

Network Noise

Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

Quarterly Newsletter August 2004

What has been your experience of ETRF in your area?

In early August many of YANQ's members will have received a flyer from YANQ and the Youth Sector Hub Workers within the Queensland Youth Housing Coalition urging them to get involved in ETRF in their area. This short article is a further effort to encourage youth sector organisations to get involved as best they can in the ETRF trials in their area, and (just as importantly) let YANQ know about their experiences.

From July this year, each Education District across the state has been in the process of developing a District Youth Achievement Plan (DYAP). The DYAP is a local plan for action and will guide how each area implements the State Government's Education and Training Reforms for the Future (ETRF). As you read this, these plans will be close to completion, if not completed already (the deadline for developing DYAPs is September). The DYAP will help to coordinate programs and services for young people (15-17 years old) in each district by:

- Setting out the educational and employment goals and key priorities for young people in your area
- Describing the key strategies and actions your area will take to improve the learning and employment opportunities for young people, including:

→ Local initiatives for improving the participation, retention and attainments (achievements) of young people in learning (supported by ETRF grants funds)

- Outlining the management and accountability structures for your area.

YANQ believes that it is important that youth organisations and the young people they work with are involved in developing the DYAP for their area so that it includes strategies to meet the needs of all young people. The initial feedback that YANQ received from organisations in response to our flyer during August suggested that in some areas, youth organisations that had an established record of working well with disengaged or 'at risk' young people

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YANQ on the road...



Gavin Tyson, President, YANQ (left) with Stewart Marquardt at Wujal Wujal, Cape York

Network Noise

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published every 3 months.

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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

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in this publication do not necessarily
represent the views of YANQ.

YANQ also does not necessarily endorse
training and resources
advertised in this publication.

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were having trouble getting their perspectives recognised. On the ground this may translate into ETRF money being used by 'mainstream' programs without tapping into or using the skills that the youth sector can bring to the table in working with disadvantaged or marginalised young people. Nevertheless, in some areas youth sector organisations have been heavily involved and these areas have been able to begin tapping into the knowledge and skills of the youth sector to engage with young people more effectively.

Furthermore, it must be stressed that the development of the DYAPS is still in trial phase. This means that not every area will have great success (after all the other side of trial is 'error'). So, while the DYAP process might nearly be over in your area, it is not over 'forever' and so long as the youth sector keeps pushing for more involvement (locally and statewide through YANQ's lobbying efforts), there may be opportunities in the future to influence this process again.

Getting Involved

While the DYAP process may be nearing completion, there may still be some chance of getting your perspectives on the table, or at least in working with your local DYAP Management Committee to implement their DYAP more effectively. In each educational district in Queensland, a local DYAP Management Committee is the key body responsible for developing and implementing your area's DYAP. The committees include the senior staff from State & Non-State schools as well as TAFE. These members determine the overall makeup of the Committee and whether or not to include representatives from other sections of the community, such as young people, youth agencies, parents and industry representatives among others.

If you want to have input into the DYAP in your area, you can contact an ETRF Project Officer in your area for advice. To find out who this is, you can call the ETRF Implementation Team on 1300 650 220 for more details. In many areas around Queensland you can also contact your local Youth Support Coordinator (YSCs). YSCs are employed by local agencies as part of ETRF to focus on the personal, social and family needs of young people. To find your local YSC call the YSC Hub Facilitators on 3876 2088.

How did you go? Let us know by Calling YANQ...

While it is vital that the youth sector is involved at a local level in the ETRF trials, YANQ can help to identify Statewide barriers and propose some policy solutions that will help make it easier for local areas to engage with disadvantaged or marginalised young people and the organisations that support them. However, we can only do this with your support.

Since distributing the "Get Involved" flyer in August, YANQ has received some feedback from organisations in a number of areas, but we need more (we always need more)! If you've got 5-10 minutes to spare, give David at YANQ a call on 1800 177 899 or email him on ndo@yanq.org.au. The information the youth sector provides us about their level of involvement in the ETRF trials helps us to identify the models that work and the ones that don't. We can also try to link organisations together that might be struggling with similar issues.

We also need to hear from organisations that have had successes in getting themselves and the young people they work with involved in ETRF trials. This information can help us to develop positive policy solutions that we can demonstrate will work.

So, whatever your experience with ETRF in your area, give David at YANQ a call, fax or email via:

Phone: 1800 177 899

Fax: 3844 7731

Email: ndo@yanq.org.au





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.

CULTURAL CHASM: The Changing Cultural Demographic in Queensland Schools and the Need for Reform

by Claire Cottone, Multicultural Development Officer

On 14 July I delivered a presentation about education and training issues faced by CALD school students to the Education and Training Reforms for the Future (ETRF) Intersectoral Taskforce. I gave a number of recommendations to the taskforce based on the consultations I have been conducting with young CALD school students, schools and other service providers from the Gold Coast to Cairns over the last six months.

The recommendations were strongly supported by the taskforce members and will be redrafted and circulated for finalisation before being presented to the ETRF Board and the Director General of Education and the Arts, Ken Smith, who may take it up with the relevant Ministers.

The highlight of the day was without a doubt the theatrical performance put together by six Sudanese school students and their director Mashiw. I asked the group to design a dramatic piece which outlined for the taskforce some of the issues they face in school in Queensland. It was a great opportunity for these young people to advocate for themselves directly to the government, and they did a great job! The taskforce was overwhelmed by their performance and congratulated them on making it all the way to the government to have their issues heard. It was a great moment for CALD youth engagement and certainly turned a few heads as to the capabilities and ingenuity of our young people in the policy-making arena. We've videotaped it if anyone wants to have a look!

I will be turning the presentation into a paper for dissemination throughout Queensland in the next couple of months.

I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all who have offered their stories, advice and expertise in this project.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY MILLPERRA STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Strengthening the Education Model of Queensland

by Laura Wingate

Introduction

The Education and Training Reforms for the Future (ETRF) are an attempt to rectify the education system so that it meets the needs of all young people, especially those for whom the current education model is not working as well as it should. YANQ has proposed in its "What are Schools for?" paper that a more contemporary model be available to young people who access mainstream schools. This paper will argue that the Strengths model is one such model that can break down the British system of warehouses so that there is a vast reduction in punishment, regimentation, and hierarchies.

The Strengths Model

What is required, then, is a model that focuses on guidance instead of punishment, collaboration instead of regimentation, and teamwork instead of hierarchies. The strengths model that has been used in the community sector and alternative education for years, could also work well in mainstream schools. Sadly, however, this model is not yet available in all classes, in all schools, because of its conflict with the current culture of schools.

The current model that dominates in schools is the treatment model. However there is a growing push toward the strengths model being more appropriate for the success of our future students.

Treatment model—Educating young people to follow rules, comply with laws, and conform to society's expectations; regardless of their circumstances, views or lifestyles.

Strengths model—Educating young people to be autonomous about making good and lawful decisions; use initiative to find the necessary information so they are informed to make good decisions; and reflective so they can evaluate the effectiveness of their decision for further reference.

The strengths model is more appropriate because it more closely reflects our changing society. The strengths model also breeds growth and assists young people to reach their full potential. The treatment model, in contrast, stifles human development in a wide range of developmental areas, and one of these is problem solving, as will be explained below.

Some Implications of Applying the Strengths Model

Our society has a culture of change, diversity, and forward movement. No education system can prepare all young people for all possible rules, laws, and situations. It is inevitable that young people will have to make their own decisions and evaluate those decisions independently throughout their life. In fact, even

primary school children in our society are requiring these skills.

The concept of guidance, collaboration, and teamwork are necessary for our changing society. Nevertheless, a change that hands over a degree of control, decision-making, and rights is quite daunting for those who are used to their position of power and management. The reform will require an element of risk no matter what outcomes are proposed. Reviewable systems of risk management, recording outcomes, and strategic plans will be essential in reducing the pitfalls that are characteristic of anything new. It should be emphasised, however, that remaining completely open-minded as to the real needs of our young people and comprehending accurate implementation, implications, and inclusiveness are paramount for a successful reform.

Developing Strengths in Problem Solving

In contrast to the treatment model that stifles the development of problem solving skills, applying the strengths model to education will provide greater opportunities for people to develop these skills.

Good problem solvers have the skills to 'come up with' solutions to problems that create a win-win solution for all involved and does not cause any harm. This approach however requires a range of skills, especially in cognition. A problem solver needs to:

- Identify the options
- Predict the consequences
- Weigh the pros and cons
- Justify the response
- Evaluate the outcomes.

This problem-solving model is very common throughout life, and most of us would be familiar with it. Ironically, young people are given very few opportunities to practice this model within the autocratic classroom.

The challenge with this model is not memorizing the components of the model, but instead applying the model within the real context of everyday life. It is easy to know that options need to be identified. It becomes much more complex when given a challenging issue and having to consider all viable options.

Many issues, especially those that disadvantaged young people face, do not have simple or obvious answers. It is imperative that young people have a sound understanding of the social, political, cultural, environmental, legal, community, and familial contexts that are related to the decisions that they make. Without an understanding of these contexts it is all but impossible for young people to make successfully sound decisions that consider all options.

In addition to requiring an understanding of these complex contexts, a range of environmental issues

impact on many young people that make it even more difficult to make thorough decisions. These environmental influences include low-income levels and poverty, lack of parental support, dysfunctional family support, homelessness, racism and discrimination, violence, and ethnic or cultural differences.

These environmental influences alone make it essential that young people develop an understanding of the complex context in their lives. To add to this complexity, however, is that it is because of these environmental influences that young people often do not attain the understanding of these complex contexts. They find it frustratingly difficult to participate in the community and follow Australian laws and cultures. They feel misunderstood and unaccepted by professionals that enforce the treatment model, such as psychologists and government workers, (especially correctional counsellors, police, family service officers, and Centerlink staff) and so they respond the only way they can—with refusal to cooperate.

The way to prevent young people from developing this attitude towards professionals in our society is to provide a culture in school that welcomes diversity, encourages strengths, and invites relevance to young people.

Emphasizing independent thinking early in the schooling years, fostering students to select topics of relevance to them, and researching those topics independently but with teacher support and guidance, will be an essential strategy for ensuring Queensland remains at the brink of success within the global context.

Adapting the teachers' role to be one of supporting students' independent projects and linking lessons to be relevant to developmental levels and research topics will ensure that students are receiving relevant education that engages them in active learning.

The strengths model is relevant to the purpose of our schools. In addition to enhancing young peoples' development, facilitating problem solving, and engaging young people in active learning.

Uncovered ground?

There is always anxiety and risk involved in introducing something new, especially when it relates to the education and employment success of our future leaders. Fortunately, this model is not new. It has been used by:

- Community workers and counsellors in a professional context
- Friends and family in a social context
- Innovative teachers in an educational context
- Corporate business managers when motivating workers in a workplace context
- Informing people about impacts & actions needed in an environmental context
- Bringing people together to do common good in a social context
- Parents and caregivers in a family context
- Even political leaders prior to major decisions and elections.

So how does this model work again?

By joining a group together, asking them to select an agenda that is relevant to them, research that agenda, record the research of that agenda, and then reflect on how that research is applied to the wider context. Simultaneously, giving the group of people the information, skills and experience they need to successfully research and evaluate their agenda.

This is the model we use in everyday society to effectively succeed in everyday life. It would make sense then to teach this model as part of our schooling. Not teaching this model in schools can lead to a huge gap between the social classes in our society. Only those of us lucky enough to be taught these skills in our family and social networks, will attain the skills to succeed in employment and training. Others in our society who aren't given opportunities to develop these skills may fail to engage successfully within Australian society, creating a range of social and economic divides that we are struggling to address.

Yearn to Learn or Earn

There is a great deal of emphasis today placed on the importance of young people "learning or earning". It is true that young people who are engaged in education or employment offer a range of social, economic, legal and environmental benefits for our society. However, the "learn or earn" rhetoric is not only unfavourable for young people; it is a highly unfeasible approach if the culture and model of our education stays the same.

The strengths model has the potential to engage more young people in learning or earning because they have access to a greater range of relevant and achievable skills and knowledge. Also, the strengths model invites a culture of lateral thinking, where young people can explore new attainable training and employment options where the lack of jobs in Queensland has failed them. Young people can continue to dream and aspire toward more creative employment options because their education and training prepare them with the knowledge and skills they require to successfully yearn and receive outcomes.

Conclusion

Although a reform of this size is certain to bear considerable costs, the long term outcomes of the strengths model are likely to go a long way in reducing early school leavers, disengaged young people, 'unemployable' young people, and resistance to community involvement and government services. As this is the smart state, it is paramount that viable solutions be made to reform the effects of an unsuitable education model. The question becomes **how can we afford not to?**

Laura Wingate is the entrepreneurial founder of a multidisciplinary service that aims to provide young people with an integrated means to unfold their identity in an uncertain world. It addresses a range of agendas and recommendations for youth services. She has a strong interest in the needs and wellbeing of young people and has knowledge and skills in youth issues, research, stress management, human development, creative solutions (lateral thinking), and education.

This opinion piece has been extracted from a larger paper that is available from the author on the following contact details.

Laura Wingate, Phone 0421 217 721 Tuesdays and Wednesdays only or email harmonyalways@optusnet.com.au.

New Chroming Legislation Enacted

by Rev Wally Dethlefs

On 1st July 2004, new police powers in relation to Volatile Substance Misuse (Chroming Legislation) came into force. This legislation amends the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act (the Act).

What powers are contained in this Act? How are they likely to effect any of the young people you work with should they be questioned or detained under this Act? What should you do if a young person tells you that they have been questioned or detained by the police when they or their friends have been "chroming".

The New Powers

Police now have powers to seize "potentially harmful things", eg glue, paint or solvents, if the police officer reasonably suspects the person has, or is likely to, ingest or inhale the potentially harmful things. Police also have the power to search the person and anything in the person's possession to find out whether the person is in possession of a potentially harmful thing.

If the police officer is satisfied the person is affected by the ingestion or inhalation of a potentially harmful thing, the police officer can detain the person for the purpose of taking the person to a place where he/she can receive the treatment or care necessary to enable the person to recover safely from the effects of the potentially harmful thing. A place of safety, according to the Act, cannot be a police station, but may be a hospital, a vehicle used to transport the person, or a person's home if there is no likelihood of domestic violence.

The safe place must sign an undertaking to provide care for the person. If the safe place refuses to provide care for the person or the police officer is unable to find a safe place then the person must be released. A register must be kept of where the person is released. The person is under no compulsion to stay in the safe place.

The new provisions are being trialed in inner-Brisbane, Logan City, Mt Isa, Townsville and Cairns for nine months. At the end of nine months, the Criminal Misconduct Commission (CMC) is responsible for reviewing the provisions and reporting to the Police Minister.

Implication for Young People

Whilst the provisions are not specifically directed at young people, they will largely impact on young people.

The difficulty with the provisions is that they enable police to relocate the young person, rather than strategically address the serious health issues that lie at the heart of young people's chroming behaviour.

If the police cannot find a safe place, the provisions do not guarantee that a young person who is detained by police for transport to a safe place be returned to the location where they were first detained.

The Act does not create an offence of chroming, however, the operation of the new provisions raises the likelihood of increased conflict between young people and police, and therefore young people being charged with offences related to their interaction with police, eg obscene language, resisting arrest, failing to obey a police direction. There is no legal immunity for young people from being charged when police are exercising these powers.

CMC Review

The Crime and Misconduct Commission is undertaking an evaluation of the new legislation, which will inform the way in which it is implemented on a Statewide basis. To assist the CMC in its review of the Act and to track the impact of the new powers on young people, youth lawyers and youth workers have designed a form to collect information from young people. Youth Legal Aid, a section of Legal Aid Queensland, is coordinating responses from Duty Lawyers, including lawyers acting for indigenous young people, who attend Children's Courts.

The Youth Justice Coalition is coordinating responses from youth workers. For more information about obtaining the survey forms, contact Rino Randazzo from the Youth Advocacy Centre via email to rino@yac.net.au.

Your Response

What should you do if a young person tells you that they have been questioned or detained by the police when they or their friends have been "chroming"?

Either have them or their parents contact Youth Legal Aid (1300 651 188), or Youth Advocacy Centre (ph: 07 3857 1155), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (ph: 07 3221 1448) or the legal section of Youth and Family Services Logan City (ph: 07 3208 8199). ■

Networking in Paradise?!

Claire Cottone, our Multicultural Development Officer, heads up to Cairns and surrounds to see what's going on for young people in North Queensland.

From 3rd to 8th of August I headed up to Cairns, Innisfail and Mossman to meet up with our far northern multicultural and youth workers and the culturally diverse communities in breathtaking North Queensland where the mountains meet the sea and many cultures meet each other.

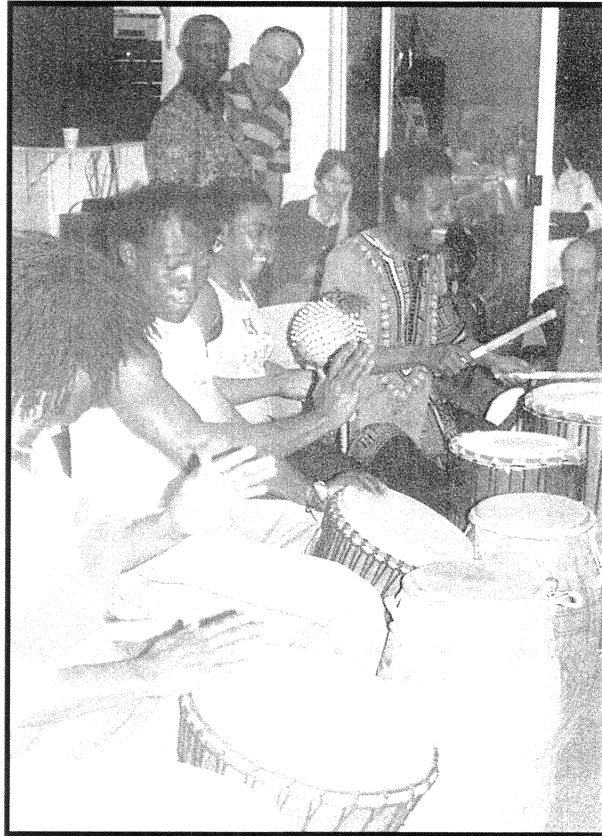
Cairns

Cairns is indeed the proverbial cultural melting pot, with migrant groups from PNG, Japan, China, the Philippines, the Cook Islands, Samoa, Africa and a significant Hmong community, as well as the more established Italian and Greek communities. The traditional owners include the Yidinji and Djabugai peoples, who very kindly welcomed me to their country.

In my two days in Cairns I met up with Kerry McIntyre, the Advisory Visiting ESL teacher for the Cairns district, ESL students from Trinity Bay State High School, the ATSI liaison officer at Trinity Bay High School, Olive Davis and her great team at the Migrant Settlement Services, the teams at YETI (Youth Empowered Towards Independence) and Youth Link, and the YACCA project officer at the Cairns City Council, John Talbot.

I was fortunate to attend Aboriginal Child Day Celebrations at the Wu Chopperan Aboriginal Health Clinic in Cairns where the amazingly talented songstresses the Briscoe Sisters were performing, as well as other young Aboriginal dancers and singers.

I was also honoured to be invited to the Multicultural Friendship Evening hosted by Migrant Settlement Services, where almost 200 people reflecting Cairns' broad cultural mix came together to share their cultural food, music and dance. Drumming and dancing legends



Wala Drumming Troupe from Ghana perform at the Multicultural Friendship Evening in Cairns.

Wala from Ghana did an awesome performance and had almost everyone up and dancing! I was even invited to play a song and offered up "Reconciliation" to the Traditional Owners and old and recent migrants and refugees alike.

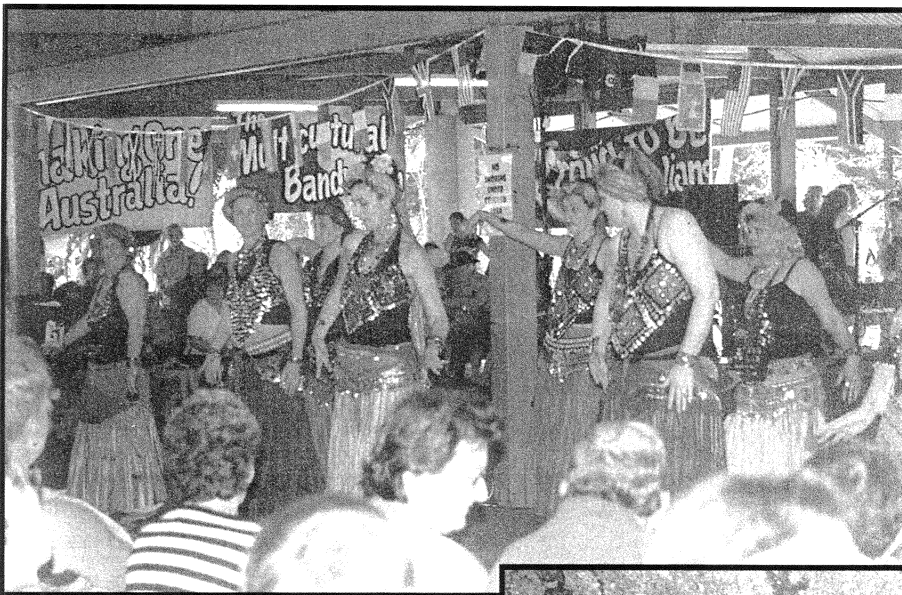
Celebrations aside, there are certainly some hard issues present and emerging in Cairns. According to the dedicated youth workers in Cairns city, many young people from Aboriginal communities in the Cape are committing offences, and being sent down to Cairns for hearing, where they are lost and isolated. Funding is being directed into motel accommodation and full-time youth workers for these young people in Cairns, where what

is really needed is better infrastructure within their home communities. However, there is no doubt that youth workers in Cairns are doing their best to support these young people away from home, culture and family.

For young people in new and emerging communities in Cairns the issues are similar to those communities elsewhere in Queensland: young people trying their best to operate between cultures; between home, school and social life. Multicultural and community organisations are certainly working hard to make life easier for these young people.

Innisfail

Innisfail's cultural mix is not quite as broad as Cairns, with the predominant migrant community being the Hmong community. This cultural group was driven out of China to Thailand and Laos in the 1970s and eventually resettled in the Innisfail area. There is also a significant Sikh community in Innisfail. I met with the ESL teacher and student counsellor at Innisfail High School, and was



Egyptian Dancers at the Innisfail Multicultural Festival.

very kindly hosted by Advisory Visiting ESL teacher for the area, Elizabeth Singh, who also took me to the primary school, introduced me to the Hmong community and gave me some deep insights into the experiences of a number of minority groups in Innisfail.

I also spent some time with Anita Laksa from Youth and Family Care, who runs the local youth shelter and drop in centre amongst other programs. There is a high proportion of homeless and at-risk young people in Innisfail, and the centre is making very successful effort to assist these young people in an environment of high unemployment and family breakdown.

I accidentally timed my visit to the area perfectly for the Innisfail Multicultural Festival on Sunday 8 August. The festival drew performers, stalls and culinary delights from the stack of cultural groups from Cairns and beyond, and the vibe of the day was certainly one of celebration of diversity. Yee Har!

Mossman

Robin Perry from the Mossman Youth Centre was my host in Mossman. She took me around Mossman High School where we met the principal and interviewed a wide range of students innocently having their lunch on the school oval about their experiences as young people in a regional area, and their dreams for the future. Robin also linked me up with the Traditional Owners at Mossman Gorge, where the lovely Lorna took me on a tour through the rainforest and introduced me to some aspects of Aboriginal Rainforest knowledge and culture.

Thanks!

Many many thanks to all those who hosted me up North and took the time to share with me your knowledge and experience, and welcomed me into your organisations and communities for a short time. It was certainly a cultural extravaganza for me and I feel confident that YANQ can better respond to your needs having had meaningful direct experiences with the diverse communities in the Cairns area.



Mossman Gorge Traditional Owner Lorna describes some local art.

YANQ Has a New Website!

Have you checked out YANQ's new website yet? The address (<http://www.yanq.org.au>) is the same, but the rest is NEW and IMPROVED!

So what's new!

- Easier for staff to update—which means up-to-date content for members.
- YANQ Members get special access (please hold tight, we will send out your web access passwords soon!).
- Online surveys! Members can add their own.
- Online discussion forums and real-time chats using Yahoo Messenger.

We'll launch the site officially later this month, and we'll be adding new content every day. So keep checking back to see what new items we've added.

Also, stay tuned to our E-mail Bulletins where we will publish user guides to help you get the most out of our new site.

Interagency

Regional Queensland



Meetings

current as at August 2004

Bundaberg District Youth Sector Network

Contact: Peter Cullen
PO Box 2252, Bundaberg Q 4670
Ph: 07 4154 0324 Mobile: 0427 534 083
Email: peter.cullen@qed.qld.gov.au
Meets bi-monthly at Bundaberg Skill Centre, Biggara Road Bundaberg.

Cairns Youth Service Network

Contact: Ray Barrett, Youth Development Officer
PO Box 359, Cairns Q 4870
Ph: 07 4044 3031 Fax: 07 4044 3830
Email: r.barrett@cairns.qld.gov.au
Meets last Thursday of month 3.30 pm Cairns City Library, Abbott Street, Cairns.

Central and North Burnett community Services Network

Contact: Andrew Crowthers
Monto Neighbourhood Centre
Ph: 07 4166 1733 Fax: 07 4166 1061
Email: cdom@cybertown.com.au
Contact: Brad Mitchell
Mundubbera Community Development
Ph: 07 4165 4690 Fax: 07 4165 3143
Email: mcd@burnett.net.au
Meets first Monday of the month 10am-3pm (venue changes).

Central West Youth Network

Contact: Linda Wearing
PO Box PO Box 343, Longreach Q 4730
Ph: 07 4658 4512 Fax: 07 4658 4529
Email: outbackpathways@tpg.com.au
Meets every two months (venue changes-contact Linda for details).
Networks that provide services to young people in central west welcome.

Emerald Shire Youth Council

Contact: Matthew Sampson, Youth Development Officer
Emerald Shire Council
PO Box 21, Emerald Q 4720
Ph/Fax: 07 4982 0540
Email: msampson@emerald.qld.gov.au
Meets monthly.

Gladstone Combined Youth Interagency

Contact: Andrea Hughes
Gladstone City Council
PO Box 29, Gladstone Q 4680
Ph: 07 4976 6300 Fax: 07 4972 6557
Email: andreah@gcc.qld.gov.au
Meets first Wednesday of the month 11am PCYC, Yarroon Street, 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
Email: suel@herveybay.qld.gov.au
Meets last Tuesday of each month 10.30 am. Contact Sue for venue.

Innisfail Community Sector Network

Contact: Wendy Schulz
Ph: 07 4030 2210 Fax: 07 4061 6005
Email: schulzw@jsc.qld.gov.au
Meets fourth Thursday of every second month 1pm at Parish Centre, Rankin Street, Innisfail.

Mackay Youth Connection & Network Inc

Contact: Suewellen Kelly
Mackay Youth Information & Referral Service
60 Victoria Street, Mackay Q 4740
Ph: 07 4957 7949 Fax: 07 4957 7637
Meets third Tuesday of the month 11am Mackay City Council.

Magnetic North Youth Service Providers Network Assn Inc.

Contact: Clea Alcorn
Ph: 07 4775 7138
Email: Clea.Alcorn@smithfamily.com.au
Meets third Thursday of the month 9-11am at B212 at Pimlico TAFE.

MICAT (Mt Isa Combined Action Team)

Contact: Mellise Anderson, Secretary
Ph: 07 4744 4843 Fax: 07 4745 4573
Email: mellise_anderson@health.qld.gov.au
OR Contact: Mark Polsen
Ph: 074743 0400 Mobile 0428 430 400
Email: starshinex1@yahoo.com.au
Meets twice per school term. Contact Mellise or Mark for details.

Rockhampton Youth Interagency Network

Contact: Ronée Butler
Central Public Health Unit
Ph: 07 4920 6879 Fax: 07 4920 6865
Email: ronee_butler@health.qld.gov.au
Meets third Thursday of the month 9.30-11.30 am (venue changes).

South Burnett Community Network Welfare Workers Network

Contact: Lesley Burgess, CTC Youth Service
PO Box 490, Kingaroy Q 4610
Ph: 07 4162 7788 Fax: 07 4162 2783
Email: lesley@sbctc.com.au
Meets second Tuesday of the month 10am-12 noon Wondai Council Supper Room.

South West Youth Interagency

Contact: Nicolette Lowe, South West Health Community Program
PO Box 219, Charleville Q 4470
Ph: 07 4654 4388 Fax: 07 4654 4389
Email: ahpocville@bigpond.com
Meets once a month. Contact Nicolette for details.

Sunshine Coast Youth Workers Forum

Contact: Terri Shine, Caloundra City Council
PO Box 117, Caloundra Q 4551
Ph: 07 5438 0376 Fax: 07 5438 0377 Mobile: 0407 036 736
Email: t.shine@caloundra.qld.gov.au
Meets quarterly. Contact Terri for details.

Toowoomba Youth Organisations Network (TYON)

Contact: Ed Bradbury, Education Qld
PO Box 38, Toowoomba Q 4350
Ph: 07 4616 9111 Fax: 07 4616 9100
Email: Edward.Bradbury@qed.qld.gov.au
Meets periodically. Also runs an email discussion and announcement list. Contact Ed Bradbury for details.

Warwick Youth Network

Contact: Pam Burley, Community Youth Worker
PO Box 26, Warwick Q 4370
Ph/Fax: 07 4661 7166
Email: pburley@warwick.qld.gov.au
Meets quarterly (dates change) at Warwick Community Health Office.

*To keep our records current please notify YANQ of any changes to your details

Interagency

South-East Queensland



Meetings

current as at August 2004

Brisbane Inner Urban Youth Interagency

Contact: Gerard Dowling

Ph: 07 3407 0208

Email: cdoy@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Meets first Wednesday of the month. Contact Gerard for details.

Caboolture Youth Area Network (CYAN)

Contact: Kim Reid, Caboolture Shire Council

Ph: 07 5420 0342 Fax: 07 5420 0350

Email: reidKi@caboolture.qld.gov.au

Meets third Wednesday of every month 12.30-2.30pm at Caboolture Shire Council, Level 3, 33 King Street, Caboolture.

Gold Coast Youth Network

Contact: Sylvia Roylance, care Gold Coast Youth Services

PO Box 740, Burleigh Heads Q 4220

Ph: 07 5572 0400 Fax: 07 5575 2607

Email: gcys@bigpond.com

Meets last Wednesday of the month 10.30am-12.30pm 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

Ph: 07 3372 2655 Fax: 07 3372 2710

Email: john@iyfss.org.au

Meets 12noon second Thursday of the month at Centrelink Office, 2nd Floor, Wirraway Parade, Inala.

Ipswich Youth Interagency Group

Contact: Annette Schoone, Youth Community Development Officer,
Ipswich City Council

PO Box 191, Ipswich Q 4305

Ph: 07 3810 6656 Fax: 07 3810 6741

Meets first Tuesday of the month 12.30pm at Ipswich Health Plaza, Bell Street, Ipswich.

Life's Worth It—Sandgate

Contact: Bruce Cornish

Ph: 07 3869 0277 Fax: 07 3869 2075

Email: sandgateuc@ucaqld.com.au

Meets second Tuesday every second month at Sandgate Unity Church, 116 Board Street, Deagon.

Logan Youth Interagency Network

Contact: Jason Reid, Community Youth Development Officer, Logan
City Council

Ph: 07 3826 5632 Fax: 07 3808 0014

Email: jasonreid@logan.qld.gov.au

Contact Jason for details.

Northern Gold Coast Interagency

Contact: Veronica Cox (Studio Village)

Ph: 07 5529 8253

Email: svcc@tpg.com.au

Meets last Tuesday of every month 11am-1pm at Studio Village
Community Centre, 87 Village Way, Studio Village.

Mt Tamborine & Beaudesert Region Interagency

Contact: Community Development Officer

PO Box 572, Beaudesert Q 4285

Ph: 07 5541 3762 or 5541 4391 Fax: 07 5541 3654 Mobile 0408 413 762

Email: cdo@gil.com.au

Meets first Thursday of every second month 2pm at Blue Care,
Duckett Street, Beaudesert.

Pine Rivers Youth Service Providers Network

For Venue details only contact Di Cattling

Youth Care Pine Rivers, PO Box 143, Strathpine Q 4500

Ph: 07 3881 2823 Fax: 07 3881 1047

Meets first Monday of every second month 2pm at 16 Lincoln Street,
Strathpine.

Redcliffe Youth Service Providers Network

Contact: Darren Dallinger, Redcliffe City Council

Ph: 07 3283 0217 Fax: 3283 0269

Email: Darren_Dallinger@redcliffe.qld.gov.au

Meets second Wednesday of every second month 3pm at Redcliffe
Area Youth Space.

Redlands Youth Network

Contact: Courtney Gillot, Youth Support Worker, Redland Shire
Council

Ph: 07 3829 8233 Fax: 07 3829 8891

Email: courtneyg@redland.qld.gov.au

Meets third Monday of the month 9.30-11.30am at Redlands Health
Service Centre, Weippin Street, Cleveland.

Service Providers Action Group for Youth

Contact: Steve Hutchinson (Picabeen)

Ph: 07 3354 2555 Fax: 07 3355 4222

Email: info@picabeen.org.au

Meets first Thursday of every second month 2.30pm at Picabeen,
22 Hoben Street, Mitchelton.

Southside Education

Contact: Sue Powrie or Colleen Mitrow

Ph: 07 3423 7499 Fax: 07 3423 7599

Email: admin@sec.buq.org.au

Meets fourth Thursday of the month.

Tweed Shire Youth Network

Contact: Gerina Appo (St Joseph's Community Centre)

Ph: 07 5524 7566

OR Jessica Walker (The Family Centre)

Ph: 07 5524 8711

Meets first Wednesday every second month. Rotating venue.

*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 Objectives

- 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 Queensland)

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.