

# Network Noise

Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

Quarterly Newsletter May 2006

## YCN Born Again

Seven Youth Interagencies in Queensland have just taken part in the rebirth of the Youth Consultative Network (YCN). The YCN will encompass a variety of processes that will help YANQ to learn about, and respond to the issues that affect young people and youth services in Queensland. The Interagencies, from South East Queensland, Hervey Bay and Gladstone, took time between January and March to discuss the high priority issues facing young people and youth services and shared their views with YANQ.

The Interagencies submitted 31 issues, 17 relating to young people and 14 to services (a summary is provided at the end of this article).

The information the Interagencies have provided is invaluable (a summary is provided below) because it will help YANQ to identify high priority issues, build partnerships across the sector and make sure that our policy proposals match the needs of young people who are facing some extreme challenges in their lives. As a member of YANQ's management committee put it, "this coalface information is actually policy gold for YANQ".

of issues relating to both young people, and youth services. Details of issues raised by more than one Interagency have been included below (by breaking them down into the main categories). Readers can obtain complete details of all the issues submitted from YANQ's website at <http://www.yanq.org.au/ycn>.

### Issues Relating to Young People

#### Drug/Alcohol

Concerns related to binge drinking, a lack of detox and rehabilitation services and drug use among pregnant women and young people disengaged from education.

4 Interagencies submitted issues under this category and covered the following regions: Brisbane; Goodna; Sunshine Coast; Hervey Bay.

#### Mental/Emotional Health

Issues related to a lack of services (generally, but also early intervention specifically) and rates of depression and self-harm among young people.

2 Interagencies submitted issues under this category and covered the following regions: Goodna; Hervey Bay.

#### Service Availability

Interagencies raised concerns about a lack of some specific services (e.g. Housing, mental health) as well as general isolation from services.

6 Interagencies submitted issues under this category and covered the following regions: Brisbane; Goodna; Redland Bay; Sunshine Coast; Hervey Bay; Gladstone.

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### What Will Happen with the Information?

In the short term, YANQ has sent a summary of the Interagencies submissions to relevant Government Departments. We have also sought information from Government and others (e.g. other Peak Bodies) that may address some of the concerns that were raised.

In the long term the information will be extremely useful to YANQ and the Youth Sector generally because it will help us:

- to track trends in the different issues facing young people;
- assess whether as a sector we are getting better at addressing high priority issues;
- decide which issues we need to devote our collective focus to;
- better argue to Governments and the wider community for the need to address young people's issues.

### What Issues were Raised?

The Interagencies raised a wide variety

## Network Noise

The Youth Affairs Network of  
Queensland (YANQ) Inc. newsletter  
published every 3 months

ISSN 1320-2588

### Contributions Welcome

Ring, write, email or fax you latest news  
on...

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

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August 2006 Copy Deadline is mid  
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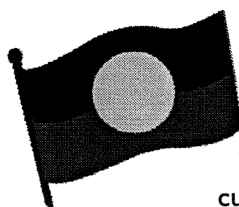
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<http://www.yanq.org.au>

The views and options 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 people 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 politics 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 mistreatments of Murri and islander people created by colonisation, and is committed to supporting the healing process.

(Continued from page 1)

### Issues Relating to Youth Services

#### Funding/ Resources

Under this category a number of concerns were raised, such as the need for more services, higher levels of funding to allow services to attract and maintain good staff and the lack of stability of funding. A particular concern was also raised regarding the late notification of funding for National Youth Week 2006, which made it difficult to promote activities and resulted in poor turn outs to some events.

6 Interagencies submitted issues under this category and covered the following regions: Brisbane; Goodna; Redland Bay; Sunshine Coast; Hervey Bay; Gladstone.

#### Accountability

Here Interagencies discussed the difficulty services have meeting the reporting requirements to a range of different funders, as well as concerns that no resources are provided to assist services to meet increasing demands for reporting.

2 Interagencies submitted issues under this category and covered the following regions: Brisbane; Redland Bay.

#### Staff/Volunteers

Difficulties finding and keeping good staff were raised here, as well as

concerns about the lack of training and poor career pathways.

2 Interagencies submitted issues under this category and covered the following regions: Sunshine Coast; Hervey Bay.

### Where to Now for the YCN?

In the immediate short term the emphasis within YANQ is on continuing to build the YCN across the State and improving the process. Our target for the 1st quarter of 2006 was 6 interagencies, and we aim to have doubled this by September and trebled it by December.

A meeting was held with Interagency coordinators in the Greater Brisbane area in late May to discuss how the YCN form can be improved, and plans are underway to invite regional Interagencies to take part in a teleconference to discuss improvements also.

The direct participation of young people is also vitally important and as readers of YANQ's E-mail Bulletin may also be aware, YANQ has applied for a small grant to trial elements of a youth engagement process that we are also starting to build.

If you'd like any more information about the Youth Consultative Network, or how you can get involved please phone YANQ's Network Development Officer, David Powell on 3844 7713 / 1800 177 899 or e-mail to [ndo@yanq.org.au](mailto:ndo@yanq.org.au)

## YANQ's Education Laws Response

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of March, YANQ made its response to the *Draft Education (General Provisions) Bill*. In our response, we argued that a number of changes needed to be made to the Bill as follows:

- ensuring the Bill is consistent with universal human rights standards;
- consideration for unfairness and ineffectiveness of harsh fines on parents;
- safeguarding the rights of students on humanitarian visas to free education;
- ensuring students from all backgrounds are able to access the full gamut of educational opportunities, regardless of their parents willingness or ability to make voluntary contributions;
- safeguarding access to schools of distance education or other alternative programs for marginally engaged students in the interim period until the full impact of the ETRF agenda is realised;
- recognising and supporting independent students;
- allowing fair timeframes for decisions;
- providing clarity around the representation of young people in disciplinary processes;
- making available the documentation on which decisions about students are made;
- providing real access to external review of decisions;
- and the need to give special consideration for marginalised groups.

In our submission we also indicated our endorsement of the submission made by the Youth Advocacy Centre (YAC). YAC's submission addressed a number of the concerns above in great depth.

You can download our submission from YANQ's website at [http://www.yanq.org.au/index.pl?page=getdoc&link\\_id=352&doc\\_id=267](http://www.yanq.org.au/index.pl?page=getdoc&link_id=352&doc_id=267). A copy of YAC's submission is available by contacting the Youth Advocacy Centre on (07) 3857 1155 or via e-mail to [admin@yac.net.au](mailto:admin@yac.net.au).

## Young Carers: How Many Are There?

In our last edition of the *Network Noise*, we carried an article by Carer's Queensland that discussed the role of young people in caring for family and friends. This article is still available on YANQ's website as a PDF from: <http://www.yanq.org.au/files/YoungCarers1005.pdf>. This follow up article provides some baseline data about the number of young carers in Australia.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (1998) reports that there are 388, 800 young carers in Australia. Furthermore, 1 in 10 children and young people between the ages of 15 and 25 are young carers (ABS, 1998; Gays, 2003). It is also important to note that "these figures are likely to be significant underestimates due to the number of unidentified or 'hidden' carers in the community" (Noble-Carr, 2002). Overall, young carers range in age from 5 to 25, with almost half being under 18 (Nankervis, 2005). The average age of a young carer under 18 is 12-13 (Moore, 2005). Young carers are generally representative of the general population in their cultural background.

The available data suggest that the number of young carers will rise. This is thought to be caused by two principle factors: 1. the increase in the number of people with a disability or chronic illness and 2. the steady increase in the number of sole-parent families. Therefore, it can be assumed that the need for young primary carers is likely to increase in response with the above factors.



### Marilyn Topp, YANQ Administration Officer

With a legal background I've worked in the community sector for 12 years, firstly as the Administrator of Prisoners' Legal Service Inc. (PLS) for approx 10 years and now (for just over 2 years) with YANQ. After departing PLS and because my interest in social justice continues, I was asked to return as a member of the management committee and am currently the chairperson of that committee.

My first year here at YANQ was an almost vertical learning curve and what a rewarding challenge for me – administration within a peak body is very far removed from legal. My interest in youth affairs began naturally as a parent of growing children who have friends from several different cultures, living and working beside differing cultures as well as contact with organisations that assist families with a member in prison and family members themselves.

During my time at YANQ, with lots of help from our technical guru (David Powell), a much needed and easily manageable database has been established. To maintain the currency of our mailing lists eg members, subscribers, interagencies, media and so on, I'm the one who regularly makes contact with you all.

I have assisted with the preparation and editing of YANQ's Policy and Procedures Manual and coordinate YANQ's publications besides being the manager of 'first impressions' (when you call the office).

# CALD MATTERS

Culturally And Linguistically Diverse

## *Hope for the future, Hope for the refugees*

With the recent controversy over Australia's granting of protection visas to 42 asylum seekers from West Papua, it is clear that human rights violations and civil war continue to force people to flee their countries and seek protection in countries such as Australia.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that currently there are 9.2 million refugees around the world. Despite this figure being the lowest level recorded in the last 25 years, there are serious concerns for internally displaced persons who do not fall under the 1951 Refugee Convention's definition of a refugee.

Back in our shores, since the approval for West Papuans to seek asylum in Australia, the Australian Government announced that refugees will be held at offshore facilities until they are sent to another country. The new immigration regime also applies to those who are found to be genuine refugees, requiring them to be kept at off-shore processing facilities only to be sent to a third country and not Australia.

Whilst the new immigration changes have come into effect, there is a need for the government and the public to understand the incredible courage and determination of refugees, who are forced to flee their

countries, leaving behind their possessions, families and friends.

This year, the World Refugee Day will be celebrated on June 20. The theme is "Keeping the flame of hope alive" for the world's refugees who hold hopes for peace, free from war, torture and persecution. To find out more about the World Refugee Day, visit [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)

### **Setting the Agenda for MYNQ 2006**

The Multicultural Youth Network Queensland (MYNQ) is a community driven state-wide network for youth service providers committed to improving the quality of life for Culturally And Linguistically Diverse (CALD) young people in Queensland. MYNQ is coordinated by YANQ's Multicultural Development Officer and its members meet in Brisbane every two months.

Currently, MYNQ has over 250 members across the state. Community organisations, services and service providers are encouraged to join MYNQ to identify and develop actions on issues and policy affecting CALD young people.

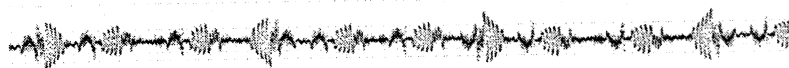
At the February meeting, MYNQ members identified key focus topics for MYNQ in 2006:

education; housing; and young women's issues. YANQ has already initiated actions on the three topics, including YANQ's submission to the Draft Queensland Education Bill 2006, preparation for the young women's forum and scoping of the discussion paper for the ERACISM! Forum on CALD young people's experience of racism in the housing sector.

MYNQ has continued to provide significant contributions to government policies and programs to ensure positive outcomes for CALD young people in Queensland. It is an avenue for individuals and organisations to come together as a collective group to advocate for the needs of CALD young people.

If you would like to join MYNQ, please contact Kate Morioka on 07 3844 7713 or 1800 177 899 or at [cald@yanq.org.au](mailto:cald@yanq.org.au) YANQ strongly encourages members from rural and regional areas to participate in MYNQ activities and teleconferencing equipment is available for those who cannot attend the MYNQ meetings.

The next MYNQ meeting will be held on Tuesday 6 June, 2 - 4 pm at Ahimsa House, 24 Horan Street West End (Brisbane). The June meeting will involve MYNQ members in discussing the issue of racism within the housing sector. Please ring YANQ on 07 3844 7713 for more information.





## 10% fee for Centrelink debts

by **Melissa Coad,**  
**Welfare Rights Centre**

From 1 July 2006 Centrelink will be able to charge a one off "recovery fee" of 10% of the amount of some debts. The fee will be charged to people in receipt of working age payments (this includes payments such as Youth Allowance, Newstart, Parenting payment and Disability Support Pension). The fee will be charged where debts are raised on the grounds that a person's income from employment was not taken into account when working out their rate of payment. The fee can be charged where a person "refuses or fails" to provide information about their income or where a person "knowingly" or "recklessly" provides false or misleading information in relation to income.

In our experience many people do not declare income correctly for a variety of reasons, almost none of which deserve to attract an additional penalty on top of having to repay the debt itself. Many people are confused about how, when and how often to declare income and in what form, for example many people mistakenly declare nett instead of gross income. Sometimes people mistakenly, yet reasonably, believe that as they are declaring income for tax purposes this information is automatically transferred to Centrelink. Additionally people may not be aware exactly how much they have earned and they may be hesitant to "hassle" an employer of a new or casual job about how much they will be paid. People may not want to ask their employer details about wages as they may not want the employer to know they are receiving income support. Given that many people innocently or unwittingly fail to declare income or provide correct income details it is unlikely that introducing the fee will act as any sort of deterrent.

Where a debt is raised and Centrelink determines a person may have deliberately failed to provide information the matter can be referred to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) for consideration of criminal prosecution. This is a formal matter and requires a higher test of whether or not a person "knowingly" failed to provide information, whereas it would be possible for the charging of this new fee for Centrelink to merely assert the failure was knowingly or reckless. The only

option then would be for people to appeal the imposition of the fee on the grounds it was not knowingly or recklessly.

Interestingly this new fee is not to be charged for Age Pension debts, so while Centrelink may refer a person with an Age Pension debt to the DPP for criminal prosecution if it is deemed fraud may have occurred, the 10% fee will not be charged.

It is likely that young people will be disproportionately affected by this new fee, given the high rate of debt among youth allowance recipients. Research undertaken by the Welfare Rights Centre in 2002\* found that depending on the category (ie. whether independent, or living at home) between one third and two thirds of Youth Allowance recipients had a Centrelink debt. For example 68% of young people aged 18 to 20 receiving Youth Allowance as an independent person had debts. Obviously not all of those debts would be due to income, many would be due to other things such as failing to complete study. However even if only some are income related debts that still leaves many young people open to incurring an additional 10% fee.

The high rate of debt among Youth Allowance recipients is compounded by the low rate of Youth Allowance, being some 33% below the poverty line. This makes debt repayments harder to meet and adding an additional fee will only exacerbate repayment difficulties.

A further compounding issue is the low rate of appeals among young people. If Centrelink practice becomes to charge the fee for most debts without a thorough investigation into whether or not income was not declared "knowingly" then the only way to avoid paying the fee would be to appeal this decision. As young people are less likely to appeal in all matters it's hard to think that this would be any different, leaving many young people paying an additional 10% when perhaps they should not be at all.

\*Welfare Rights Centre Sydney. *Runaway Youth Debt, no allowance for youth. An analysis of the causes and impact of extensive debt in the Youth Allowance System*, October 2002 [www.welfarerights.org.au](http://www.welfarerights.org.au)

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**David Powell – Network Development Officer**

My job at YANQ is to ...

- Try to build better connections between YANQ and the Youth Sector;
- edit our fortnightly E-mail Bulletin;
- prepare (as needed) policy submissions, briefings, discussion papers etc;
- travel (5-6 times per year) to different locations meeting with youth organisations and interagencies;
- eat \$1.00 chocolate brownies from the local bakery (that's not actually in my position description, perhaps it should be).

When I'm not at YANQ I ...

- love being married and being the Dad of an 18 month old boy;
- am passionate about using software that encourages people to work together and doesn't restrict our freedoms (e.g GNU/Linux, Openoffice.org, PHP, MySQL, PostgreSQL). For more information about Free Software visit [www.fsf.org](http://www.fsf.org);
- play basketball;
- run a very small (as in one project at a time) database development business, building database applications, mostly for non-profits or small businesses (plug, plug);
- enjoy reading when I get the chance – my favourite authors at the moment are John le Carré, Nick Hornby and always J.R.R Tolkein.



# Welfare to Work:

The govt's welfare reform package... More Work Choices for young people!

**John Ferguson,  
YAPA Policy & Training  
Officer**

There has been much written about the Industrial Relations reform that the government is embarking on, but towards the end of last year, they also passed another piece of legislation that will significantly impact on young people. The main principle behind this agenda is a desire to get people off welfare and into the workforce, which is better for them and better for the economy. It is driven by the view that thousands of people on welfare are 'job snobs', arrogantly refusing all kinds of work, as well as those who are content to sit on welfare and make a career out of the system. If you watch *Today Tonight* or *A Current Affair*, you might actually believe this. It is so easy for these programs to show a young male surfer living the coastal dream on welfare, and in so doing, fuelling these perceptions. However, for those of us with more awareness of these issues, the vast majority of welfare recipients are not happy to be in their situation, and would gladly trade the debilitating issues they face for a place in the mainstream workforce. Regarding young people, they will not only be affected directly by this law, but it also has the potential to have a detrimental impact on their families as well.

The new Welfare to Work package will come into effect on July 1 2006. It has major implications for those people receiving Youth Allowance and

Newstart Allowance, as well as recipients of the Disability Support Pension and Parenting Payments. The new law compels people to look for work if they are able. Sounds simple. However, there are stricter guidelines to determine who receives welfare and how much someone is able to work. Currently, those people receiving disability allowance are judged suitable for work if they are deemed capable of working 30 hours. That figure will soon be 15 hours. In effect, this means that many people will move from the Disability Support Pension to Newstart Allowance and receive a significant reduction in their weekly income.

It is a similar story for sole parents. Once the youngest child turns 6, sole parents will be required to look for part time work, while remaining on the parenting payment until the child turns 8. Once the youngest child turns 8, these parents will be moved on to the dole, be forced to look for work they are capable of, and face non-payment penalties if they fail to comply. There will also be a reduction in their weekly income. So for those services working with young parents, even if their youngest child is not 8 yet, we need to prepare these young people for the changes they will face and the potential impacts of these new rules.

**The problem is compliance...  
Prepare for breaches...**

For those on welfare who are

deemed capable of work, they must also accept suitable job offers unless there are special circumstances that prevent them. If they fail to comply they will face a breach. The concern is that suitable work now includes work remunerated at less than award conditions and that young people will be forced to undertake such work. Failure to do this could constitute a breach of the activity test requirements.

Under the new system there are certain events that will automatically lead to a single breach, resulting in an 8 week non-payment period. These are:

- The person is voluntarily unemployed,
- The person is unemployed due to their own misconduct as a worker,
- The person refuses a suitable job offer, or
- The person fails to commence, participate or complete a program of work, or comply with the conditions of a program.

**The dangerous interaction of  
Welfare to Work and IR  
Reform...**

There is still a lot to be understood about how the industrial relations laws will interact with the welfare to work reforms. However, despite the following scenario being hypothetical, there is the danger that this situation will become far too common.

*Mary wants to work in marketing,*

*but without a university degree, she knows she may have to start at the bottom of a small company and work her way up. She is more than willing to do this. However, Mary is on Youth Allowance and is forced to take a job that she does not want because it is deemed suitable for her. Due to the IR changes, the job she is forced to take has low money and poor working conditions. She cannot afford to leave her job and face 8 weeks of no welfare support. She is also very worried about looking for another job, because if her boss finds out, her workplace will become even more difficult.*

The major concern with this situation is the likelihood that a young person will feel trapped in this working environment. Faced with these daunting 'work choices' the young person will need a lot of support throughout this situation. With the probability of increased breaches, the emergency resources of youth services will be stretched when young people are left with no support.

Under this new system, the National Welfare Rights Network has estimated that 16,000 people a year will incur

an immediate 8 week non-payment period. It is proposed that some people will receive case management through this period, but who will deliver this case management and which welfare recipients will be eligible for it is unclear at this stage. It is also unclear what will constitute a 'reasonable excuse' for failing to comply, or what is deemed a 'special circumstance' for refusing a job. These matters will most likely be addressed in the guidelines that will come out in the near future.

Even without the guidelines to provide further clarification, there are still things that we can do at this stage to support young people. As a sector, we need to inform ourselves about the impacts of this law and how it will affect the young people we work with. Since there will be a certain amount of interpretation and discretion in how these laws are administered, we need to have a positive working relationship with our Centrelink office to ensure that they are aware of the local issues for young people. Engaging with Centrelink staff, inviting them to speak to young people where

possible, and having open communication will ensure the issues that are unique to young people are understood. For example, transport may be different in the Riverina than it is in the Newcastle region, and work opportunities may be different in Broken Hill than in places like Wagga.

Similarly, we also need to support young people to make an appeal where they think it is necessary. With the potential for breaches to occur, combined with the reluctance of young people to lodge an appeal, it is important that we assist and encourage young people in this process to ensure that they are not exploited in this new environment.

The preceding article *Welfare to Work: The govt's welfare reform package... More Work Choices for young people!* as appeared in the newsletter of the Youth Action and Policy Association NSW Inc Volume 16 No 2 February 2006, is reproduced with the permission of Youth Action & Policy Association NSW Inc.

## Mission Australia's 2006 Survey of Australia's Young People

Mission Australia is conducting its fifth survey of young Australians aged between 11-24 years and we're hoping to involve as many young people as possible. The main purpose is to identify and clarify the key and emerging issues for young people. It asks young people about what they value; their concerns; sources of advice and support; involvement in community activities, whether they identify as Indigenous and if they live in or outside a capital city. In 2005, 11,300 young people responded to the survey.

A hard copy of the survey has been inserted in this edition of *Network Noise*. If you require additional hard copies, they are available from [hampshirea@missionaustralia.com.au](mailto:hampshirea@missionaustralia.com.au). The survey can also be completed on line at [www.missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey](http://www.missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey)

Copies of the report of the survey findings will be available free late in 2006.



## When marketers make over a message, youth has a problem

by Hugh Evans

Youth Week - a seven-day window during which the Government aims to provide young people from 12 to 25 with an opportunity to express their ideas and views, raise issues of importance to them, act on issues that affect their lives and create and enjoy entertainment.

But it appears that this window of opportunity may slip right by this year, as Youth Week has turned into an over-funded marketing tool for the Government, a textbook public relations exercise designed to disguise the fact that the Government has all but extinguished young people from its radar.

Rather than dealing with the challenges facing young people, Youth Week merely serves to market a good impression of Australian youth -- at a high price.

Last year, Youth Week was run by a marketing firm called Horizon Communication Group. Its \$360,690 marketing campaign included distributing Youth Week stickers and key rings with the slogan "Make it Yours".

This year Youth Week is being run by a marketing firm called Lifelounge and the slogan is "Just Add You".

The Government is spending nearly 50 per cent of its total budget for Youth Week on marketing, leaving a meagre amount for the issues that young people confront.

How is the Government getting away with spending such an unacceptably large portion of its Youth Week budget on marketing?

As the director of the Oaktree Foundation, a youth-run aid and development organisation, I am always

mindful of minimising our marketing budget so that we can ensure the money gets where it's meant to go - to young people in the developing world. If the Oaktree Foundation, or any other not-for-profit organisation, spent 50 per cent of its budget on marketing we would be forced to close down because we wouldn't have enough money to fund our development projects.

The point is that the Government is missing the point. Do they actually want to celebrate the contribution by young people and raise awareness of the issues young people face? Or is this primarily about the Government telling us that they want to? After all, Lifelounge's mission is all about selling products to young people.

All this is not at all surprising because in recent years the youth portfolio has moved from a place of prominence to a place of token status. There used to be a Minister for Youth Affairs, Larry Anthony, but when he was voted out in the 2004 election, the portfolio went too. While Anthony was around, he met young people and listened to their concerns and opinions. He left a void that remains unfilled.

Hope returned -- albeit fleetingly -- when youth was again represented in the somewhat diminished form of a Parliamentary Secretary, Sussan Ley. What soon followed was another reshuffle and youth affairs fell off the radar altogether. Sure, Family and Community Services now have two ministers -- Mal Brough and John Cobb -- but this game of musical chairs has left young people with nowhere to sit.

What I see is a Government that has systematically diminished the representation of young people and then wasted money on promoting

something about which it demonstrably cares little. Young people aren't seen as a relevant voting bloc, and with the recent move to close electoral rolls the day elections are called, more young people will be unable to vote even if they reach the voting age but fail to register in time.

Am I being cynical?

I don't think so. I know we can do a whole lot better.

We could use Youth Week to consider the issues that young people face, and perhaps even tackle the hard question of why Australia has one of the highest rates of youth suicide in the developed world. Why is it that in Australia, suicide is responsible for more deaths of young people than car accidents and is now the eighth leading cause of death for young people, having increased by 35 per cent over the past 10 years?

Youth Week and its ridiculous marketing budget would be better spent addressing the issues facing young Australians rather than promoting the Government through a public relations exercise designed to disguise its forgotten youth agenda.

I urge the Government to pick up its game -- young Australians are the future of our country. They deserve more than stickers and key rings.

### Notes:

Hugh Evans is the director of youth-run aid and development organisation the Oaktree Foundation and 2004 Young Australian of the Year.

Editor's note: References to "the Government" in this article refer to the Australian (Federal) Government.

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# The Crucial Connection Program

Sisters Inside's Crucial Connection Program is a Reconnect program to provide confidential support to young people whose mothers are in prison. The Crucial Connection Program also assists those young people to become more involved with their family, work, education, training and the community through mediation, counselling and practical support for the whole family. The Crucial Connection Program works closely with other local services to provide support in a way that is sensitive to your needs and your family's needs.

The Crucial Connection Program works with, and for, young people between the ages of 12 and 18 years whose mothers are in prison and with their families. Activities of the program include camps, creative arts and circus workshops.

The Crucial Connection Program provides a range of support to both young people and families that are determined by their own unique circumstances. It is flexible and we can meet with young people at a safe location where they feel comfortable, such as Sisters Inside, school, home or another venue in the community.

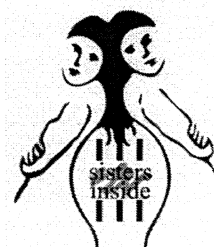
How does the Crucial Connection Program support young people and their families?

- Have regular visits with mum;
- Work things out with their family;
- Connect with programs that assist in finding employment;
- Stay in school when it gets too tough;
- Link into training options;
- Get income support if eligible; and
- Find somewhere to stay if necessary

How does the Crucial Connection Program support Parents, Guardians and Families too:

- Work things out with young person
- Find out the best way to talk things through;
- Learn to live together when things are hard; and
- Learn to live apart but stay connected.

If you are working with a young person whose Mum is in prison and requires some support, please contact Phil or Tamsin at Sisters Inside on (07) 3844 5066 or [reconnect@sistersinside.com.au](mailto:reconnect@sistersinside.com.au).



## Great rewards for the Young at Art

Young Queenslanders have the opportunity to showcase their creative talents and connect with seniors, following the opening of the 2006 Young at Art Competition.

Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, Warren Pitt, said the Young At Art competition, formerly known as the Creative Youth Competition, was an outstanding opportunity for Queensland youth to express themselves.

"The Young at Art competition is an initiative of the Department of Communities' Office for Seniors, which aims to bring young people and seniors together, through creative arts," Mr Pitt said.

"With Queensland's rapidly ageing population, initiatives like Young at Art are important to ensure that seniors have the opportunity to actively participate in, and feel connected to, their community."

Mr Pitt said older people contributed to

society in a range of ways, and played an active role in communities as workers, family members, volunteers, carers, mentors and community leaders.

"By participating in the competition, young people can better appreciate the experiences of seniors and their contributions to society," he said.

"Seniors who participate by interacting with young entrants can help to foster mutual respect and understanding, raise awareness of different values and traditions, and promote exploration of different periods of time."

Young people aged 12 to 25 can enter the competition using multimedia, creative writing or visual art to represent their interaction with a person or group of people aged 50 years and over.

"In 2006, the competition theme is 'Never too old!', which highlights the many positive aspects of ageing," Mr Pitt said.

"I encourage young people across the state to start thinking creatively and enter the competition, and I urge seniors to support this initiative by sharing their experiences with young people and helping them to participate.

"Young at Art demonstrates the Queensland Government's commitment to fostering intergenerational relationships to help build strong and connected communities."

Entries close Friday, 23 June 2006 and six competition winners will be presented with a digital camera, valued at approximately \$500, at an awards ceremony to be held in Brisbane later in the year.

Nomination forms are available from the Department of Communities regional offices, seniors and youth organisations, local electoral offices, QGAP Agents or on the Department of Communities web site at [www.communities.qld.gov.au](http://www.communities.qld.gov.au)

For more information contact the Office for Seniors on 1300 132 654.





# Interagency Meetings

Current as at May 2006

## Regional Queensland

### Bundaberg and District Youth Forum

Contact: Anne McWhirter.  
Bundaberg Community Development Inc  
PO Box 2252, Bundaberg Q 4670  
Ph: 07 4153 3066 Fax 4151 1813  
Email: [annem@bcd.org.au](mailto:annem@bcd.org.au)  
Meets the second Tuesday bi-monthly from 9.30-11.30am at Impact Make Your Mark, 106-108 Barga 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](mailto: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.

### Cairns Drug & Alcohol Interagency Network

Convenor: Diane Forsyth  
Contact: Margaret Bradley  
Addiction Help Agency Cairns Inc  
211 Lyons Street, Westcourt Q 4870  
Ph: 07 4051 6262 Fax: 07 4051 6890  
Email: [admin@addictionhelpagency.org.au](mailto:admin@addictionhelpagency.org.au)  
Contact Margaret for meeting times and venue.

### Central and North Burnett Community Services Network

Contact: Andrew Crowther, Community Development Officer,  
Monto Neighbourhood Centre  
Ph: 07 4166 1733 Fax: 07 4166 1061  
Email: [cdom@cybertown.com.au](mailto:cdom@cybertown.com.au)

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

### Central West Youth Network

Contact: Peter Clark  
Anglicare Central Qld Barcaldine  
PO Box 47, Barcaldine Q 4725  
Ph: 07 4651 2161 Fax: 07 4651 2352 Mobile: 0409 053 304  
Email: [pclark@anglicarecq.org.au](mailto:pclark@anglicarecq.org.au)  
Contact Peter for further details.

### Emerald Shire Youth Council

Contact: Melinda Knox, Yth Development Officer  
Emerald Shire Council  
PO Box 21, Emerald Q 4720  
Ph/Fax: 07 4982 0540 Mobile 0427 820 540  
Email: [youthofficer@emerald.qld.gov.au](mailto: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: [andrea@gladstone.qld.gov.au](mailto:andrea@gladstone.qld.gov.au)  
Meets first Wednesday of the month 11am at the Community Advisory Service, 144 Goondoon 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](mailto:suel@herveybay.qld.gov.au)  
Meets last Tuesday of each month 10.30 am.  
Contact Sue for venue.

### Innisfail Community Sector Network

(current as at Feb/March 2006)  
Contact: Community Services Officer  
Ph: 07 4030 2253 Fax: 07 4061 6005  
Email: [cs@isc.qld.gov.au](mailto:cs@isc.qld.gov.au)  
Meets fourth Thursday of every second month 1pm at Parish Centre, Rankin Street, Innisfail

### Mackay Youth Connections Network Inc

Contact: Julie Shuttleworth  
CI- Mackay and District Education Centre  
Ph: 07 4951 1233  
Email: [jpet@madec.org.au](mailto:jpet@madec.org.au)  
Meets third Tuesday of the month 10.30am  
Mackay PCYC

### MaryCAN Inc

(Maryborough Community Action Network)  
Contact: Debra Moore  
Community Development Officer  
Maryborough City Council  
Ph: 07 4190 5822  
Email: [debra.moore@maryborough.qld.gov.au](mailto:debra.moore@maryborough.qld.gov.au)  
Meets last Thursday of the month from 9am at the Maryborough Neighbourhood Centre

### MICAT (Mt Isa Combined Action Team)

Contact: Lynette Drew, Secretary  
Ph: 07 4744 4842 Fax: 07 4745 4573  
Email: [lynette\\_drew@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:lynette_drew@health.qld.gov.au)  
OR Jay Hinchcliffe, Chair, Email: [ysc@isaskills.org](mailto:ysc@isaskills.org)  
Alison Martens, Vice-Chair, Email: [amartens@rds.com.au](mailto:amartens@rds.com.au)  
Shelley Howe, Treasurer, Email: [showe34@eq.edu.au](mailto:showe34@eq.edu.au)  
Meets twice per school term. Details can be obtained from any of the above contacts.

### Nambour Youth Interagency

Contact: Kellie Checkley  
JPET Program, NAMTEC Inc.  
Ph: 5441 1559  
Fax: 5441 7680  
Email: [nambouryouthinteragency@yahoo.com.au](mailto:nambouryouthinteragency@yahoo.com.au)  
Meets Bi-monthly (even months) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at the Nambour PCYC.

### Rockhampton Youth Interagency Network

Contact: Silja-Jade Henaway  
Department of Communities  
Ph: 07 4924 1842 Fax: 07 4924 1843  
Email: [siljajade.henaway@communities.qld.gov.au](mailto:siljajade.henaway@communities.qld.gov.au)  
Meets third Friday of the month 9.00-11.30 am at Community Health Service, Cnr Cambridge & Bolsover Streets, Rockhampton.

### Sarina Interagency Meeting

Contact: Margie Ward  
Sarina Youth Centre  
PO Box 219, Sarina Q 4737  
Ph: 07 4943 2962 Fax: 07 4956 1508  
Email: [youthcentre@mcs.net.au](mailto:youthcentre@mcs.net.au)  
Meets first Wednesday of every second month  
For additional information, please contact Margie on the above details.

### South Burnett Community Network

Contact: South Burnett Community Development Worker  
PO Box 300, Kingaroy Q 4610  
Ph: 07 4162 5711 Fax: 07 4162 5121  
Email: [sbcdp@bigpond.net.au](mailto:sbcdp@bigpond.net.au)  
Meets first Tuesday of the month 10am-12 noon  
Wondai Council Supper Room

### South West Youth Interagency

Contact: Sally Vetter, South West Healthy Communities Program  
PO Box 689, Charleville Q 4470  
Ph: 07 4654 3055 Fax: 07 4654 3022  
Email: [ahpo@swhpc.org](mailto:ahpo@swhpc.org)  
Meets 10am the third Thursday of each month at Charleville Neighbourhood Centre.

### Sunshine Coast Youth Workers

Forum Contact: Amanda Brewer, Plain Clothes Senior Constable,  
Maroochydore Juvenile Aid Bureau, Maroochydore Police Station  
PO Box 1175, Maroochydore Q 4558  
Ph: 07 5475 2485 Fax: 07 5443 8985  
Email: [Brewer.Amandal@police.qld.gov.au](mailto:Brewer.Amandal@police.qld.gov.au)  
Meets quarterly at the Nambour Police & Citizens Youth Club. Contact Amanda for details.

### The Youth Network NQ Inc

Contact: Clea Alcorn  
Ph: 07 4775 7138 Fax: 07 4725 6970  
Email: [clea.alcorn@smithfamily.com.au](mailto:clea.alcorn@smithfamily.com.au)  
Meets third Thursday of the month 9-11am at Blue Bottle Café (opposite The C-Bar).

### **Toowoomba Youth Organisations Network (TYON)**

Contact: Ed Bradbury, Education Qld  
PO Box 38, Toowoomba Q 4350  
Ph: 07 4616 9105 Fax: 07 4616 9100  
Email: [Edward.Bradbury@qed.qld.gov.au](mailto:Edward.Bradbury@qed.qld.gov.au)  
Meets occasionally. Main activity through email discussion ([TYON@discussions.eq.edu.au](mailto:TYON@discussions.eq.edu.au)).  
Contact Ed Bradbury to join discussion list or 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](mailto:pburley@warwick.qld.gov.au)  
Meets quarterly (dates change) at McCarthy House, Warwick Base Hospital, Locke Street, Warwick.

### **Whitsunday Youth Focus**

Contact: Youth Services Officer  
Whitsunday Shire Council  
Ph: 07 4945 0216  
Meetings for this group are presently on hold until a youth services officer is on board. Updated meeting details will be available at the next print of Network Noise expected to be by the end of August.

## **South-East Queensland**

### **Beaudesert Shire Youth Network**

Contact: Youth Development Officer,  
BeauCare  
Ph: 07 5541 4391 Fax: 07 5541 3654  
Email: [youth@beaucare.org.au](mailto:youth@beaucare.org.au)  
Meets at 3pm, the last Thursday of every second month (Feb/Apr/Jun/Aug/Oct/Dec) at Boystown.

### **Brisbane Inner Urban Youth**

#### **Interagency**

Contact: Libby Butler  
Ph: 07 3407 0208  
Email: [libby.butler@brisbane.qld.gov.au](mailto:libby.butler@brisbane.qld.gov.au)  
Meets 10-12 noon first Wednesday of the month.  
Contact Libby Butler 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](mailto: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 Family Connections**

Contact: Ruth Knight (Reconnect Gold Coast)  
PO Box 364, Nerang Q 4211  
Ph: 07 5500 4211  
Email: [gcfc@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gcfc@bigpond.net.au) Web: [www.reconnect.org.au](http://www.reconnect.org.au)  
Meets 9am-11am every first Tuesday of the month at Centacare, 50 Fairways Drive, Clear Island Waters. This network is open to any service provider or individual that works with youth and families in the Gold Coast Region.

### **Gold Coast Youth Network**

Contact: Sylvia Roylance  
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](mailto: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.

### **Goodna Youth Interagency**

Contact: Nicole Morris, Education Support Worker  
- Ipswich  
The Smith Family  
PO Box 10500, Ipswich Q 4305  
Ph 07 3812 1334 Fax: 07 3812 3776  
Email: [Nicole.Morris@smithfamily.com.au](mailto:Nicole.Morris@smithfamily.com.au)  
Meets third Tuesday of the month from 2pm-4pm at the Goodna Arts and Cultural Centre

### **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@iyfs.org.au](mailto:john@iyfs.org.au)  
Meets 12noon second Thursday of the month at Centrelink Office, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
Email: [ASchoone@ipswich.qld.gov.au](mailto:ASchoone@ipswich.qld.gov.au)  
Meets first Tuesday of the month 12.30pm at Ipswich Health Plaza, Bell Street, Ipswich.

### **Life's Worth It-Sandgate**

Contact: Sophie Morson  
Ph: 07 3835 1444  
Email: [sophie\\_morson@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:sophie_morson@health.qld.gov.au)  
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](mailto:francismills@logan.qld.gov.au)  
Contact Francis for details.

### **Northern Gold Coast Interagency**

Contact: Veronica Cox (Studio Village)  
Ph: 07 5529 8253  
Email: [svcc@commail.com.au](mailto:svcc@commail.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: Kym Purcell, Community Project Officer, Pine Rivers Shire Council  
Ph: 07 3480 6469 Fax: 07 3889 7287  
Email: [kym.purcell@pinerivers.qld.gov.au](mailto:kym.purcell@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: Jacqui Pedersen, Redcliffe City Council  
Ph: 07 3283 0285 Fax: 3283 0269  
Email: [jacqui\\_pedersen@redcliffe.qld.gov.au](mailto:jacqui_pedersen@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](mailto:courtneyg@redland.qld.gov.au)  
Meets third Monday of the month 3-4.30pm at Redlands Health Service Centre, Weipin Street, Cleveland.

### **Service Providers Action Group for Youth**

Contact: Martin Turrell  
Picabeen Community Assn Inc for meeting details  
Ph: 07 3354 2555 Fax: 07 3355 4222  
Email: [yiro@picabeen.org.au](mailto:yiro@picabeen.org.au)

### **South East Referral Network**

Contact: Suzanne Perry  
Brisbane South Youth Justice Service  
Ph: 07 3406 2801 Mobile: 0411 653 477  
Email: [suzanne.perry@communities.qld.gov.au](mailto:suzanne.perry@communities.qld.gov.au)  
Meets first Thursday of the month 9.30-11.30 at Department of Communities Conference Room, Ground Floor, Block A & B, Garden Square, Mt Gravatt (opposite cinemas at Garden City)

### **Tweed Shire Youth Network**

Contact: Jessica Walker, Secretary (The Family Centre)  
Ph: 07 5524 8711  
Email: [jessica.walker@fccp.org.au](mailto:jessica.walker@fccp.org.au)  
Every 3 months a half day forum is held. Venue alternates between Murwillumbah and Tweed.  
Contact Jessica for details.

### **Zillmere Youth Organisations Network (ZYON)**

Contact: Kelly Rivas  
Ph: 07 3865 2880  
Email: [yacca.zcc@bigpond.com](mailto:yacca.zcc@bigpond.com)  
Contact Kelly for meeting 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 In fact 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.



Mission Australia

# 2006 Survey of Australia's Young People



Welcome to our fifth annual Survey of Australia's Young People for those aged between 11 & 24. Please complete all the questions. Your answers will assist us to improve services for young people and plan future youth research and resources.

If you, or someone you know, would like to complete an online survey then log on to [www.missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey](http://www.missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey)

**Closing date for surveys – Friday, 16 June 2006**

**Please return to**

Research & Social Policy Unit  
Mission Australia  
GPO Box 3515  
Sydney NSW 2001

**1. How highly do you value the following?**

(Please rank from 1 to 10 using each number only once  
- 1 being the *most highly valued* and 10 being *least valued*)

1. Being independent	
2. Environmental issues	
3. Feeling needed and valued	
4. Financial security	
5. Family relationships	
6. Friendships (other than family)	
7. Getting a job	
8. Peer acceptance	
9. School or study satisfaction	
10. Spirituality / faith	
Other (please state)	

**2. How important / concerning are the following issues**

**for you?** (Please rank from 1 to 12 using each number only once  
- 1 being the *most important issue* and 12 being the *least important*)

1. Alcohol & other drug issues	
2. Body image	
3. Bullying / emotional abuse	
4. Coping with stress	
5. Depression	
6. Discrimination	
7. Family conflict	
8. Physical / sexual abuse	
9. School or study problems	
10. Self harm	
11. Sexuality	
12. Suicide	
Other (please state)	

**3. If you need help with a personal problem, where do you turn for advice and support?**

(Please rank from 1 to 10 using each number only once  
- 1 being the person/place you are *most comfortable* turning to and 10 being the *least comfortable*)

1. Community agencies (eg youth worker etc)	
2. Friend/s	
3. Internet	
4. Magazines	
5. Parent/s	
6. Relative / family friend	
7. School counsellor	
8. Someone else in your community (eg doctor, church minister etc)	
9. Teacher	
10. Telephone helpline	
Other (please state)	

**4. Is there enough information available on issues that concern you?**

Yes ☐ 1 No ☐ 2

**5. If no, what issues would you like more information about?**


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**6. Are you involved in any of the following groups / activities?** (tick all the boxes that apply)

Arts / cultural (eg drama, music, dance)		1.
Environmental		2.
Religious		3.
Sports		4.
Student Rep. Council		5.
Volunteer		6.
Youth groups & clubs		7.
Other (please state)		8.

**7. Name 3 people or organisations that you admire.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**8. What is your main source of income?** (tick one box only)

Employment		1.
Parents / Family		2.
Government allowance		3.
Other (please state)		4.

**9. Do you have paid work?** (tick one box only)

Working full-time		1.
Working part-time		2.
Casual work ( <i>temporary/ not permanent</i> )		3.
Unemployed / looking for work		4.
Choose not to work		5.

**10. Are you studying?** (tick one box only)

Studying full-time		1.
Studying part-time		2.
Not studying		3.

**11. Where do you currently live?** (tick one box only)

With family		1.
Share house		2.
Alone		3.
Homeless / insecure housing		4.
Other eg boarding, foster care, detention (please state)		5.

**12. Please complete the following:**

Your age (in years)		1.
Gender (F/M)		2.
The State you live in		3.
Language/s other than English spoken at home (please state)		4.

**13. Do you identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?**

Yes ☐ 1 No ☐ 2

**14. Do you live in Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Darwin, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth or Sydney?**

Yes ☐ 1 No ☐ 2



## QUEENSLAND IS THE *ONLY* STATE IN AUSTRALIA TO TREAT 17 YEAR-OLDS AS ADULTS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Queensland 17 year-old children continue to be dealt with as adults by the criminal courts.

Queensland's current practice is inconsistent with the UN *Convention on the Rights of the Child* which says that 17 year-olds are to be treated as children. On September 30, 2005, the United Nations, through its Committee on the Rights of the Child, singled Queensland's justice system out for criticism.

In its concluding observations on the report submitted by the Commonwealth about Australia's implementation of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, the UN noted its concern that "in Queensland, persons of 17 in conflict with the law may be tried as adults in particular cases". It then went on to recommend that 17 year-olds be removed from the adult justice system in Queensland.

The "Women in Prison" report released on 8th March 2006 by the Anti-Discrimination Commission of Queensland (ADCQ) also calls on the Queensland Government to take immediate action to transfer 17 year-olds from adult prisons to Youth Justice facilities. The ADCQ report clearly demonstrates that the Queensland Government is breaching the human rights of Queensland children.

The "Women in Prison" report by the Anti-Discrimination Commission of Queensland recommends that "the Queensland Government immediately legislates to ensure that the age at which a child reaches adulthood for the purpose of criminal law in Queensland be 18 years". The Commission also recommends that "it is not in the best interest of 17 year-old offenders to be placed in an adult prison, or for correctional authorities to place a female 17 year-old offender in a protection unit of an adult prison. The Queensland Government and correctional authorities should take immediate steps to cease this practice."

The treatment of our 17 year-olds in our system goes in the face of all the recent child protection reforms in Queensland and Premier Beattie's commitment that, during the current term in office, he will focus his Government's efforts on child protection issues.

Fourteen 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."

Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc (YANQ) hopes that the Queensland Government will listen to the growing voices of concern. We encourage the Government to do all it can to bring Queensland out of the dark ages and up to national and international standards of justice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS ISSUE VISIT THE *CAMPAIGN* SECTION OF  
[www.yanq.org.au](http://www.yanq.org.au)



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## youth affairs network qld

### \*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 \_\_\_\_\_ P'code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

#### Individual/Young person *please tick* Year of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Receive Centrelink ☐ \$5.00  
Young Person (aged 12-25) ☐ \$10.00  
Income < \$25,000 ☐ \$15.00  
Income \$25,000 - \$50,000 ☐ \$40.00  
Income > \$50,000 ☐ \$50.00

Do you identify as being from ATSI, Anglo/Celtic or other CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) background. Please specify.....

#### \*Organisational Membership

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person Title \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ P'code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

#### Community not-for-profit Organisation *please tick*

Funding <\$100,000 ☐ \$55.00  
Funding \$100,000-\$250,000 ☐ \$80.00  
Funding \$250,000-\$400,000 ☐ \$120.00  
Funding >\$400,000 ☐ \$150.00  
**For Profit Organisation** ☐ \$165.00

Does the organisation specifically work with ATSI, Anglo/Celtic or other CALD background. Please specify.....

#### \*Subscriber

Department/Service \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person Title \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ P'code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (W) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

#### Subscription *please tick*

Community **Not For Profit** Organisation ☐ \$160.00  
**For Profit** Organisations ☐ \$200.00  
**Government Department or Service** ☐ \$185.00  
(State, Federal, or Local)  
**Individual** [Year of birth \_\_\_\_\_] ☐ \$60.00  
Do you identify as being from ATSI, Anglo/Celtic or other CALD (Culturally & Linguistically Diverse) background. Please specify.....

Does the organisation specifically work with ATSI, Anglo/Celtic or other CALD background. Please specify.....

Do you attend/are a member (*please indicate*) of a youth interagency YES NO *please circle*

Name of Interagency .....

**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

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Name on Card

Expiry Date

Amount

Signature

**IF YOU REQUIRE A RECEIPT PLEASE TICK THIS BOX** ☐

I enclose \$ ..... 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 .....

**HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT YANQ:**.....

#### OFFICE USE ONLY:

Membership ID.....

Receipt No.....

Web User ID .....

Web Password .....



**youth affairs network qld**  
ABN 28 205 281 339

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## **Membership/Subscription Application Form**

### **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. Focusing 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.