the City Hall. Numbers are limited owing to space, so early registration is essential before August 16th.

Students will have the opportunity to explore ethical and socially responsible behaviour relating to the issue of discrimination, listen to refugee and indigenous students, and to workshop critical analysis of the media.

Pre-reading will be provided for the delegates to promote knowledge based discussion..

Students from Years 9 to 12 will find the day informative and fun, and the programme is consistent with the SOSE, legal studies and other school curriculum areas.

For information contact joint Co-ordinators, Amnesty International Student Group Network:

David George 07 33535029 or
Barbara Ashby 07 33682885
email barbaraashby@bigpond.com

Amnesty International Qld
3rd floor Edward St Brisbane 4000
tel 32210221 fax 32210598
email qldaia@amnesty.org.au

Women Leading Change

A three-day leadership program for women leading and designing change within their organisations, followed by one-on-one coaching for three months. Facilitated by Rayona Sharpnack, founder of the Institute for Women's Leadership, California, USA. \$4,250 + GST

Adelaide Oct 21-23
Canberra Oct 28-30

Ready for Change

A one-day career enhancement program which focuses the leader or aspiring leader on what it takes to claim leadership. Followed by two coaching sessions. Facilitated by Anne Skipper and Andrea Pink of The Teleran Group. \$800 +GST

Adelaide July 4, Sept 5 &
Canberra June 27, Aug 29

For more information contact Anne Skipper or Andrea Skipper on ph 08 8223 3355 or email anne@teleran.com.au

Building Better Boards - *A Dialogue on Non-profit Governance*

Conference to be held in Sydney at the Novotel Brighton Beach on the 13th & 14th July, 2002.

This conference is designed to provide a forum for non-profit boards and management committee members to explore their governing responsibilities, together with their executive staff. The dialog will move from:

- Focusing on big picture and local realities
- Thinking to doing
- Concepts to Implementation

For more information ph 02 9879 6674,
email info@governance.com.au check out
the web site at www.governance.com.au

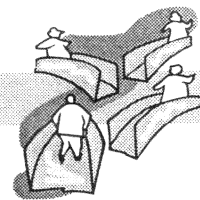
Changing Times *Choices and Challenges in Shaping Our Future*

Qld State Youth Affairs Conference 2002
30th, 31st October & 1st November 2002
South Molle Island

The youth sector has been witness to, and participants of, significant change within the human service industry. Social policy and the service delivery system have shifted at a rapid pace. The conference will explore these changes, the use of strength based approaches in our work, the rights of young people and the development of partnerships within and across sectors through providing a dynamic conference environment that encourages critical debate. The conference will be interactive, experiential and pitched at the new and very experienced. It will be an opportunity for those with an interest in improving the lives of young people to come together to share ideas, challenge perspectives and to shape the future of our sector.

Further information including travel arrangements, subsidy, accommodation and call for papers will be available in the near future.

Values & Youth Work



As a value driven organisation, YANQ has decided to commit a page of Network Noise, on a regular basis, to exploring and promoting the idea of value clarification in the youth sector. The following article is Copyright of S.Quixley, 1995. Non-profit community organisations are welcome to use the material, provided that they don't charge for it, and that the source/author are fully acknowledged.

Generating a Clear Vision Statement (or Vision)

Part Two

Development of a statement of vision/ purpose is critical to further organisational development. *Unless you know where you're going, it's unlikely you'll get there!* Generally, an organisational Vision Statement looks at determining viable outcomes over the relatively long term eg. 10-20 years. It provides an ongoing focus for organisational activities. However, it is critical to acknowledge the unstable nature of funding in the community sector, and to view this vision as a guide, rather than a prescription.

Strategic planning models frequently promote Mission Statements (or their equivalent) as the means to clarify organisational Vision. It is unusual for such short statements to be adequate mechanisms within the community sector. The relationship between services with the entire socio-economic culture, in which they are located, is difficult to summarise in a manner that is useful and clear, in a few sentences. Insufficient recognition of the complexity of the context in which the Vision is located can lead to a meaningless statement, which generalises the organisation's direction to extinction! The purpose of a service is likely to be more multi-faceted than the means of promotion of a line of products. In addition, the means by which the vision is achieved is often as central to the purpose of organisations than the end. It may be impossible to generate a Vision Statement of practical value, with the ability to provide genuine guidance for development, in a singular/ simple statement. Generally, inclusion of some strategic thinking is essential to starting clearly the purpose of an organisation.

The Vision of an organisation then, derives directly from its Ideology. It is at the apex of the 3-dimensional triangle. It is the focus to which all future development is targeted:

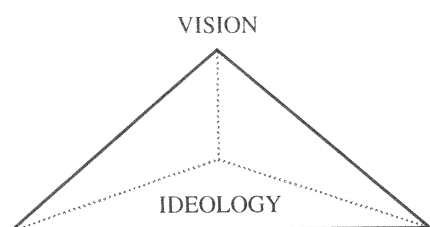


Diagram 2: Organisational Vision

Assessing the Need for Documented Ethics/ Standards

The role of ideological development in generating a culture of understanding within an organisation cannot be underestimated. A useful component of developing an Ideology might include testing the application of the values of the organisation against practical situations. (Typical questions asked during this phase might be – *Would this behaviour be compatible with our Ideology/ Vision?*, or, *So what are the strategies that could be applied here which are consistent with our Ideology?* Do you find them equally acceptable? If not, how can we further clarify our base?

Development of documented ethics (principles underlying behaviours) or standards (determination of (un)acceptable behaviours) has both advantages and disadvantages. Documentation can clarify application of the Ideology/ Vision for everyone involved in the organisation. It can be of particular value for service users, in stating reasonable expectations of service.

On the other hand, development of rules and regulations can be damaging. They can lead to an adult/child culture within an organisation, and thus undermine the development of a culture committed to a mutual motivation and learning. The existence of an excess of written documentation can result in loss of focus on the central/ guiding tenets of the organisation (the Ideology and Vision), leading to symptomatic, rather than causal, discussions. The very terms ethics and standards may be immediately associated with existing codes (eg. For doctors or social workers) which have proven of dubious value in affecting behaviour within the professions. A focus of this narrow kind could undermine thoughtful debate and ongoing development at the wider ethical level.

An alternative to comprehensive ethical documentation is the development of a short, simple charter. This would focus, in the initial term, on how the group involved

in organisational development would like to be treated. Themselves (eg throughout the process of development). This could later be extended to apply to everyone involved with the service – including service users. Such a statement is unlikely to be confused with conventional ethical statements, and could contribute to generating a responsible, inclusive, organisational culture.

Perhaps the overriding question which needs to be asked in the process of deciding whether or not to specify organisational ethics/ standards is **does our existing documentation provide sufficient guidance to the behaviour within the service?** It may very well be the case that the answer is yes. In this case, the development of further documentation might be counterproductive. A more constructive approach might be the development of a process of ongoing ethical exploration/ development. Alternately, a regular process of reminder/ review of the Ideology/ Vision of the organisation might fulfil this function in a more focused way.

The ethics/standards side of the triangle could be represented thus:

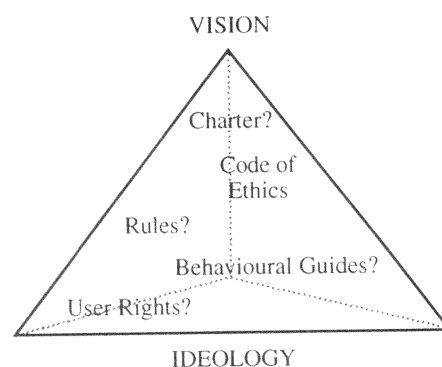


Diagram 3: The ethical side of the triangle

To be continued in the next edition of Network Noise.

Interagency Meetings



South-east Queensland

Beaudesert Interagency

Contact: Michael Wallace
PO Box 572 Beaudesert, Q 4285.
Ph (07) 5541 3762, Fax (07) 5541 3654.
Meets last Wednesday of the month
10am at Illoura Centre, 31 Duckett St, Beaudesert.

Beenleigh and District Interagency

Contact: Sharyn Bloomfield,
Beenleigh Community Health,
PO Box 386, Beenleigh Q 4207.
Ph (07) 3290 9833 Fax (07) 3290 9899.
Meets 2nd Thursday of the month 2 - 4pm at
Community Health,
10-18 Mt Warren Blvd, Mt Warren Park.

Brisbane Inner Urban Youth Interagency

Contact: Mitchell Dobbie
Drug Arm, 83 Castlemaine St Milton.
Ph (07) 3368 3822 Fax (07) 3367 3289.
Meets 1st Wednesday 10 - 12pm of the month at
Drug Arm, 83 Castlemaine St, Milton.

Caboolture Youth Network (YCAN)

Contact: Janine Carter
Caboolture Shire Council.
Ph (07) 5420 0342, Fax (07) 5420 0350.
Meets 3rd Wednesday of each month 12:30 - 3pm at
Caboolture Shire Council,
Level 3, 33 King St, Caboolture.

Gold Coast Youth Network

Contact: Sylvia Raylance
C/- Gold Coast Youth Service
PO Box 740 Burleigh Heads Q 4220,
Ph (07) 5572 0400 Fax (07) 5575 2607
Meets Last Wednesday of month, 10.30am
at Robina Uniting Church Community Complex
4 Greenwich Crt Robina.

Inala Youth Interagency

Contact: John Rigsby-Jones,
Inala Youth and Family Support Service,
PO Box 141, Inala Q 4077.
Ph (07) 3372 2655 Fax (07) 3372 2710.
Meets at 12:00pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month at
Centrelink Office, 2nd Floor, Wirrway Parade, Inala.

Ipswich Youth Focus

Contact: Mark Smith
Ipswich City Council
PO Box 191, Ipswich Q 4305.
Ph (07) 3810 6656, Fax (07) 3810 6741.
Meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday of the month at
12:30pm at Ipswich Health Plaza, Bell Street, Ipswich

Logan Youth Interagency Network

Contact: Mel Cowrie
Logan Central Police Station, 11-13 Civic Pde, Logan
Central QLD 4114
Ph: 3826 1965 or Fax: 3826 1862
Meets 2nd Monday each month from 3pm to 5pm at the
Logan PCYC Conference room (PCYC is situated behind the
Logan City Council Chambers - next door to the swimming
pool) Jacaranda Ave, Woodridge.

Pine Rivers Youth Service Providers Network

Contact: Di Cattling,
Youth Care Pine Rivers
PO Box 143, Strathpine Q 4500.
Ph (07) 3881 2823 Fax (07) 3881 1047.
Meets 1st Monday of every second month, 2pm at
16 Lincoln St, Strathpine.

Redcliffe Youth Service Providers Network

Contact: Darren Dallinger
Redcliffe City Council, PO Box 66, Redcliffe Q 4020.
Ph (07) 3889 5733 Fax (07) 3889 5320.
Meets 2nd Wednesday of every 2nd month, contact Darren
3pm at the Meeting Room Peninsula Business & Tourism
Centre 35-37 Redcliffe Parade, Redcliffe.

Redlands Youth Network

Contact: Christine D'Arcy,
Bayside District Health Service,
PO Box 585, Cleveland Q 4163.
Ph (07) 3240 8311 Fax (07) 3821 4782.
Meets 3rd Monday of each month 9:30am - 11:30 am
at Redlands Health Service Centre, Hospital Grounds,
Cleveland.

South-east Youthlink Interagency

Contact: Jillian Covey
JPET, 34 Sanders St, Upper Mt Gravatt, Q 4122.
Ph (07) 3349 2855 Fax (07) 3349 3593.
Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, 9am - 11am Carina Youth
Agency 175 Winstanley St (cnr McKalister St), Carina

Youth Health Interagency

Contact: Jeff Cheverton at Brisbane Youth Service
PO Box 1389, Fortitude Valley Q 4006.
Ph (07) 3252 3750 Fax (07) 3252 2166 .
Meets every two months at Child and Youth Mental Health
Service, Cnr Water and Rogers Sts, Spring Hill.

Interagency Meetings



Bundaberg District Youth Sector Network

Contact: Peter Callen
PO Box 2252 Bundaberg Q 4670
Ph (07) 4154 0324 Fax (07) 4153 1212
1st Thursday of month at Bundaberg Skill Centre,
Bigara Rd, Bundaberg

Cairns Youth Services Network

Contact: Fiona Norman
West Cairns Youth Development
PO Box 359, Cairns Q 4870
Ph (07) 4044 3031 Fax (07) 4044 3830
Meets last Thursday of month 3:30pm
Cairns City Library, Abbott St Cairns

Central and North Burnett Community Service Network

(YDiG youth development initiative group)
Contact: Andrew Crowthers & Amy Friend
Monto Neighbourhood Centre
PO Box 97, Monto Q 4630
Ph (07) 4166 1733 Fax (07) 4166 3186
10am to 3pm, Meets 1st Monday of month (venue changes)

Central West Youth Network

Contact: Katrina George
PO Box 191, Barcaldine Q 4725
Ph (07) 4651 2221 Fax (07) 4651 2647
Meets every 2 or 3 months, Venue changes.

Emerald Youthlink Network

Contact: Mathew Sampson
Rural Youth Worker, Emerald Shire Council
PO Box 21, Emerald Q 4720
Ph (07) 4982 0540 Fax (07) 4982 0540
Meets 1st Thursday of every month.

Gladstone Youth Interagency

Contact: Andrea Hughes
Gladstone City Council
PO Box 29, Gladstone Q 4680
Ph (07) 4976 6300 Fax (07) 4972 6557
Meets 1st Wednesday of month
Neighbourhood Centre 105 Toolooa St, Gladstone

Hervey Bay Youth Sector Workers Network

Contact: Sue Lawler
Hervey Bay City Council
PO Box 5045, Hervey Bay Q 4655
Ph (07) 4197 4330 Fax (07) 4197 4303
Meets last Tuesday of each month, contact Sue for
venue details.

Warwick Youth Network

Southern Downs Health Service District
Contact: Julieanne Williamson
PO Box 273, Stanthorpe, Q 4380
Ph (07) 4681 5260 Fax (07) 4681 5228
Meets quarterly, date changes
Warwick Community Health Centre

Innisfail Community Sector Network

Contact: Wendy Shultz
PO Box 887, Innisfail Q 4860
Ph (07) 4030 2255 Fax (07) 4061 6005
Meets Bi-monthly at Parish Centre, Rankin Street, Innisfail

Mackay Youth Connection & Network Inc

Contact: Amanda Sulter
Mackay Youth Support Service
PO Box 1813, Mackay Q 4740
Ph (07) 4951 0510 Fax (07) 4957 7637
Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month 11am at Community
Health Centre

Magnetic North Youth Service Providers Association Inc.

Contact: Alex Salvador
PO Box 1858, Townsville Q 4810
Ph (07) 4772 4800 Fax (07) 4772 1840
Meets 3rd Tuesday of month from 10:30am
Migrant Resource Centre T&G Building, Cnr Stanley &
Flinders Sts, Townsville

MICAT (Mt Isa Combined Action Team)

Contact: Dave Morgan
QLD Health
PO Box 1050, Mt Isa Q 4825
Ph (07) 4747 2547 Fax (07) 4747 2550 or
Madonna Kennedy, Tropical Public Health
Ph: (07) 4749 5623 Meets Monthly

Rockhampton Combined Youth Interagency & Suicide Prevention

Contact: Julie Hill
QLD Health
PO Box 501, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph (07) 4920 6923 Fax (07) 4920 6870
Meets 3rd Tuesday of month at the Community Health
Centre at 9:30am to 11.40am

South Burnett Community Network

Contact: Leslie Burgess
CTC Youth Service
PO Box 490, Kingaroy Q 4610
Ph (07) 4162 7788 Fax (07) 4162 2783
Meets 1st Tuesday of month at Wondai Hospital
meeting room

South West Youth Interagency

Contact: Glen Brassington
QLD Health
PO Box 219 Charleville Q 4470
Ph (07) 4654 4388 Fax (07) 4654 4389
Meets once a month, contact Glen for details

Sunshine Coast Youth Workers Forum

Contact: Artie Shepard
PO Box 84, Maroochydore Q 4558
Ph (07) 5409 7000 Fax (07) 5409 7001
Email artie@kings.org.au
Contact Artie for details

Toowoomba Youth Organisations Network (TYON)

Contact: Ed Bradbury
Department of Education
PO Box 38, Toowoomba Q 4350
Ph (07) 4616 9100 Fax (07) 4616 9111
Meets every 6 weeks, for details contact Ed Bradbury
Email edward.bradbury@qed.qld.gov.au

Membership/Subscription Application Form Tax Invoice

all relevant fees have 10% GST included. Must be paid by personal cheque, money order, credit card or cash ABN 28 205 281 339

Category Applied For:

Individual / Young Person (aged 12-25years) Membership ☐

**YANQ Membership
Application Form**

Title _____ First Name _____

Family Name _____

Postal Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Code _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

Fax _____ Mobile _____

E-mail _____

Receiving Centrelink ☐ \$5.00

Young Person ☐ \$10.00

Income <\$25,000 ☐ \$15.00

Income \$25,000 - \$50,000 ☐ \$40.00

Income > \$50,000 ☐ \$50.00

Must be paid by personal cheque, money order, credit card or cash

Organisational Membership ☐

Organisation _____

Contact Person: Title _____ First Name _____

Family Name _____

Position _____

Postal Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Code _____

Phone (W) _____ Fax _____

Mobile _____ E-mail _____

Community Not for Profit Organisation

Funding <\$100,000 ☐ \$55.00

Funding \$100,000 - \$250,000 ☐ \$80.00

Funding \$250,000 - \$400,000 ☐ \$120.00

Funding >\$400,000 ☐ \$150.00

For Profit Organisations

Community Organisation ☐ \$165.00

Subscriber ☐

Department/Service _____

Contact Person: Title _____ First Name _____

Family Name _____

Position _____

Postal Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Code _____

Phone (W) _____ Fax _____

Mobile _____ E-mail _____

Community Not for Profit

Individual ☐ \$60.00

Organisation ☐ \$160.00

For Profit ☐ \$15.00

Government Department or Service

Federal, State, Local ☐ \$50.00

N.B If for some reason you are unable to sign the values and vision statement of the Network you are entitled to become a subscriber after submitting the relevant fee.

Pay by Credit Card:

☐ American Express ☐ Mastercard ☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa

Card Details

Name on Card

Amount

Expiry Date

Signature

Please send application; cheque; money order or credit card details to YANQ 30 Thomas St, West End Q 4101

I.....have read and support the objects and the values summary of the Network and hereby request to become a member of the network.

Signed Date

I.....a current financial member of the Network, second the application.

Signed Date

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; and
- 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?

Full Membership

Membership of the network may be granted to youth organisations, Youth Workers and young people in the non government youth sector who have:

Agreed to support the objects and values summary of the network and paid the prescribed fee and completed the relevant application form.

Subscriber

Any other individual or organisation interested in the work of the network is entitled to become a subscriber after submitting the relevant fee.

Become a member..... and make a difference!

Keep up to date

- Free newsletter quarterly, Network Noise
- Free Infact sheets distributed regularly
- Discount on other YANQ publications, such as Transitions
- 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.

YANQ Aims

Working together to improve the quality of life of young people in Queensland and thereby improve the quality of life of society.

YANQ Objects

- To promote the interests of the youth sector particularly the interests of disadvantaged and marginalised young people, throughout Queensland.
- To enable the participation of young people, particularly disadvantaged and marginalised young people, in the Network and wider community.
- To advocate with and for young people, particularly disadvantaged and marginalised young people.
- To lobby to achieve long term social change in the interests of young people particularly disadvantaged and marginalised young people.
- To support and encourage the development of new means of meeting the rights and needs of young people, particularly disadvantaged and marginalised young people.
- To contribute to the development of the youth sector through networking, research and information provision.
- To develop policies on issues affecting the youth sector.
- To ensure that the Network has adequate resources to properly address issues affecting the youth sector.
- To function in a manner consistent with the Values and Vision of the Network.

join today!

Simply fill in the application form, detach and return it to YANQ with your membership fee payment. For more information please call us on (07) 3844 7713 or 1800 177 899 (available for regional Qld)

Summary of our Values

At YANQ, we believe that everyone is unique. At the same time, human beings share a lot in common, and are essentially social. We envisage a society where everyone lives in harmony. For this to happen, society must both value every individual and seek the best outcome for the community as a whole. There is the same diversity amongst young people as the rest of the community: like everyone else, young people need to feel respected and valued. When young women and young men are treated as important, the rest of society will gain from their insights and experiences.

We aim to contribute to developing a society that genuinely includes all its members. That's why we are committed to promoting multiculturalism (in its widest sense), and supporting and respecting the wide range of cultures that are part of Australian society. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people always have been, and always will be, the first people of this land. Because of their special relationship with the land, indigenous culture will always have a particular significance in Australian society. Focussing on reconciliation with indigenous people is an important starting point toward creating a more inclusive society. It also provides a model for other areas of action, including strategies toward improving the situation of young people.

We believe that the most effective way to achieve constructive social change is for people to work together. Economic, social and political change is happening all the time, and it is critical that we constantly assess and reassess our strategies if we are to influence change. Both the process and outcomes of change must be fair if sustained, constructive social change is to occur.

We believe that everybody is entitled to have their basic emotional and material rights met. The central role of governments is to ensure that this occurs. Unfortunately, at the moment, governments in Australia focus on supporting global economic interests. Whilst we believe that everyone is fundamentally equal, some sections of our society do not have access to their fair share of society's resources. This includes young people, whose basic human rights are currently not being met. YANQ is committed to encouraging positive discrimination on behalf of those groups which miss out in society so that this type of social injustice will be overcome. It is only when everyone's fundamental rights are fulfilled, and each has the means to fully participate, that it will become relevant to talk about "mutual obligation" between society and its members.

We believe that a range of strategies is required to achieve constructive social change. Governments in Australia appear committed to stopping the voice of those who challenge their misplaced priorities. YANQ is responsible for being a strong public voice which lobbies and advocates on behalf of those young people who particularly miss out in society, and of young people as a whole. To undertake this role effectively, it is crucial that we draw on the expertise of those working most closely with issues affecting particular groups of young people - young women and young men themselves, youth workers and youth organisations. That's why networking is another important social change strategy: it enables the youth sector to participate in collective action.

Ultimately, YANQ's credibility is maintained by practicing what we preach. Our whole structure is designed to ensure that our values and vision permeate the organisation. We are committed to maintaining an open, flexible, accountable, consistent, inclusive, valuing approach in all our dealings - within YANQ, and in our relations with our members and the wider community. We are committed to applying our values in everything we say, and everything we do.