



Network

Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

Noise

Quarterly Newsletter March 2005

State Youth Affairs Conference 20/21/22 April, 2005

With over 60 workshops and a list of thought provoking keynote speakers, the State Youth Affairs Conference is set to be youth sector's major training, networking and policy discussion opportunity in 2005.

Over 300 conference participants from across the state will have the opportunity to hear keynote speakers covering a range of issues which are having an impact on the lives of young Queenslanders. Participants will also get a chance to have some of the issues covered at the keynote presentations explored in more detail, and also to have input, in one of more than 60 interactive workshops.

The conference is going to bring the youth sector together, from people who have just started working in the field to the very experienced. There will be opportunities for learning practical skills in working with young people as well as practical skills and strategies for engaging at a policy and advocacy level.

The three day conference will be a major opportunity to influence the future of the youth sector by participating in debates and discussion on what works and what could work. The conference titled "What Works, What Could Work" aims to explore how the community sector and government are working to address a range of youth issues with a particular emphasis on young people facing various risks.

The conference will be an ideal opportunity for anyone interested in youth issues to explore the new Department of Communities focus on the continuum of service delivery for young people, especially young people at various risks. The Conference will explore a number of relevant themes including youth justice, Education and Training Reforms for the Future (ETRF), skill development and service delivery enhancement.

As well as being a forum for the youth sector in Queensland to look at developments in practice, policy and research, the Conference will be a major opportunity for strengthening connections and networks amongst delegates.

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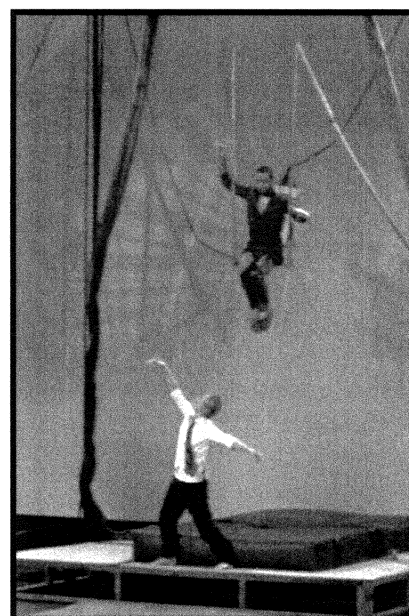
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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Murrandoo Yanner

Gungalidda man Murrandoo Yanner is an Aboriginal Activist and former ATSIC Commissioner and former Director of the Carpentaria Land Council. Murrandoo came to national attention when he won a High Court battle allowing indigenous people the right to hunt and fish for traditional foods. Soon after he took on the Century zinc mine in the Gulf, as he sought to protect his people from what he saw as corporate greed. Murrandoo is one of the most informed, respected and charismatic Aboriginal leaders. He is respected throughout the Aboriginal community for being a strong voice for truth and justice.



Performance by young people during 2003 conference

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Network Noise

the Youth Affairs Network of
Queensland (YANQ) Inc. newsletter,
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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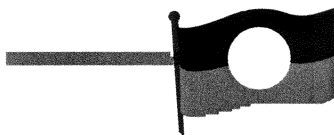
David Powell

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

The views and opinions contained
in this publication do not necessarily
represent the views of YANQ.

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



YANQ 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.

...from page one

John Pitman AM

Adjunct Professor at The University of Queensland (School of Education) and adviser on moderation to Education Queensland (Assessment & New Basics Branch), was formerly Director of the Queensland Board of Studies, a position he held for 22 years. Educated at St Augustine's

College (Cairns), he obtained degrees in Science and Education from the University of Queensland and Masters of Arts (Education) from the University of East Anglia (UK), where his mentor was the late Lawrence Stenhouse. John is a Member of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute and a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators. Before his appointment to the Board, and through his extensive teaching career in Queensland, John held various teaching and administrative positions in Queensland state high schools, including two appointments as principal.

Chelsea Bond

Chelsea Bond (nee Watego) is an Aboriginal and South Sea Islander Australian, identifying as a descendant of the Munanjahli people of Beaudesert. Born and raised in Brisbane, her professional background is as an Aboriginal health worker, researcher, educator and lecturer in the government, community and university sector across urban and rural communities in South East Qld. Aged 25, Chelsea has a Bachelor of Applied Health Science degree with first class honours, and is currently undertaking her Doctorate of Philosophy in Indigenous health. Chelsea's achievements include; member of Golden Key National Honour Society, Qld Health Rural Health Scholarship holder, University medallist, former member of the National Youth Roundtable 2002, and former board member of State Library of Queensland. At present, Chelsea works largely in a voluntary capacity within the Inala Indigenous community as a member of the NAIDOC Week committee, Stylin' Up Community Crew and Inala Wangarra. She is currently a recipient of a Creative Sparks Grant funded through Brisbane City Council and Arts Qld to further her research work which seeks to promote the strength and vitality of urban Aboriginal identity.

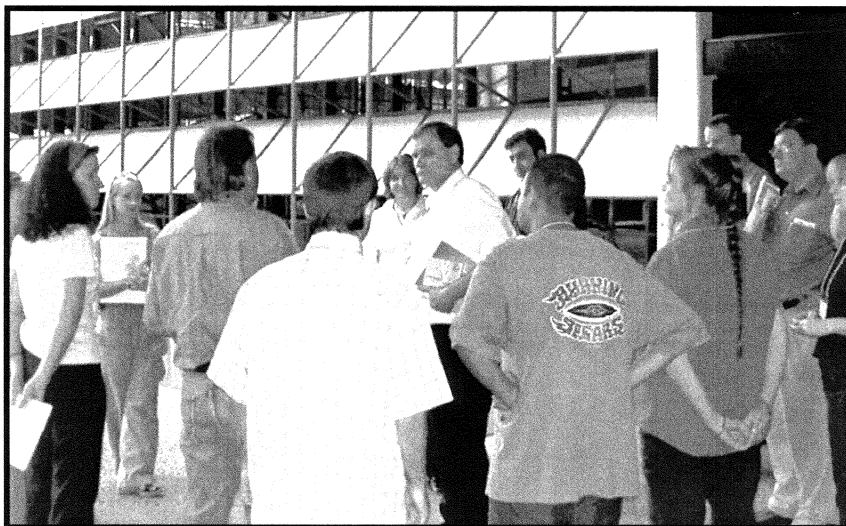


Young dancers during the welcoming to country, Conference 2003

continued page three...

Dr Zohl de Ishtar

An Irish-Australian lesbian, has worked in collaboration with Indigenous Australian and Pacific peoples since 1979. Publishing extensively on the Pacific, Zohl is the author of *Daughters of the Pacific* (1994, Spinifex Press, Melbourne) and editor of *Pacific Women Speak Out for Independence and Demilitarisation* (1998, Raven, Christchurch). Her PhD thesis, "Holding Yawulyu: White Culture and BlackWomen's Law", gained her the prestigious Isi Liebler Prize 2003 awarded by Deakin University "for advancing knowledge of racism, religious or ethnic prejudice in any time and place, and for advancing multiculturalism and community relations in Australia". The founding-coordinator of the Kapululangu Women's Law and Culture Centre, in Wirrimanu/Balgo (1999-2001), she continues to work with the Indigenous women elders in Western Australia's Great Sandy Desert. Zohl's skill in networking Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples throughout the region is internationally recognised. With a background in puppetry, circus and theatre, Zohl has run innovative workshops in cross-cultural awareness and anti-racism since 1983.



Minister for Youth, Matt Foley discussing local youth issues with Mackay youth sector during the 2003 State Youth Affairs Conference

Adrian Hepi

Currently undertaking work involved with young people at risk and volatile substance misuse in Townsville. Adrian was elected to the James Cook University Postgraduate Students Association in 2001 and 2003 as the Health, Life Molecular Science Representative and was elected as the National Indigenous Postgraduate Association Aboriginal Corporation Men's Officer.

Louise Villanova

Louise Villanova has been involved with the Youth Support Coordinator Initiative since its inception in 1997. Since this time, the YSC Initiative has expanded from 13 YSCs to 113 YSCs state wide, and 3 Hub Facilitator positions. Louise is currently employed by the Queensland Youth Housing Coalition as one of the Hub Facilitators. Louise has been involved in the community youth sector for over 16 years. During this time, she has been involved in a number of local networks and state and federal youth peaks. Her areas of interest include: young people, housing, education and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people.

David Glasgow

Townsville Magistrate who is currently exploring issues surrounding Chroming and the need for rehabilitation services for volatile substance misuse.

Full program available online. Register soon as limited places are available, you can register online at www.yanq.org.au For further information contact Natalie Bell Conference Coordinator on 07 3844 7713.

Feedback from participants of previous conference:

"The YANQ Conference in the past has been a place where as a youth worker I have been impressed by the challenges, I am pleased to see this has happened again. The keynote speakers evoke thought and detail on many levels."

"I found this conference very informative, stimulating, and challenging—even confronting. The conference looked beyond the 'control' agenda of reducing crime as a symptom, to some of the big picture human rights and citizenship issues underlying crime. Having worked in this field for five years—and achieved some good successes—have I even begun to understand the myriad of personal, community, and social factors which interplay in the lead-up to crime, never mind challenge nor change them?"

"I thoroughly enjoyed the conference, being from a remote area the information I received over the past three days has been mind boggling and of great value. Looking forward to the next one."

"Great conference – lots of fun and great discussion."

Progress on YANQ's Strategic Plan – Youth Consultative Network Back on the Agenda

By David Powell

"If movements for social change unswervingly seek diversity, solidarity, equity, and self-management – peace and justice – and if they do it in a manner and with a tone and with tactics all of which seek to empower the weak and to meet the needs of the poor, they/we can win this struggle – and the struggle I have in mind to win, the one I think we're all in, is not just over a reform here or there – and it is not just over peace now and then – it is a struggle over who will decide the future and who the future will serve. Showdown indeed."

Michael Albert

Progress to date

YANQ's project to develop its strategic plan for 2005-2008 has been full steam ahead from the start of the year. The ideas we have received to date are indicating support for an idea that was trialed by YANQ some years ago as part of the Youth Consultative Network project. More about that in a below.

Since the information paper was released representatives from YANQ have spoken at a number of youth interagency and network meetings including:

- Mt Isa Combined Action Team;
- The Youth Network NQ (Townsville);
- Brisbane Inner Urban Youth Interagency;
- Ipswich Youth Interagency Group;
- Youth & Combined Community Action Network (statewide meeting in Townsville); and
- Mackay Youth Connection & Network

At most of these meetings, the focus of the discussion has been on the processes or strategies that YANQ uses to identify the issues that it should focus on. One idea that has been supported within the meetings is that of an 'issues register'.

As some members may recall, in 2002 Dian Micklejohn ran a project at YANQ to develop the "Youth Consultative Network". A significant part of this project involved trialing an Issues Register. Briefly, this was a single page form that interagencies were asked to fill out, identifying the key issues/problems facing young people they were working with at the time. This information was then sent to YANQ who collated it. The idea that has been presented to interagencies recently is that this sort of process be re-established, with a view to making the collated information public.

There has been some support within interagencies and youth networks for rebuilding this process. Aside from helping YANQ to identify "hot" or ongoing issues that need addressing, some members at interagencies have also suggested that the information would also be useful for their own purposes. For example, the collated information could be used to backup a funding application for a particular project that seeks to address an issue that has been identified by a number of interagencies.

Some however have expressed some concerns regarding re-establishing something like the Youth Consultative Network, and an Issues Register in particular. Two of the

key concerns expressed so far are that:

- YANQ will use the issues register as a replacement for face-to-face contact with the sector
- YANQ will assume that receiving a large number of hits for a particular issues means it is more important than another issue that only a small number of people have registered.

In addition to this aspect of the Strategic Plan, members and other stakeholders have raised a number of points with us that we will take into account. The short list below is just a brief snapshot of what members are telling us:

- Some people have difficulty raising issues with YANQ because they don't know the best person to talk to about a particular topic
- The e-mail bulletin is a useful mechanism for distributing information and something YANQ should continue
- Local activists within local networks are a valuable resource that need to be (and want to be) tapped into more for statewide lobbying/campaigns
- Direct relationships with YANQ staff make it easier to raise issues and gain YANQ's support
- YANQ's use of the media and it's willingness to be vocal is a strength
- Need to continue to experiment with ways of directly engaging young people that are marginalised or disadvantaged in some way. Working 'through' services is valuable, but not always adequate.

All of this feedback has been highly valuable and YANQ is extremely grateful to those individuals, organisations and interagencies who have taken the time to give us their two cents worth.

Still time to have your say

If you haven't yet had a chance to discuss your ideas for YANQ's strategic plan from 2005-2008, it's **not too late**. Many of you may have received information papers that stated the Deadline for feedback as the end of January. This has been extended now until the **End of March**.

If you'd like to discuss your ideas for how YANQ can more effectively represent the interests of young people that are marginalised or disadvantaged in some way, contact David at YANQ via:

Telephone: 3844 7713 or 1800 177 899
E-mail: ndo@yanq.org.au

Sudanese young people in public space — Research underway in Brisbane and Logan

YANQ, in partnership with the Sudanese Youth Association, is developing a paper about issues faced by Sudanese young people in public space in Brisbane and Logan.

The aim of the project is to document the experiences of Sudanese youth in order to lobby local and State government and other bodies to provide support for Sudanese young people in order to alleviate any issues.

The Multicultural Youth Network Qld (MYNQ), convened by YANQ, identified public space issues for Sudanese young people as a priority issue for 2005. This project is the first measure to tackle this issue.

YANQ has employed Abraham Akuot to undertake this project over 10 weeks from January to March 2005. He will be conducting a literature review, followed by consultations with Sudanese young people, workers, and police officers in Brisbane and Logan.

To find out more contact Abraham at YANQ or send an email to abraham@yanq.org.au

Volatile Substance Misuse Trial Community Reference Panel

Background

The Queensland Government is currently trialling responses to volatile substance misuse (VSM) primarily through the trial of new police powers and the provision of 'place of safety' services.

Specifically, a 12-month trial commenced in July 2004 whereby Police (in parts of inner-Brisbane/Fortitude Valley, Townsville, Cairns, Logan and Mount Isa) are able to take a person who is affected by use of volatile substance to a 'place of safety'.

Dedicated and funded 'place of safety' services are being conducted by community-based services on a trial basis.

The Crime and Misconduct Commission is evaluating the trial of the police powers and the 'place of safety' services and are expected to provide their evaluation report across early to mid 2005.

In 2004 YANQ advocated for a more meaningful Community Reference Panel has been established in late 2004 to provide a forum for peak organisations to discuss the trial and evaluation, and to exchange information.

Community delegates and agencies have been identified that have a high degree of interest in and engagement with volatile substance misuse issues and the Government's trial.

Representation

Youth Affairs Network Queensland
Youth Advocacy Centre
Indigenous Youth Health Service
Brisbane Youth Service
Inter-Urban Youth Inter-agency delegate
Legal Aid Queensland
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service
(other delegates as invited on special interest subjects)

Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Department of Communities
Queensland Police Service
Crime and Misconduct Commission

Terms of Reference, Volatile Substance Misuse Community Reference Panel

Peak agencies and key stakeholders will represent the interests and perspectives of member organisations/ community colleagues, clients, and young people affected by the trial, and provide advice to Government;

Delegates may provide perspectives and advice on practice within the trial for Government consideration;

The meetings will provide opportunity to discuss possible future Government policy and service responses;

Delegates will provide information and advice to the CMC to assist their evaluation of the trial responses to VSM; and

Information and advice that is exchanged will be provided in good faith and would be provided to advance understanding of the trial.

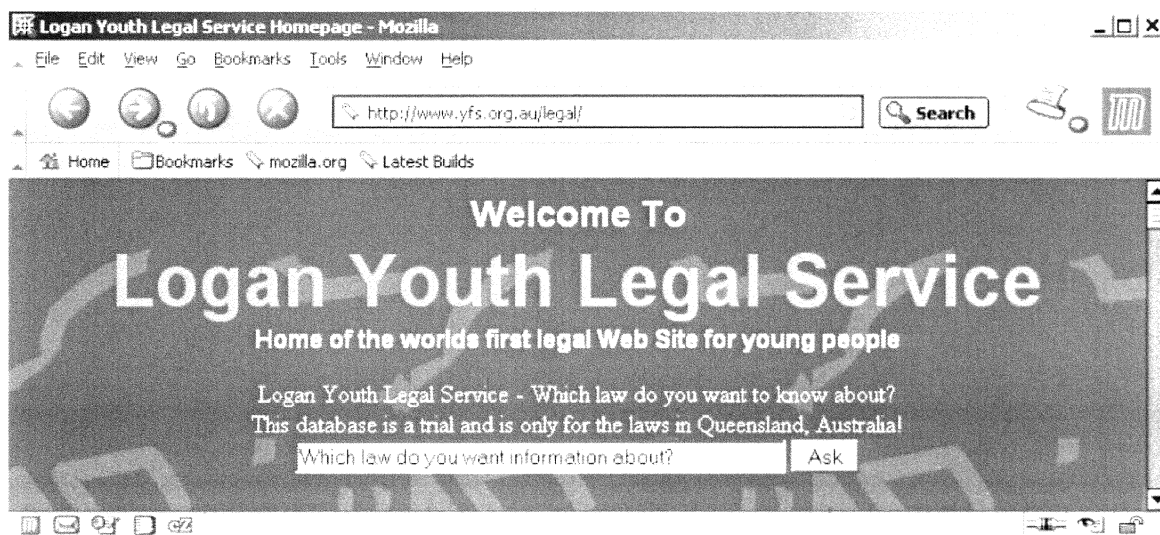
YANQ invites all members as well as the broader youth sector to utilise this opportunity to communicate with the evaluators and to ensure that the trials are responsive to the needs and rights of young people and the best interest of young people is the primary outcome

If you like YANQ to represent your views at the meetings of this reference panel, please send us a line at admin@yanq.org.au or call us on 3844 7713 our regional members can call 1800 177 899.

Logan Youth Legal Service Database

The Logan Youth Legal Service website contains information about many different legal issues that affect young people. The site now also has a searchable database of legal information. Visitors can type a question or key words into the search engine. The search engine provides any information in the database that is relevant to the question or key words.

You can access the database at www.yfs.org.au/legal/ We are grateful for any comments or suggestions for improving this service for young people.



If you find the database useful, you may want to incorporate it into your own website. We can help you embed the search engine so visitors can access our database without leaving your website. Please contact us if you are interested.

Contact:

Jen Glover, Solicitor, Logan Youth Legal Service Ph: 07 3208 8199 Email: jeng@yfs.org.au

Review of Security Providers Act 1993

The Queensland Government recently initiated a review of the Security Providers Act 1993. The review will canvass a range of issues regarding the regulation of security providers (eg security officers, crowd controllers, private investigators etc) including:

- ❖ scope of their powers;
- ❖ appropriate use of force, including use of weapons;
- ❖ coverage of the Act (eg should loss prevention officers in the retail industry be covered)
- ❖ probity checks; and
- ❖ licensing and training of security providers

Through our members, YANQ has often heard of young people being 'moved on' or harassed by security guards in a range of settings such as shopping centres malls and parks. This review provides the youth sector with a good opportunity to argue for better regulation and training of security guards.

At the time of writing, the review is in its early stages and is yet to release a public consultation paper. However, YANQ has been invited by the Office of Fair Trading to take part in a working party for the Review of the Security Providers Act. The current task before the working party is to advise the office on the content of the consultation paper. It is anticipated that this paper will be released within the next 2-3 months.

To assist us on the working party, YANQ is seeking to form a reference group from the Youth Sector that will help us to identify the key issues and advocate them within the working party.

If you would like further information about the review, or would like to discuss any issues regarding contact between young people and security providers, please contact David at YANQ on phone via 3844 7713 or e-mail to ndo@yanq.org.au

Keep Children Out Of Adult Prisons

Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ) has welcomed the announcement by the Attorney-General Rod Welford that the government is considering raising the age limit of offenders considered juvenile from 17 to 18. At the same time YANQ has issued a warning that the National Party is trying to use the latest public anxiety over the reports of inner city violence to portray the government as soft on crime.

'YANQ is alarmed that the state opposition has decided to link the reforms to the treatment of 17 year old offenders in detention with the recent reports on the inner city Brisbane violence.' The state opposition's attempt to gain some law and order mileage by linking the two issues is a sign of political desperation.

This is not about being soft on crime. The fact is that Queensland is the only state remained in Australia that treats 17 year-olds as adults in the criminal justice system.

The Queensland Government has been clearly in breach of Australia's international obligation and the move by Attorney General Rod Welford to remedy this, although overdue, is highly commendable. Unfortunately the opposition is still locked in days gone and rather than holding government accountable, is promoting the erosion of basic human rights and decency.

Many young people in adult jail report being traumatised by continuous rape and attempted rape, not only by hardened criminal adults but also by correctional officers. This often leads to young people having to resort to violence in self-defence.

In a recent survey 72% of young ex-prisoner respondents had been in prison more than once. This clearly demonstrates that punishment by itself does little to deter offenders and that unless we as a civil society help address the causes of their offending behaviour, recidivism rates will, continue to remain unacceptably high and the community as a whole will be made to pay the price.

There have been numerous reports raising concern that Queensland continues to treat 17 year-old children as adults rather than juveniles.

Twelve years ago, when the Juvenile Justice Act was passed by Parliament, the Government said:

"It is the intention of this Government, as it was of the previous Government, to deal with 17-year-old children within the juvenile, rather than the adult system, as per the Kennedy Report into prisons. This is consistent with the age of majority and avoids such children being exposed to the effects of adults in prisons, thereby increasing their chances of remaining in the system and becoming recidivists. This change will occur at an appropriate time in the future."



YANQ MEMBERS/SUBSCRIBERS

Do you:

- > Have an interesting topic for our readers?
- > Need to spread the news of an upcoming event?

You are welcome to advertise, at no charge, in Network Noise (published quarterly — February, May, August and November). We would appreciate receipt of your advert no later than the first week of the appropriate month.

Please email your advert to the Editor at admin@yanq.org.au or post your CD/floppy to YANQ, 30 Thomas Street, West End Q 4101. Any queries, telephone 3844 7713.

STOP PRESS!!



20 21 22 April 2005

Bardon Centre Brisbane

STATE YOUTH AFFAIRS CONFERENCE

REGISTER SOON AND AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

Limited tickets available www.yanq.org.au



Sisters Inside's 3rd International Conference

Sisters Inside Inc Background

Mission Statement

Sisters Inside Inc. is an independent community organisation, which exists to advocate for the human rights of women in the criminal justice system in Queensland and to address gaps in the services available to them.

We work alongside women in prison in determining the best way to fulfil these roles.

Is Prison Obsolete Conference 2005

Sisters Inside's 3rd International Conference in conjunction with Flatout focusing on:

- Women in Prison
- Service Provision
- Advocacy
- Alternatives to Prisons

Date

20, 21, 22 July 2005

Location

Hotel Y 489 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

Keynote Speakers

ANGELA DAVIS
University of California

A graduate student of political philosopher Herbert Marcuse at Brandeis University, Davis became a member of the Communist Party and a controversial activist. In 1971, she was charged with the Soledad Brothers murders in Marin County. The trial sparked an international campaign in support of her innocence and she was acquitted. A distinguished teacher and writer, she is the author of *Women, Race and Class* (1980).

DEBBIE KILROY
Sisters Inside Inc

Deb Kilroy, BsocWk, Psychotherapist, LLB Candidate, Order of Australia Medal, Director of Sisters Inside, a community organisation that advocates for the human rights of women in the Criminal Justice System. Debbie continues to be a strong activist, both Nationally and Internationally, on issues relating to the abolition of prisons.

KIM PATE
Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies

Kim is the executive Director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS). The CAEFS is a federation of autonomous societies which works with, and on behalf of, women involved with the justice system, particularly women in conflict with the law.

GINA DENT
University of California

Gina is Assistant Professor of Women's Studies at UC Santa Cruz, having previously taught at Princeton, Columbia, and UC Berkeley. She has published on African American literature and art, and also works on African American women and the prison-industrial complex.

Call for Papers

Visit our Website at www.sistersinside.com.au for information on submitting a paper.

Registration

Visit our Website at www.sistersinside.com.au for registration details.

Campaign Against ADHD Labelling Continues

Many readers of Network Noise will be familiar with YANQ's ongoing campaign against the so-called disease of ADHD. As part of this campaign, YANQ recently released a short fact sheet entitled *Being an Educated Consumer of "ADHD" Research*.

YANQ has argued in the past that there is no evidence that ADHD is a biological or physiological disease or disorder of any sort and that it is unnecessary, highly risky and counterproductive to prescribe psychotropic medications to treat the 'problem'.

The fact sheet was put together by Dr Bob Jacobs, who has helped YANQ on this campaign in the past, and a small network of committed people across Queensland.

Briefly, *Being an Educated Consumer of "ADHD" Research* highlights the main weaknesses behind the medical model of young people's behaviour. It focuses on four areas:

1. Problems with the 'science'
2. Problems with researchers bias
3. The problem of identifying whether behaviour can cause changes the brain or vice versa

4. The problem of assuming that a difference in the brain means that the 'different' brain is diseased.



The main aim of the guide is to raise questions in readers minds, and encourage them to do their own research and reading into the issue. To this end, a comprehensive list of references (many available on YANQ's website or elsewhere on the World Wide Web) have been included.

The fact sheet was unofficially launched as part of a presentation YANQ made to over 30 human service professionals, teachers and parents at the Varsity Lakes Community Resource Centre on February the 9th. There was a great deal of discussion amongst those present and many

stayed after to ask questions and share their own concerns about the use of stimulant medication.

Copies of *Being an Educated Consumer of "ADHD" Research* can be downloaded from YANQ's website at: <http://www.yanq.org.au/adhd-research-guide.pdf>

For more information contact David at YANQ on 3844 7713 or via e-mail to ndo@yanq.org.au

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.

ERACISM! (#2)

On International Human Rights Day (10 December) 2004 the Youth Affairs Network QLD (YANQ) hosted its second ERACISM! (Erasing Racism) forum in Brisbane. This was a half-day forum bringing together people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, refugee and migrant backgrounds (that means everyone!) to share their experiences of racism and to unite to develop strategies to erase racism in Queensland.

BACKGROUND

YANQ hosted its first ERACISM! forum in April 2004. Due to the positive response from the Murri and broader community, coupled with the continuing evidence of overt and systemic racism in Queensland, YANQ decided to host a second forum in December 2004.

With regards to its Indigenous peoples, Queensland has a long and notorious history of stolen generations, stolen wages and stolen land, none of which have yet attracted sufficient compensation or even apology. Racism in Queensland is not a thing of the past. Overt acts of racism happen every day in Queensland to young people with dark skin, or wearing veils or turbans. But the insidious side of racism is the systemic racism which characterises State and Federal government policies and legislation and sees, for example, Aboriginal people dying 20 years earlier than their non-Aboriginal counterparts, and refugees on temporary protection visas being disallowed to attend universities, and working night shifts for \$7 per hour.

ERACISM! (#2) took place against the tragic background of the suspicious death in police custody of 36-year old Aboriginal man on Palm Island. Meanwhile, further South, on November 30, in the Queensland town of Goondiwindi, a 16-year old Aboriginal man from the Toomelah community was dragged for 40 minutes with a noose around his neck by two white men.

Not to forget the November 2004 front page photograph of white Australian soldiers dressed as Ku Klux Klan members standing menacingly behind black recruits at the Townsville Lavarack Barracks (taken in 2000 before sailing to East Timor). A federal parliamentary inquiry into military justice has heard several instances of racism in the army, including an Aboriginal soldier who hanged himself at Lavarack Barracks a year before the KKK picture was taken.

Months before, not far from Townsville, YANQ staff were shown a "license to shoot Aborigines" sold over the counter in the town's main pub. Around about the same time, on 26 March, an 11-year old Aboriginal boy was put in a cage in the back of a four wheel drive for five-hour long journey from the Gulf of Carpentaria to the Mount Isa Police Station.

A 12 month trial commenced in July 2004 whereby police in five locations across the State are given extra powers to deal with young people suspected of chroming in public spaces. These laws potentially affect predominantly Aboriginal young people who have a high incidence of homelessness and chroming. YANQ has lobbied for more time, clearer guidelines and regulations to make sure this legislation is not just used by police to "clean up the streets" and dislocate Aboriginal and other young people from their hang out points.

Between March and July 2004, YANQ conducted a survey of young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds attending Queensland schools. Of 144 school students surveyed across Queensland, almost half (61)

reported experiencing racism at school. Here's what some of them said:

Sometimes I too scared to walk through the gate because people wait for me so they can bash me up and tease me for be a different colour... sometimes I feel like killing myself. — Maori student, 13, Brisbane

Some student racism me like tell me you horrible people. It make me don't want to come to school. — Thai student, 14 Cairns



Much has been written on the incidents and nature of racism in Queensland and other states of Australia, and indeed the reporting and documentation of these incidences is extremely important. The points above are merely a few examples of racism in this State and some of the motivation behind YANQ's ERACISM! work and our commitment to exposing, talking about and uniting people from all cultures against racism in Queensland.

AIMS

The aims of ERACISM! (#2) were slightly different to the aims of the first ERACISM! forum which was held in April 2004. That forum was a primary consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community leaders (as well as broader community) regarding institutional and overt racism in Queensland. Whilst acknowledging that the experience of racism is not limited to people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds, YANQ demonstrated at the first ERACISM! forum that

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issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are a priority for YANQ.

By all measures Aboriginal young people are more disadvantaged than their migrant counterparts (though probably not recently arrived refugees). They have also been the ones most blamed for their condition. Despite representing less than 3% of the population of Queensland, they are the single largest group in youth detention or adult prisons. Their literacy levels are incredibly low even if they have gone through high school. More and more Aboriginal young people are becoming victims of over acts of racism.

ERACISM! (#2) expanded upon the first forum to invite and include young people and elders from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, refugee and migrant backgrounds to share their experiences of racism and to unite to develop strategies for erasing racism in Queensland.

The process was also a feeler to find out if Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were keen to join with other culturally oppressed groups in Queensland to talk about and action against racism. At the moment Aboriginal people in Queensland are excluded from multicultural policy and YANQ is keen to progress this situation.

YANQ believes that for Queensland's multicultural policy to move forward, it needs to acknowledge Aboriginal cultures as the primary cultures of Australia, and that multiculturalism stems from there.

A youth panel was included in the program to give young people from diverse cultural backgrounds an opportunity to speak out and advocate for themselves.

PROCESS

Aboriginal community leader and activist, and lecturer at the University of Queensland, Sam Watson was a close consultant in the project to ensure processes were culturally appropriate. Jackie Huggins of the University of Queensland and co-chair of The Australian Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation was also approached to be part of a reference group but was too busy with overseas and interstate travel. She did however condone the project from afar.

Apart from this, YANQ took a very participatory approach to the designing of the forum. Callouts for speakers and otherwise interested participants were put out through YANQ's email bulletin, YANQ's multicultural networks, Brisbane high schools and Universities. Everyone involved was consulted as to whether they thought the forum was useful, and were encouraged to share their ideas to make the forum relevant for its target audience.

The response to the initiative from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, refugee and migrant community members, non-government organisations and government representatives was overwhelmingly positive. The planning of the forum was an awesome experience in itself and an opportunity to have deep conversations with many young people and older adults from a diversity of experience around issues of racism, community and culture. This will certainly inform our

work in the future.

We also debriefed with all participants after the event and continue to be in contact.

SPEAKERS

Maroochy Barambah

Maroochy Barambah is the Song-woman and Law-woman for the local Turrbal People.

Dr Zohl de Ishtar

Irish-Australian lesbian, Dr Zohl de Ishtar has been working in collaboration with Indigenous Australian and Pacific women since 1983. The founding-coordinator of the Kapululangu Women's Law and Culture Centre, she has lived and worked intensively with women elders in the Great Sandy Desert.

Lilla Watson

Lilla Watson has been an active community member over many decades. Her mother is from Gangulu country (Dawson River) and father is from Wiri country (Mackay). Lilla is a recognised artist and one-time lecturer at the University of Queensland where she developed courses on Aboriginal perspectives.

Indigenous-Intrudaz

This emerging young hip-hop act is fast gaining recognition across Queensland as a voice for Indigenous youth. These talented young men rhyme about the history, culture and current issues faced by Indigenous youth in their communities, as outlined in recent songs 'Represent' and 'When Man First Got Here'.

YOUTH PANEL

The youth panel included the following individuals:

Avelina Tarrago

Spanish/Aboriginal young woman and third-year law student at QUT.

Abraham Akuot

President of Sudanese Youth Association, Community Services graduate and Criminology student at Griffith University.

Yvette Holt

Yvette was awarded the UTS Equity & Diversity Award in the category of Reconciliation, for her "Outstanding contribution to Reconciliation and to the Advancement of Social Justice and Human Rights for Indigenous Australians", is a proud member of the Bidjara and Wakaman nations of central and Far North Queensland and writes on Indigenous Women's Issues, Racism, Homophobia, Womanhood and Human Rights.

Marie Michele Nisingizwe (Michele)

Rwandan refugee who came to Australia in August 2003. Student of International Business.

Gillian Marshall

Gillian has been an environmental (anti-capitalist), feminist and human rights activist for almost 10 years. A driving member of the Refugee Action Collective QLD, Gillian currently works full-time at Women's House, which is a local feminist domestic violence refuge for women and children.

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Ranbir Sarai

Young man from a Sikh family background. Science student at UQ and member of breaks/production crew Prussia.

Walker Tabua

PNG/TSI young man born in Port Moresby and moved to Australia in 1979. Indigenous Student Representative for 2005 at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) where he studies Human Movements and Education.

ON THE DAY

Approximately 80 people attended the forum, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, refugee and migrant young people and elders, community and government workers (including the Parliamentary Secretary assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs, Karen Struthers), media and other individuals from the broader community. This number did not reflect the huge response via RSVP prior to the event. This discrepancy was doubtless due to the mega rain storm which pelted Brisbane that morning.

Bevan Canning was unable to MC as he had to fly to Palm Island for Sorry Business, so the forum was jointly facilitated by Siyavash and Claire from YANQ. Walker and Avelina were also unable to participate at the last minute.

The forum was an awesome example of cross-cultural dialogue, openings and new understandings and this is reflected by the feedback we've received on the day and post-forum – see feedback below.

FEEDBACK

"Congratulations on a great ERACISM forum on Friday, my co-worker and I thoroughly enjoyed the day, we learnt so much."

"Thanks for inviting me to the ERACISM forum, I had a great time, and learnt a lot. Some of the ideas really challenged my thinking, and I feel a lot healthier because of that. I couldn't stay long into the open discussion as I got called back to the office for work, but when I returned to work I told people about the forum, and we ended up having a great open discussion of our own. Great work - when's the next one?"

"Thank you for inviting us to the ERACISM Forum. It was very informative and interesting to hear the young community on these issues."

"A fantastic initiative and program. To see an organisation developing such a workshop is just inspiring."

"I learnt a lot about the Indigenous experience and it's given me a lot to digest."

"I think it's so important to open up dialogue like this and encourage people from different cultural groups to

talk and listen to each other. People got a lot to learn. Great initiative."

MEDIA COVERAGE

The ERACISM! (#2) forum was promoted on air by Radio 4ZZZfm and 4AAA Murri Country.

There was an article in the Courier Mail the day before the forum, and a major article with photograph in the Saturday Courier Mail the day after the forum (see attached).

OUTCOMES

YANQ had the go-ahead from many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to continue its ERACISM work on their country. Maroochy Barambah on behalf of the Turrbal nation had the opportunity to welcome people from many nations to her country and to tell some of her people's cultural history to Australia's old and new migrants and refugees, as did Lilla Watson. On the other hand, old and new migrants and refugees were able to take in this knowledge and better understand their place in Australia's multicultural (in the widest sense) society. All-in-all the forum was an awesome achievement in cross-cultural communication and a rare sharing of stories between young and old people from many different cultures and experiences.



Through the development of the forum, YANQ made new links and strengthened existing ones with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other individuals and groups and increased its profile in the community. During its consultations, YANQ also greatly contributed to and expanded the current dialogue around racism, multiculturalism, cross-cultural work and the Australian situation regarding its treatment of Indigenous people and refugees.

YANQ gave nine young people from diverse cultural backgrounds (including the Indigenous Intrudaz, via their rhymes) the opportunity to express their views and experiences of racism in a public forum to an audience of community and government members from many diverse backgrounds. This kind of experience gave these young people the opportunity to reflect on their place in this society and their right and their power to influence government and society to respond to their diverse needs.

The media coverage in the Courier Mail was quite astounding – it is notoriously difficult to have Queensland's cultural diversity reflected in the mainstream news, and further for the hard issues of racism and white supremacy to be expressly named by this mainstream paper. This coverage exposed the majority of the population of Queensland to the issue of racism which is alive and kicking in the State.

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KEY LEARNINGS

Discussion at the forum further evidenced that young people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, refugee and migrant backgrounds alike experience overt acts of racism in their everyday lives and this can be very debilitating. These young people also share the experience of living as members of minority groups in a society which systematically privileges a predominantly white middle-class.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, refugee and migrant young people and elders who participated in, attended, or enquired about the forum all demonstrated a willingness to work together to erase racism and make Queensland society one which is truly inclusive of all. All found the forum a great opportunity for cross-cultural dialogue and learning.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

The response to the ERACISM! forums (#1 and #2) have been overwhelmingly positive and YANQ will continue to hold them. We are planning the next forum for mid-2005 in Townsville.

We are also compiling a contact list for individuals and organisations keen to collaborate in anti-racist work in Queensland.

Prepared by Claire Cottone, Multicultural Development Officer for the Youth Affairs Network QLD
for the full version of this report go to www.yanq.org.au index – multicultural development.

More Than Just Hospital Beds

By Jeff Cheverton, Queensland Alliance

Foreword: The recent unlawful detention of Cornelia Rau in immigration detention has highlighted the vulnerable position of people with mental illness in our society. Like many young people, some people with mental illness have little control over their environment, and as a result are at increased risk of exploitation and abuse by those with the power to detain, 'move on', 'treat' or restrain. The following article by the Queensland Alliance calls for greater investment in non-government mental health services as a strategy to reduce the pressure on the acute system. The argument put forward here may be just as relevant to other areas of the youth sector, such as youth justice and drug and alcohol work to name just two.

Improving services to people with mental illness is not all about increasing hospital beds. We need to strengthen the community-based system, including a higher investment in the work of community organisations. If good quality mental health services and supports are easily accessible in the community, the demand for beds will reduce.

A common response to recent media reports regarding the closure of beds at Princess Alexandra Hospital, and the unlawful detention of an Australian resident in immigration detention has been to call for more beds. However, 'more beds' is only part of the answer.

It is well documented that people with mental illness often have their human rights abused and will suffer discrimination and stigma as a result of their illness. This stigma also occurs within the health system. The Burdekin Report highlighted these abuses in 1993. In 2002 the Mental Health Council of Australia surveyed 800 consumers, carers and service providers, and found 'persons with mental illness report ongoing abuse within hospital forms of care and ongoing abuse and neglect in the wider community. Overt abuse is reported to occur within emergency departments and other acute care settings of general hospitals'.

We know that mental health professionals in the public and community sectors work very hard to provide quality care. Poor treatment and inadequate responses are not isolated events or the result of individual poor practice. This is a systemic problem that requires systemic solutions.

Queensland spends less on mental health services than any other state or territory – the same position we occupied in 1993. Nationally Australia allocates only 7% of the overall

health budget to mental health, when other comparable nations spend between 10-14%. This difference is a major concern, particularly when mental health is 30% of the non-fatal disease burden.

A narrow investigation of specific incidents will not improve the rights of people with mental illness. Nor will more hospital beds provide a solution. We require an independent inquiry into the whole mental health system.

Community organisations range from support groups for families and peer support organisations, to professional service providers supporting people to live in their own homes. The hard work of these community organisations reduces the demand on hospital beds, and is a cost effective use of extremely limited dollars. These community organisations work in partnership with the public mental health system to deliver quality services –but they need greater investment to reduce the demand on acute in-patient beds.

Queensland taxpayers have more than one thousand million dollars currently sitting in Treasury as a surplus. The Queensland Alliance is urging the Queensland Government to allocate some of this surplus to improve community-based responses to mental health, and improve the rights of this vulnerable group in our community. With such a healthy economy in Queensland, surely we can deliver healthier responses to the one in five Queenslanders who will experience a mental illness?

About the Author: Jeff is the Director of the Queensland Alliance, a Peak body representing non-government organisations and groups within the mental illness and psychiatric disability sector. Jeff can be contacted on (07) 3832 2600.

2005 – Corrective Services Act review underway

The Department of Corrective Services is gearing for a number of major projects in 2005 including the implementation of the Business Model and the Legislation Review. The Business Model implementation is well advanced, with senior management positions for new directorates and new units already filled or being filled in the new couple of months.

The Legislation Review is also well advanced. The review of the Corrective Services Act 2000 is a major opportunity for the youth sector to inform the government about some of the shortcomings of the Corrective Services Department in particular in dealing with young people less than 25 years of age. The review includes looking at 17 year old being transferred to the youth justice system and out of the adult prisons.

YANQ as one of the key stakeholders is preparing a submission which is due by end of March 2005. YANQ will hold a forum in Brisbane in the coming weeks as well as on line consultation with members and the broader youth sector across Queensland.

All of the Legislation Review consultation papers are now available. Each paper focuses on a different issue, presenting information and posing questions to promote discussion relevant to the future direction of corrective services in Queensland.

The latest six papers focus on:

- Release from custody
- Visitors

- Community based release
- Community Corrections Boards
- Powers and responsibilities of community corrections staff
- Official visitors

Departmental stakeholders now have a central point of contact responsible for promptly dealing with emerging issues and keeping stakeholders abreast of changes within the offender management system.

Newly-appointed A/Stakeholder Liaison Officer Lee Nolan is initially charged with assisting stakeholders during the implementation of the new business model. The position itself flows from a recommendation in the Business Model Review and is situated in the Office of the Director-General.

YANQ invites its members, young people as well as the broader youth sector to contact us with any issues relevant to young people's safety and wellbeing in the corrective services system. YANQ can use a number of forums as well as our formal submission to Corrective Services to raise any particular concern or to suggest progressive strategies.

For further information, go to the DCS website www.dcs.qld.gov.au

For further information about YANQ's submission or to raise any issues with YANQ contact us 07 3844 7713, 1800 177 899 or send us a line admin@yanq.org.au

Australian Electoral Commission

One of the core business functions of the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is to promote public awareness of electoral and Parliamentary matters by means of the conduct of education and information programs.

Surveys have shown that 18-25 year olds are under-represented on the electoral roll. It is estimated that only 82% of eligible 17-25 year olds are on the electoral roll compared with 95% of other Australians.

The AEC has offices located throughout Queensland. Staff from these offices are available to visit community groups to conduct electoral education activities. Electoral education activities can include:

- ◆ sessions on the Federal electoral process, including a simulated House of Representatives election.
- ◆ sessions on the referendum process and a simulated referendum.
- ◆ enrolment information.
- ◆ presentations on how elections are conducted and the voting process.

The AEC can also provide electoral education resources to community groups as well as organise displays of electoral education materials if required. All resources are FREE OF CHARGE.

If any organisation would like the AEC to conduct an electoral education session, please telephone **13 23 26** for the cost of a local call. Electoral education resources are available by calling **13 23 26** or are available on the AEC website www.aec.gov.au

It is compulsory for all Australian citizens 18 years and older to be enrolled to vote. 17 year olds can enrol so that they can vote when they turn 18.

Enrolment forms are available from the AEC website www.aec.gov.au or from any Post Office or AEC office.



youth affairs network qld

30 Thomas Street West End Q 4101
Ph: 07 3844 7713 Toll Free: 1800 177 899
Fax: 07 3844 7731
Email: admin@yanq.org.au Web: www.yanq.org.au

***Membership/*Subscription Application Form TAX INVOICE (on payment) ABN 28 205 281 339**

All fees are 10% GST inclusive.

Pay by personal cheque, money order, credit card or cash. No income or funding – contact YANQ for special consideration.

Please complete category applied for:

*Individual/*Young Person Membership Title _____ First Name _____ Last Name _____ Postal Address _____ Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____ Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ Fax _____ Mobile _____ Email _____	*Individual/*Young Person please tick Receive Centrelink (aged12-25) <input type="checkbox"/> \$5.00 Receive Centrelink (over 25) <input type="checkbox"/> \$5.00 Young Person (aged12-25) <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 Income < \$25,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 Income \$25,000 - \$50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$40.00 Income > \$50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00
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*Organisational Membership Organisation _____ Contact Person Title _____ Last Name _____ First Name _____ Position _____ Postal Address _____ Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____ Phone _____ Fax _____ Mobile _____ Email _____	Community Not-for-profit Organisation please tick Funding < \$100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$55.00 Funding \$100,000 - \$250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$80.00 Funding \$250,000 - \$400,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$120.00 Funding > \$400,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$150.00 For Profit Organisation <input type="checkbox"/> \$165.00
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*Subscriber Department/Service _____ Contact Person Title _____ Last Name _____ First Name _____ Position _____ Postal Address _____ Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____ Phone (W) _____ Fax _____ Mobile _____ Email _____	Subscription please tick Community Not-for-profit Organisation <input type="checkbox"/> \$160.00 For Profit Organisation <input type="checkbox"/> \$200.00 Government Department or Service (State, Federal or Local) <input type="checkbox"/> \$185.00 Individual <input type="checkbox"/> \$60.00
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NB If for some reason you are unable to sign the Values and Vision Statement of YANQ you are entitled to become a subscriber after submitting the relevant fee

Pay by Credit Card: ☐ American Express ☐ MasterCard ☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa

Card Details

Name on Card _____

Expiry Date _____ Amount _____

Signature _____

IF YOU REQUIRE A RECEIPT PLEASE TICK THIS BOX ☐

I enclose \$ _____ as the prescribed *Membership/*Subscription fee. *Please delete whichever is not applicable.

I _____ have read and support the objects and values summary of Youth Affairs Network Qld Inc and hereby request to become a member of the network.

Signed _____ Date _____

OFFICE USE ONLY:	Membership ID _____	Receipt No _____
	Web User ID _____	Web Password _____

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.

Interagency

Regional Queensland



Meetings

current as at February 2005

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@ged.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 at Cairns City Library, Abbott Street, Cairns.
Contact Ray for times for meetings as they alternate.

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: John Sharp
Mundubbera Community Development
Ph: 07 4165 4690 Fax: 07 4165 3143
Email: mcda@burnett.net.au
Meets first Monday of the month 10am-3pm (venue changes).

Central West Youth Network

Contact: Di Hurst
PO Box 343, Longreach Q 4730
Ph: 07 4658 4500 Fax: 07 4658 4533 Mobile: 0427 580 460
Email:
Meets every two months (venue changes—contact Di for details)
Networks that provide services to young people in central west welcome.

Emerald Shire Youth Council

Contact: Melinda Knox, Youth Development Officer
Emerald Shire Council
PO Box 21, Emerald Q 4720
Ph/Fax: 07 4982 0540
Email: youthofficer@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 10.30am. Contact Sue for venue.

Innisfail Community Sector Network

Contact: Wendy Schulz
Ph: 07 4030 2253 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: Amanda Sulter
Mackay Youth Information & Referral Service
60 Victoria Street, Mackay Q 4740
Ph: 07 4957 7949 Fax: 07 4957 7673
Meets third Tuesday of the month 11am Mackay City Council

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: 07 4743 0400 Mobile 0428 430 400
Email: pcyc.yth@bigpond.net.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 9.00-11.30 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 Healthy Communities Program
PO Box 689, Charleville Q 4470
Ph: 07 4654 3055 Fax: 07 4654 3022
Email: ahpo@swhcp.org
Meets 10am the third Thursday of each month at Charleville Neighbourhood Centre.

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.

The Youth Network NQ Inc

previously called Magnetic North Youth Service Providers Network Assn Inc.
Contact: Clea Alcorn
Ph: 07 4775 7138 Fax: 07 4725 6970
Email: clea.alcorn@smithfamily.com.au
Meets third Thursday of the month 9-11am at B103 at Pimlico TAFE.

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@ged.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.

Interagency

South-East Queensland



Meetings

current as at February 2005

Brisbane Inner Urban Youth Interagency

Contact: Libby Wright

Ph: 07 3407 0208

Email: Libby.Wright@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Meets 10-12 noon first Wednesday of the month. Contact Libby for details.

Caboolture Youth Area Network (YCAN)

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 or Jennifer Owen-Holmes, care Gold Coast Youth Services

PO Box 740, Burleigh Heads Q 4220

Ph: 07 5572 0400 Fax: 07 5575 2607

Email: gc youth@bigpond.net.au

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 12 noon 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: Kristie Mammen

Ph: 07 3825 1444

Meets 3-5pm first Tuesday of every second month at Sandgate Community Hall, 153 Rainbow Street, Sandgate.

Logan Youth Interagency Network

Contact: Francis Mills, Youth Planner, Community Services, Logan City Council

PO Box 3226, Logan City DC 4114

Ph: 07 3826 5029 Fax: 07 3808 0014

Mobile: 0411 658 065

Email: francismills@logan.qld.gov.au

Contact Francis for details.

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 Wednesday of every second month 10am at Blue Care, Duckett Street, Beaudesert.

Northern Gold Coast Interagency *current as at November 2004*

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.

Pine Rivers Youth Service Providers Network

Contact: Mark McCormack, Community Development Officer, Pine Rivers Shire Council

Ph: 07 3889 7027 Fax: 07 3889 7287

Email: mark.mccormack@pinerivers.qld.gov.au

Meets second Monday bi-monthly 2-4pm at Unit 4A, 199 Gympie Road, Strathpine. (Pine Rivers Shire Council Community Development office).

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 9-11am 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

Contact Steve Hutchinson for meeting details.

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.

Zillmere Youth Organisations Network (ZYON)

Contact: Brett Rowland

Ph: 07 3269 0044

Email: brett@jabiru.org.au

Contact Brett for meeting details.