

Network Noise

Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

Quarterly Newsletter December 2002

Misguided, Unruly and Unwashed



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The WTO protests in Sydney were 'marred by violence'. Yet very little violence seems to have actually occurred, even less by the protesters labelled as such. During the Sydney protests I had the honour of having my neck in the firm grasp of one of New South Wales' finest. In this article I investigate the sources of the violence slanders and the nature of WTO dissent.

A 5000 strong crowd, expressing their dissent at the WTO ministerial meeting, took to the Sydney streets on November 14th 2002. The protest consisted of a diverse array of community groups and individuals expressing messages in support of economic justice, refugees, public education, gay rights, labour rights, peace, community and ecology. Most of all they carried the message that "Our World is Not For Sale." Despite the carnival atmosphere, which included puppetry, song, street theatre and dance, our message was lost in the corporate media who outrageously distorted the truth and replaced it with the slander of violence.

During the early part of the day the police were generally tolerant of the carnival. At one stage I recall joining in a circle of around forty adults and children, linking arms and singing the 'hokey pokey' during our 'corporate scumbag' tour of the Sydney CBD. A far cry from the violence we were labelled with, but then again we were violent *by definition* not by action. "You put your left leg in..." "VIOLENT RADICALS" "You put your left leg out..." "MISGUIDED, UNRULY AND UNWASHED" "You put your left leg in and shake it all about..." "RATBAG ELEMENT."

By mid morning the roving carnival arrived at Australasian Correctional Management (ACM), the corporation that profits from the incarceration of refugees in desert concentration camps. I witnessed two riot police reach into the crowd and grab a protester, dragging him towards car-filled Clarence Street. Several mounted police then galloped down Clarence Street, aiming to protect the arrest but acting to heighten tension. The behaviour of the police during the following minutes contrasted with their earlier tolerance. The stark change in mood seems to me to indicate a politically motivated escalation of events for the purpose of filling news-

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Youth Affairs Network of Queensland
30 Thomas St
West End Q 4101
Phone: 07) 3844 7713 or 1800 177 899
Fax: 07) 3844 7731
Email: yanq@pacific.net.au
<http://www.yanq.org.au>
Print Post Approved PP437149/00018
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Contributions Welcome

Ring, write, email 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

Phone: 07) 3844 7713 or 1800 177 899

Fax: 07) 3844 7731

Email: yanq@pacific.net.au

Edited By Kate Warner
Siyavash Doostkhah

Design & Layout – Katkin Walsh

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YANQ Staff

Director:
Siyavash Doostkhah

P/T Financial Officer:
Bronwyn Ketchell

a/Administrative Officer:
Kate Warner

Training Officers:
Natalie Bell & James Finn

Website

<http://www.yanq.org.au>

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YANQ believes that the primary culture of Australia is Aboriginal.

We recognise that Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Islander peoples are 3 separate cultures. We recognise Aboriginal people as the permanent custodians of mainland Australia, including those areas of land whose owners have been wiped out as a result of racist policies and acts. We use the term *custodianship* in the context of protection and care for the land. YANQ is committed to respecting Murri communities and individuals. We seek to understand their responses to policies and issues affecting them. We are committed to learning about their understandings of the impact of decisions on them. YANQ apologises for the past and present social mistreatment of Murri and Islander people created by colonisation, and is committed to supporting the healing process.

Misguided, Unruly & Unwashed

continued from page 1

reels with images of confrontation. A legitimisation of the claims of politicians who had declared that the protesters would be violent.

The crowd followed the lead of the police and flowed into Clarence Street, partly to aid their abducted friend, partly out of curiosity. A couple of thousand people were interspersed amongst the still traffic. An independant media photographer climbed atop a stationary bus to capture the situation - workday commuters surrounded by colourful protesters, entombed by a row of riot police and horses. The police launched through the crowd to apprehend the photographer as he climbed down from the bus.

A policeman placed his hand on my throat, pushing my head back as they drove through the crowd. Another example of protester violence, I guess, at least that's what would be proclaimed over the air waves that evening. A flash of humanity gleamed through the policeman's military training, reconsidering his actions, he removed his gloved hand from my throat and placed it on my shoulder instead, still continuing his quest of charging through the crowd.

The police acted manipulatively to manufacture confrontation for media broadcast. However, their cavalier attitude to public safety is even more alarming. During the confrontation all of the officers enforcing crowd control had guns on their belts. I noticed this just after I had my throat grabbed in the middle of a large crowd where protestors far out-numbered police. The irresponsibility of wearing a firearm at a protest is truly monumental.

Apparently during these events two mounted police had broken ranks and, without provocation, charged the edge of the unarmed crowd. People scattered, but there was little room to avoid the pounding hooves. A journalist from *The Australian* was trampled by the mounted police. Our first aiders, experienced at treating the results of police violence, were the first to her side, later joined by an ambulance officer who stretchered her and her suspected fractured pelvis to hospital.

One can hardly paint the journalist as a violent threat or accuse her of provocation as would have been done if it were a protester who was injured. Another pretext needed to be formulated. *The Australian* heroically rose to the occasion, they reported the sequence of events as, "a crowd of protesters fell on her and she was trampled by a police horse." The journalist courageously denied *The Australian's* claim that protesters had contributed to the incident - exposing her own paper's blatant lies. Unprovoked horse charges into an unarmed, noncombatant a crowd is a far cry from "violent protest". Protesters causing journalists to be crushed by horses is an even further stretch.

Obvious questions arise. What were the specific actions of the protesters that constitute the definition of violence? Do the protestors deserve the scorn of the media and

Misguided, Unruly & Unwashed

society? Do guns and horses in peaceful protests make the event safer? Are the law enforcement agencies there to protect and serve the public or protect and serve the institutions of capital, the state and centralised power?

The paranoia of the law enforcement agencies should not be underestimated. Australian Federal Police video taped people boarding buses from Brisbane. When we confronted the spying agent she readily volunteered her employ, adding, "if you have nothing to hide you should not worry." Her attitude would not be out of place in a police state. I wonder if the tapes will be destroyed now that their fears have proven unfounded?

The coverage of the protests by the corporate media also demonstrated an absence of any critical analysis of the issues raised, with their obvious preference to blanket label protesters as irrational. Returning home I have been confronted with an even harsher quandry; likeminded friends wishing to distance themselves from the Sydney events. Comfort in feeling more sophisticated than the unwashed elements. Social reward for not bucking the status quo. This is the power of media portrayal of violence. A thick line drawn to marginalise those who choose action.

The task now, for those not wishing to acquiesce to the position of surperfuous actors within an economy, participants of society only via economic transactions, is to create a more positive fora for the expression of alternate worlds. To meet on our own terms, and create energy that is difficult to distort into negative imagery. This may take the form of following the summits of the big wigs, or it may not. Our actions should be first and foremost inspirational and inclusive not alienating. Public cynicism about corporate power is pervasive throughout Australian society, but unfortunately the portrayal of the WTO protests is doing little to convince a skeptical public of our worth as a locale for alternate visions. Our motives should be to convert such cynicism into the expression of positive collective futures. To allow hope to triumph over fear. To wash ourselves of the slander of violence and truly make another world possible.

Conventional wisdom would have one believe that it is insane to resist this, the mightiest of empire.... But what history really shows is that today's empire is tomorrow's ashes, that nothing lasts forever, and that to not resist is to acquiesce in your own oppression.

The greatest form of sanity that anyone can exercise is to resist that force that is trying to oppress and fight down the human spirit.

Mumla Abu-Jamal

d.franks@mailbox.gu.edu.au

The WTO & GATS

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is the global international organisation that deals with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The aim of the WTO is to promote "free trade" amongst nations. By nature and even design the WTO is not on a human scale. The issues it deals with are wide-ranging and complex. The effects of undertakings are all too often not foreseen or fully understood.

The WTO's long drawn out negotiations seem removed from everyday life. The agenda is huge and the implications for us are often hard to see at first glance. Yet the WTO makes decisions at a global level that have direct impact on each and every one of us. One particular area of emphasis at the present is to liberalise trade in services, including services such as health and education, via negotiations on the General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS).

The current GATS negotiations aim to remove or minimise so called "barriers" to trade in services, such as local laws regulating standards and delivery of services. There are implications for our public services such as health, education, social security as well as public utilities such as water should these barriers be removed.

These issues need to be debated in our community before this agenda moves forward. The community has insufficient knowledge about the WTO and GATS and the nature of the commitments being sought and how this will affect the Australian community. This lack of knowledge is evident not only amongst the general community but also amongst our elected officials. In short we just don't know enough.

What we do know from first hand experience is the negative impact that narrow economically focused agendas can have on our community – we have been living with so call 'economic rationalism' for almost 20 years now. The WTO represents the global manifestation of this ideology.

GATS AND EDUCATION

Only a small number of countries included education services in their commitment to GATS when Australia signed the treaty in 1994. Consequently there is considerable pressure in the current round of GATS negotiations to secure education services commitments from many countries.

If Australia were to commit to include education services in their GATS agreement then the government would be required to allow transnational providers to establish and operate their businesses in Australia. The provider would dictate the type of service that it offered and the legal status of that service. The government would be required to treat the transnational

provider in exactly the same way as a local provider including giving them access to grants and government funding. The government would be unable to limit: the amount of foreign equity, the total number of tertiary institutions or schools on a national basis, the number of tertiary institutions or schools in a region not withstanding concerns about the viability of public institutions in the region, the type of legal entity utilised for providing tertiary education or schooling eg branch offices rather than a subsidiary company, board of directors rather than representative governing council, the number of graduates or faculties in particular disciplines notwithstanding the likelihood of over-supply in certain fields and, the delivery of distance education services by overseas providers. Government funding for domestic providers would have to be equally available to transnational providers.

If the Australian government signs the full GATS agreement then there will be an effective forced privatisation of our education system. Furthermore, there will likely be a sell off of our education system to overseas providers.

The community needs to act to at least discuss these issues before they become

a fait accompli. Please write to local, state and federal representatives expressing your concern about this issue. Get educated about GATS, the WTO and "free trade." Talk to your friends, get active in your union, start discussion groups on the issue and get active in the protest movement.

Information for this article drawn from pamphlets prepared by
The Alliance to Expose GATS:
PO Box 578, Ashgrove, Q4060

Want more information:

ABC radio national Background Briefing:

Son of MAI

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/talks/bbing/stories/s586637.htm>

AFTINET Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network

<http://www.aftinet.org.au>

Council of Canadians

(go to trade campaign)

<http://www.canadians.org>

GATS Watch

<http://www.gatswatch.org>

Trade Watch

<http://www.tradewatchoz.org>

Oxfam Fair trade campaign

<http://www.oxfamtrading.org.au>

o It was seen that once this reform was passed the Gay and Lesbian movement could lobby for further amendments when a more tolerant climate prevailed.

o There was very little attention paid to Gay and Lesbian youth specific issues by society and by the Gay and Lesbian movement at the time. This was partly due to the lack of data about the situation of Gay and Lesbian youth that was available at the time and partly due to the importance of gaining broader reforms for the Gay and Lesbian Community as a whole before taking on specific issues that effect only segments of that community.

o The Gay and Lesbian community were, and still are, tarnished by a general view that they pose a much greater risk of sexual abuse to children. Therefore it was concluded that lobbying to have the age of consent set at 16 would exacerbate this view further.

CURRENT CONCERNS

There are a variety of concerns in regards to the differing age of consent for anal sex.

- Young men between 16 and 18 engaging in anal sex with each other are potentially exposing themselves to criminal prosecution. Although it is often presumed that no one is ever actually arrested, consultation with sexual health workers and education counsellors in rural and regional Qld for this briefing paper noted several cases where young men aged over 16 and less than 18 have indeed been charged and prosecuted for engaging in anal sex. This anecdotal evidence would suggest that this is more of a problem in rural and regional Qld than it is in South East Queensland.
- Sexual health workers also noted that the differing age of consent often deters young men from accessing safe sex advisory services as they are afraid of the consequences of their sexual activity being discovered.
- Sexual health workers have also noted that young men having sex with men in rural and regional Qld are generally more aware of this law than young men having sex with men in southeast Qld.
- A recent study produced in NSW (where there is a private member's bill before the house to equalise the age of consent for anal sex to 16) entitled,

Equality for Age Of Consent

Currently under the criminal code all people can consent to lawful sexual activity at 16 unless they are engaging in anal sex, in which case the age of consent is 18.

This issue has been discussed at the last three meetings of State Youth Advisory Council (SYAC). SYAC has requested clarification of why there are differences in the age of consent from Rod Welford the Qld. Attorney General.

YANQ provided new members of the SYAC with a briefing paper for the meeting held in October 2002. Research for this briefing paper included a review of Hansard transcripts, and current literature, consultations with sexual health workers, university counsellors, members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities and youth workers.

HISTORY AND CONTEXT

- The decriminalisation of anal intercourse between consenting men over the age of 18 occurred on November the 28th 1990 when the "Criminal Code and Another Act Amendment Bill" was passed. The Hon. Deane M. Wells, member for Murrumbidgee, who was then the State Attorney General, introduced the bill into state parliament.
- The debate was framed around the decriminalisation of anal sex by consenting men over the age of 18. There was no parliamentary debate and little consideration given to the fact that this created a legal inequality for age of consent between anal sex (18) and other sexual acts between consenting individuals (16).
- There are several reasons for the debate being framed in this way.
 - o It was seen, by both the Gay and Lesbian movement and supportive parliamentarians, as difficult enough to achieve this law reform without having to engage in a debate around anal sex rights for minors.

"The Age of Consent And Gay Men In New South Wales," states that, "The higher age of consent sets up barriers to essential public health, welfare and educational practice. A number of researchers working in other nations (like the UK: Poulter 1991; Evans 1989/90), and other Australian jurisdictions (like West Australia: Kendall and Walker 1998b; Bull et al 1991) with unequal age of consent measures, have noted the significant impediments imposed by such legislation in terms of essential public health, welfare and educational practice with young gay men."

This report further states:

"Not surprisingly this issue (differing age of consent) was also one of the chief concerns of health, welfare and counselling workers who participated in our research. All reported huge difficulties with providing information and support around sexuality issues by virtue of the fact that they could be seen under the NSW Crimes Act (1900) as aiding and abetting a criminal activity -- leaving them open to potential prosecution and their agencies open to potential loss of funding from the state government. Some examples of the types of specific incidents where workers felt they were unable to provide an appropriate service to their clients because of such legislative impediments included:

** Workers from the Aids Council of NSW being legally advised not to supply condom use instructions along with free condoms which they were to distribute at a under 18 Gay and Lesbian dance party organised by the Mogenic collective.*

** A counsellor being unable to provide a 16 or 17 year old client new to Sydney with information about sex-on-premises venues, chat rooms and phone-lines where one might find a partner, and also being prevented from supplying important details about such services, safe sex and personal safety policies and provisions.*

** Workers from a gay and lesbian youth support organisation being unable to discuss sexual issues with 16 or 17 year old male clients in all but the most abstract and hypothetical terms--despite knowing that some of these individuals had been previously involved in sex work on the streets from ages as low as 13."*

There are similar stories that workers have re-iterated in Queensland though they have not been documented in a systematic manner.

This report further states: *"Finally we might note that the lack of directness, frankness and explicitness by health and welfare professionals in discussions about gay sex with their underage clients has, at times, been interpreted by young gay men as insinuating that their sexuality is somehow dirty, shameful and pathological. For some of our young gay male respondents this experience was just the latest of a long line of denials, snubbings and insults on the part of parents, teachers and doctors. One young man was moved to comment that such treatment over the years made him feel like "toxic waste".*

Current research, consultation with sexual health workers, youth workers and educational counsellors suggest that a differing age of consent does create a barrier to youth accessing quality sexual health resources and counselling. Further, a differing age of consent law creates obstacles for aforementioned workers to specifically target sexual health campaigns at young people effectively.

CONCLUSIONS

Throughout discussions with sexual health workers, education counsellors members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities and youth workers it was noted that in 1990 the age imbalance was not seen as a pertinent issue. Twelve years on it is highlighted as an issue for both young men and sector workers.

Workers and community members noted that this law is discriminatory to young men having sex with men. It is unreasonable to assert that young people are capable of consenting to sexual acts at 16 unless they are engaging in anal sex in which case their sexual choices are criminalized until they reach 18.

A study entitled, *"Writing themselves in – A nationwide report of the sexuality, health and well being of same sex attracted young people,"* states that 68% of young same sex attracted young men feel mild to devastating negative feelings about their sexuality. These negative feelings can, and often do, have a lasting negative impact throughout the lives of

these men. These negative feelings can be greatly compounded if the legitimate sexual choices of these men cause them to be exposed to the criminal justice system. It was strongly felt that this inequality before the law could only serve to reinforce the negative feelings that young gay men, young bisexual men and young men who have sex with men feel about their sexuality.

It was further felt that reform to equalise the age of consent for anal sex would contribute to a better quality of life and a better standard of sexual health for young gay men, young bisexual men and young men who have sex with men.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- That the state government invest funds into further research about the sexual health and wellbeing of young gay men, young bisexual men and young men who have sex with men.
- That the state government instigates law reform to lower the age of consent for anal sex to 16, thereby bringing it in line with the age of consent for all other lawful sexual activities.

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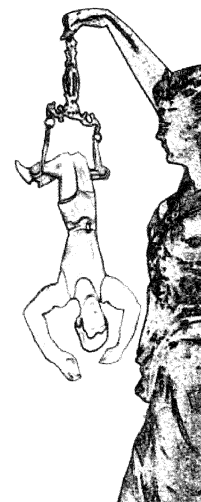
"Writing Themselves In – A National Report of the Sexuality, Health and Wellbeing of Same-Sex Attracted Young People." (2001) LaTrobe University.

**I know how men in exile
feed on dreams of hope.**

Aeschylus

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.



Values & Youth Work Part 4

PHASE 1 : DEVELOPING AIMS

Aims are simply a restatement of the organisation's Vision. Reframing of a Vision Statement into explicit Aims is a useful way to *double check* the viability of the Vision. Aims ensure that the Vision is expressed in concrete terms. They can make the Vision more definable and manageable. Framing the Vision in this format provides data in a style suited to funding submissions, constitutions or other formal documents.

Generally, it is viable for community organisations to have between 3 and 10 Aims. Any more are liable to be cumbersome. The lower the number of Aims, the easier to use them as a constant reference point (*the big picture*) throughout all processes of planning and review, both formal and informal; macro and *day to day*. On the other hand, it is important to ensure that the Aims adequately and comprehensively encompass the full breadth of the organisation's Vision. Aims are the parameters within which all activities (planned or otherwise) of the organisation should fall. Activities undertaken which do not fit under one or more Aims, should be immediately reviewed, and checked against the organisations' ideology. This is particularly relevant where new funding options emerge ... it is very easy to get *carried away* with new possibilities which may not be congruent with the values and purpose of the organisation.

The first phase of developing the planning side of the triangle could be represented like this:

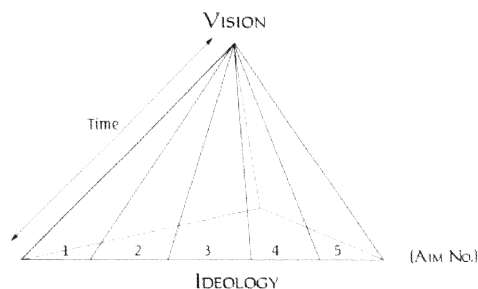


DIAGRAM 5: PHASE 1 OF THE PLANNING SIDE OF THE TRIANGLE

PHASE 2: PLANNING OBJECTIVES

The nature and extent of organisational Objectives will vary enormously from agency to agency. **Objectives define the specific, singular, realistic and measurable achievements** sought by the organisation within a specific period of time. The period of time covered by the objectives should be determined according to the predictability of funding availability, and the period over which guidelines are expected to remain constant. Typically, this is between 6 months and 3 years in the non-government community sector.

It is easy to get excited about the possibility and set a large number of Objectives. This can be politically dangerous and organisationally demoralising, if they are not achievable. It is most useful to set a small number of viable goals, and ensure their achievement.

How are you going to fit in the extra work? Assuming that staff are already working to capacity, **it is critical that each Objective specifically replaces an existing function.** It is important to identify the function to be replaced, as clearly as the new one to be added, to ensure both workload clarity and the viability of the new organisation's plans.

Provided Objectives are defined in specific, singular, realistic and measurable terms, they should be able to be readily adapted to a range of demands and purposes. For example, it is much easier to identify *Performance Indicators* for such an Objective, than for a vaguely stated *dream*. Clear definition ensures that organisations can clearly state, without debate, whether each Objective has been achieved by the end of the period it covers.

Provided the organisation is constantly making reference to their *big picture*, it might be quite appropriate to work within a limited range of organisational Aims for a period of time.

The number of Objectives that can viably be achieved by a non-government community organisation will vary significantly. Some organisations are suited to planning – particularly those with limited, structured services. Those more liable to being affected by crises, are likely to have more restricted scope for advance planning. Organisations with paid infrastructure are more likely to be able to monitor their plan (e.g. adding functions, taking on new projects, or responding to changes in user patterns/ demand), than those where the infrastructure is (at least theoretically) provided by unpaid workers.

Superimposing Phase 2 on Phase 1 of the planning side of the triangle looks like this:

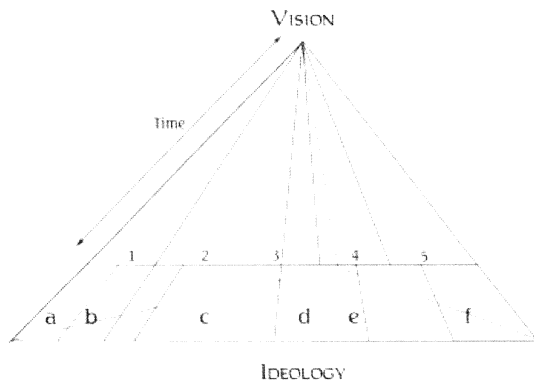


DIAGRAM 6: PHASE 2 OF THE PLANNING SIDE OF THE TRIANGLE

Objectives can be broken down into smaller components (eg goals, strategies) for more comprehensive planning. (This would generally be undertaken by staff, rather than management.)

THE OVERALL MODEL

Ultimately, a model of development/ planning suited to the community sector could look like this:

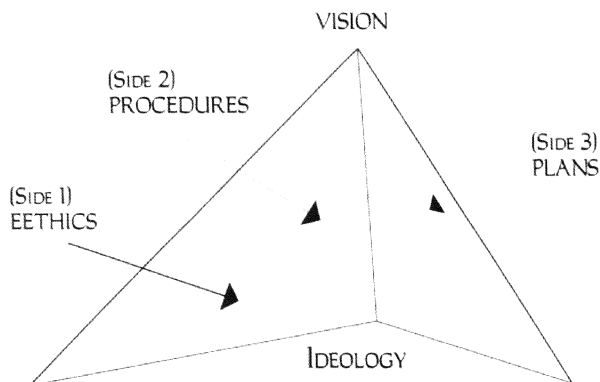


DIAGRAM 7: THE OVERALL ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MODEL

It is a strong, balanced structure. It has a clear focus. All sides work interdependently to ensure the viability of the whole.

CONCLUSION

The quest to find viable approaches to development and accountability in the community sector continues. Given the short life of many organisations, the changing demands being placed on the sector and the limited resources available to community services, it is hardly surprising that indigenous models are scarce. In the long term, however, the community sector will only become and remain a force to be contended with, if it continues on the quest.

Publications & Resources



TAKE A WICKED TRIP THROUGH AUSTRALIAN HISTORY TWO STREETWIZE COMICS BACK TO BACK

IT'S ABOUT TIME!

It's about time is a short history of Australia as seen through the eyes of two 21st century teenagers, Mary and Johnno. Time-travel through major events and issues including Federation, world wars, the Depression, Indigenous struggles changes in the role of women, the Franklin Dam blockade, refugees and multiculturalism.

RECONCILIATION

Discover the issues of reconciliation from young people's perspective, Reconciliation illustrates issues and experiences that young people will relate to, provides factual information and contacts and suggests how to become involved in the process of reconciliation.

It's About Time/Reconciliation Book
April 2002 – 72 pages – Full colour
ISBN 187622648X
RRP \$15.00

For the past 16 years Streetwise communication has been producing entertaining and relevant resources for young people on important social issues. Our resources include comics, animations, Educators support materials, cyber comics, videos and postcards on issues including health, the law, education and employment. Our complete range of resources can be found at www.streetwise.com.au

To order this comic;
please post your order and payments to
Streetwise communications
Suite 6, 245 Chalmers Rd Redfern 2016.
Ph 02 9319 0220 Fax 02 9319 5553
Email stwise@streetwise.com.au
Web www.streetwise.com.au

I'd rather vote for something I want and not
get it than vote for something I don't want
and get it.

Eugene Debs

Charity should be abolished; and replaced by justice. *Norman Bethune*

CALL FOR URGENT ACTION TO ADDRESS MASSIVE YOUTH DEBT

New research has found that there is a very serious level of debt among young people in Australia, with an alarming 62% of young homeless people having a Youth Allowance debt to Centrelink. The Youth Allowance, a Centrelink payment that is meant to assist young people into employment, training or education, is instead providing little more than pocket money and forcing young people into a spiralling cycle of debt.

The report Runaway Youth debt – no allowance for youth has been released by the National Welfare Rights Network (NWRN) to coincide with the United Nations Anti-poverty day. The study was based on Freedom of Information Data obtained from the Department of Family and Community Services and focus groups with young people and community workers across NSW.

Generally, the problem begins because Youth Allowance payments, at between \$83 and \$150 a week are woefully inadequate. As a result, large numbers of people on Youth Allowance are forced to borrow from Centrelink in the form of an advanced payment of up to \$500. This is a striking indictment of the subsistence level of Youth Allowance. Weekly repayments reduce Youth allowance by about \$20. As if this isn't bad enough, the report reveals that a further 135,000 people on Youth Allowance have a debt to Centrelink for other reasons. To repay such debts, Centrelink withholds 14% of weekly payments (about \$20). The highest incidence of debt occurs in the 18-20 Independent group (43% of whom are homeless) where the rate of Centrelink debt is 68%! The next highest debt incidence is in the under 18 Independent group (81% of whom are homeless) where the rate of Centrelink debt is 57%. A system that produces such high rates of debilitating debts among our most vulnerable homeless youth is seriously flawed and needs urgent overhaul.

These problems are further compounded by very high breach rates. While people under 25 account for only one third of Centrelink recipients, they account for over 50% of all Activity Test breaches and 61% of all Administrative breaches. Harsh breach penalties further reduce weekly payments by a minimum of \$24 per week or cancel payments altogether for eight weeks.

Any of these debts could lead to the maximum weekly repayment for a homeless person of \$37. Far too many young

Australians are in this situation and are left to struggle on \$16 per day. How can they survive, pay rent, buy food, books a bus ticket or dress for an interview?

Many of the young people who are landed with such massive debts are homeless because of family dysfunction – often due to alcohol, gambling, drugs and/or violence. The system should be providing a hand up not a hand down.

To address these critical issues, we call on the Federal Government to immediately raise Youth Allowance by \$10 a week and establish an inquiry into both the viability of Youth Allowance and the massive levels of debt imposed by Centrelink on young people especially homeless young people.

To obtain a full copy of the report go to www.welfarerights.org.au

Michael Raper
President
National Welfare Rights Network



The conference will consist of three main streams:

'From competition to collaboration and partnership' -

A critical exploration of the current trends within the human service industry,

unpacking the rhetoric and practice.

'Justice' - A stream that will concentrate on ensuring that issues pertaining

to access, equity, participation and rights are understood, debated and heard.

'Contemporary Practice' - This stream will focus on strength based

approaches including the role of the community youth sector

in the implementation of education and training reforms.

Further information will be available early in the new year.

**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 the Illoura Centre 31 Duckett St, Beaudesert

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 10am – 12pm
at Drug Arm 83 Castlemaine St Milton

Beenleigh and District Interagency

Contact: Dorothy Aldred: 3884 2756)

Caboolture Youth Network (YCAN)

Contact: Jeanine Carter
Caboolture Shire Council
Ph (07) 5420 0342 Fax (07) 5420 0350
Meets 3rd Wednesday of every month 12.30 – 3pm
at Caboolture Shire Council, Level 3, 33 King St Caboolture

Gold Coast Youth Network

Contact Sylvia Roylance
C/o Gold Coast Youth Services
PO Box 740 Burleigh Heads Q4220
Meets last Wednesday of the month 10.30 – 1230 at Robina
Uniting Church Community Complex, 4 Greenwich Court Robina

Inala Youth Interagency (LARGEFLY)

Contact: John Rigsby-Jones
Inala Youth and Family Support Service
PO Box 141, Inala Q 4077
Meets 12 pm on 2nd Thursday of the month
at Centrelink Office 2nd Floor Wirraway Parade, Inala.

Ipswich Youth Focus

Contact Mark Smith
Ipswich City Council
PO Box 191, Ipswich Q4305
Ph (07) 3372 2655 Fax (07) 3810 6741
Meets 1st Tuesday of the month at 12.30pm
at Ipswich Health Plaza Bell St Ipswich.

Life's Worth It – Sandgate

Contact: Bruce Cornish
Ph: (07) 3869 0277
Meets 2nd Tues every 2nd Month
Sandgate Uniting Church
116 Board St Deagon

Logan Youth Interagency Network

Contact: Melissa McKeering
Community Youth Development Officer
Logan City Council
Ph: (07) 3862 5632 Fax: (07) 3808 0014
Email: Melissamckeering@logana.qld.gov.au
Meets 2nd Monday of the month 3pm – 5pm at Logan PCYC
Conference Room Jacaranda Av, Woodridge. (PCYC is situated
behind the Logan City Council Chambers next door to the swim-
ming pool)

Moggill Rd Corridor Youth Network

Contact Heather Douglas
Hdouglas21@hotmail.com

Pine Rivers Youth Service Providers Network

Contact: Di Cattling
Youth Care Pine Rivers
PO box 143 Strathpine Q4500
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 Q4020
Ph (07) 3889 5733 Fax (07) 3889 5320
Meets 2nd Wednesday of every second month 3pm
at Redcliffe Area youth Service

Redlands Youth Network

Contact: Christine D'Arcy
Bayside District Health
PO Box 585, Cleveland Q4163
Meets 3rd Monday of the month 9.30am – 11.30am, at Redlands
health Service Hospital Grounds Cleveland

Service Providers Action Group For Youth

Contact: Ryan Foster (Piccabeen)
Ph 3354 2555
1st Thursday of every 2nd Month at 3pm - to be confirmed

South-east Youthlink Interagency

Contact Jillian Covey
JPET 34 Sanders St Upper Mt Gravatt Q4122
Meets 2nd Tuesday of the Month 9am – 11am at JPET house 1792
Logan Rd Upper Mt Gravatt

Youth Health Interagency

Contact: Jill Diggles
Ph: 3356 7377 or 33540225
Meets quarterly at different venues 2.30pm – 4.30pm.



Bundaberg District Youth Sector Network

Contact: Peter Callen
PO Box 2252 Bundaberg 4670
Ph (07) 41540324 Fax (07) 41531212
1st Thursday of month - Bundaberg Skill Centre,
Bigara Rd, Bundaberg

Mackay Youth Connection & Network Inc

Contact: Amanda Sulter
Mackay7 Youth Support Service
PO Box 1813, Mackay Q 4740
Ph (07) 4951 0510 Fax (07) 4957 7637
Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month 11am Community Health Centre

Cairns Youth Service Network

Contact: Fiona Norman
West Cairns Youth Development
PO Box 359, Cairns Q 4870
Ph (07) 40443031 Fax (07) 40443830
Meets last Thursday of month 3.30pm
Cairns City Library, Abbott St Cairns

Central and North Burnett Community Services Network

(Ydig - youth development initiative group)
Contact: Andrew Crowthers & Amy Friend
Monto Neighbourhood Centre
PO Box 97, Monto Q 4630
Ph (07) 41661733 Fax (07) 41663186
Meets 1st Monday of the month 10am to 3pm (venue changes)

Central West Youth Network

Contact: Ellie Tarver
PO Box 102, Longreach Q 4730
Ph: (07) 4658 0431 Fax: (07) 4658 3265
Meets every 2 months (Venue charges)

Emerald Youth link Network

Contact: Mathew Sampson
Rural Youth Worker, Emerald Shire Council
PO Box 21, Emerald Q 4720
Ph (07) 49820540
Every 6 weeks from 20 / 8 – next is 1st Thursday in Oct

Gladstone Combined Youth Interagency and Youth Suicide Prevention Network

Contact: Andrea Hughes
Gladstone City Council
PO Box 29, Gladstone Q 4680
Ph: (07) 49766300 Fax: (07) 49726557
Meets 1st Wednesday of the month at 1130am.
Neighbourhood Centre, 105 Toolooa St Gladstone.

Hervey Bay Youth Sector Workers Network

Contact: Sue Lawler
Hervey Bay City Council
PO Box 5045 Hervey Bay, Q4655
Ph: (07) 41974330 Fax: (07) 41974303
Meets last Tuesday of each month at 1030am,
contact Sue for venue details.

Innisfail Community Sector Network

Contact: Wendy Shultz
PO Box 887, Innisfail Q 4860
Ph: (07) 40302255 Fax: (07) 40616005
Meets 2nd Thursday of the month at Parish Centre,
Rankin Street, Innisfail

Magnetic North Youth Service Providers Association Inc

Contact: Alex Salvador
PO Box 1858, Townsville Q 4810
Ph (07) 47724800 Fax (07) 47721840
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: Helen McKerrow
Education Qld
PO Box 1050, Mt Isa Q 4825
Ph (07) 4744 8222
or Madonna Kennedy, Tropical Public Health
Ph: (07) 47495623 Meets Monthly

Rockhampton Combined Youth Interagency and Suicide Prevention

Contact: Julie Hill
Qld Health
PO Box 501, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: (07) 4920 6923 Fax (07) 4920 6870
Meets 3rd Monday of the month at Community Health Centre
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 Q4470
Ph (07) 4654 4388 Fax (07) 4654 4389
Meets once a month contact Glen for details

Sunshine Coast Youth Workers Forum

Contact: Arties 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 9111 Fax: (07) 4616 9100
Email edward.bradbury@qed.qld.gov.au
Meets every 6 weeks for details contact Ed Bradbury
Next meeting 3.30pm Thurs 12 Sept, South Qld Institute of Tafe

Warwick Youth Network

Southern Downs Health Service District
Contract: Julianne Williamson
Po Box 273, Stanthorpe, Q 4380
Ph (07) 46815260 Fax (07) 46815228
Meets Quarterly, dates change Warwick Community Health Office.

***TO KEEP OUR RECORDS CURRENT PLEASE
NOTIFY YANQ OF ANY CHANGES TO YOUR
DETAILS**

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?

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.