

Centrelink and IR – A Rock and Hard Place

By David Powell, Network Development Officer, YANQ

What's the Problem

From July 1 this year, the Federal Government turned the screws further on social security recipients. Many readers will be aware of the more controversial changes to the system that include increased 'activity' testing, reduced payments and increased penalties for non-compliance for single parents and people with disabilities.

But the new regime also holds threats for others, including young people, that

aren't single parents or who do not have a disability. Most prominent among these is the reintroduction of extremely harsh penalties to those that fail to jump through the Government's hoops. This time though young people won't be 'breached', they'll receive a 'participation failure' instead. Different words, but the same (if not worse) outcome – i.e. Immediate loss of payment for 8 weeks for

left to fend for themselves...

For young people caught in this system, the outcomes can be disastrous and counter-productive. This is especially so for young people from families living on low incomes, that are at risk of disengaging from school or who have strained or severed relationships with their family. Researchⁱⁱⁱ into the previous

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young people protesting against the IR legislation on 1 June

serious 'failures' and (potentially) immediate withdrawal of payments for less serious failures until the person re-engages in the system. In addition to this, social security recipients that incur three failures in a 12 month period will also have their payments stopped for 8 weeks.ⁱ

Estimates in a report published by the National Association of Community Legal Centresⁱⁱ suggest that 18,000 people will have their payments suspended for 8 weeks in the first 12 months of this regime. However, only 4,000 of these will receive 'case management' services from charities, community welfare organisations or Centrelink. This additional service will assist those who have had their payments cut to meet their essential expenses (e.g. rent, food, clothing). The other 14,000, it seems, will be

system of breaches found that "the impact of activity requirements and any associated sanctions such as breaching are likely to exacerbate the disadvantage" experienced by this group of young people and make it more difficult for them to stay involved in education, maintain contact with family and friends or obtain work.

What's IR got to do with it?

It's difficult to escape the conclusion that, when considered in the context of the recent changes to the Industrial Relations system in Australia, these changes are more about creating a compliant and low-paid labour force than increasing the living standards and well-being of low-income or marginalised Australians. For instance, Centrelink considers refusal to sign an AWA a

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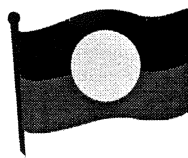
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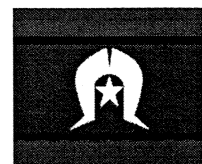
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YANQ believes that the primary culture of Australia is Aboriginal.

We recognise that Aboriginal, Torres Strait
Islander and South Sea Islander people are

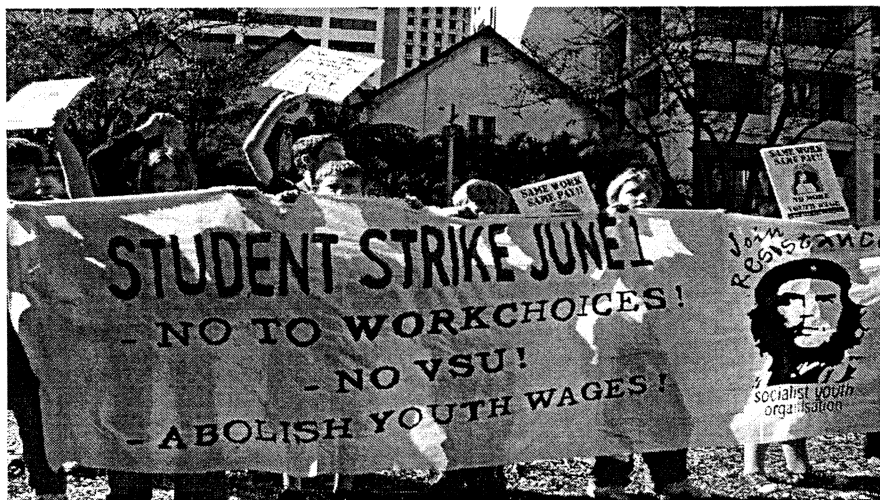


3 separate cultures. We recognise Aboriginal people as the permanent custodians of mainland Australia and Torres Strait Islanders as permanent custodians of the Torres Strait Islands that are an integral part of Australia, including those areas of land and sea whose owners have been wiped out as a result 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 individuals, Murri and Islander communities. 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.

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serious 'participation failure' and will dock 8 weeks of payments for anyone brave enough to stand up for their rights. Being dismissed for misconduct is also considered a serious failure and will result in loss of payments for 8 weeks—but under the new IR legislation it will be very difficult to prove that a person was not dismissed for misconduct if this is what the employer alleges.

So for many social security recipients looking for work, they'll be forced to accept jobs that offer poor conditions and put up with them, regardless of the social and emotional costs that those jobs extract.



young people protesting against the IR legislation on 1 June

Where can I get More Information?

For those working with young people who would like more information about the changes, the Welfare Rights Centre (WRC), and the National Welfare Rights Network are good sources of information. The WRC in Queensland can be found online at www.wrcqld.org.au. Their publications page at <http://www.wrcqld.org.au/publications.htm> includes 3 handbooks with easy-to-read explanations of the new system. Hardcopies of this can also be obtained (on a first-come-first-serve basis) by phoning WRC on 3847 5532.

Recently the Department of Communities also paid for Queensland wide Access to the National Welfare Rights Network's Social Security Handbook Online.

This resource will give you detailed and up to date information that can help you to

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Staying Out But Staying On: Students in Logan-Beenleigh Secondary Schools with Unstable Accommodation Arrangements

By Paul Ainsworth, May 2005

(Summary by Wally Dethlefs)

This report is concerned with the target group of young people experiencing the initial stages of the homelessness drift who hold on to school. It focuses on the fragile nature of the institutional relationship schools conduct with homeless students, and examines the institutional capacities and links that schools must develop in order to hold young people in school and effectively provide the range of resources to support their successful transition to adult life. In particular, this report identifies three key strategies for secondary schools in the Logan-Beenleigh area, and discusses contextual factors and issues affecting their effective application, and makes specific recommendations regarding their implementation.

Three Key Strategies

1. Emergency accommodation option – community placement model

The Logan-Beenleigh area's lack of local emergency accommodation is the most obvious community need. The report argues that the community placement approach to providing emergency, medium and long-term accommodation by utilizing local families to provide homes for students is an appropriate response. To be effective, a community placement service would require a management system capable of recruiting, screening, selecting and training appropriate families to provide safe, secure and caring homes for students.

2. School based case management

The central issue for schools when reaching out to welfare organizations on behalf of their students is to link external services and coordinate them with services provided at school. This inevitably involves some kind of school-based case management system capable of referral to appropriate welfare agencies, and monitoring student progress. The report explores the issues in case management practice and sets out the characteristics of effective case management protocols and procedures.

3. Study Support

Many homeless students recognize that success at school is critical to realizing aspirations. By monitoring academic performance and providing additional study support schools can ensure homeless students maintain the level of academic progress necessary to secure their desired life course beyond school. The report examines after school programs and mentoring options and discusses the characteristics of programs offering holistic package of academic, emotional development, cultural and recreational learning experiences to support vulnerable students.

Youth Homelessness - Career Model

PHASES	TRANSITIONS
Students at risk	Tentative break
Student "in and out"	Permanent break
Homeless student	Drop out of school
Homeless, unemployed	Transition to chronicity
Chronic homelessness	

Schools can be a central and stable institution for many homeless students offering long-term relations, educational and social resources, and also more immediate advocacy and access to essential welfare services to support their efforts at school.

After family, the responsive school represents the next important institution for homeless students, and in most cases, their relationship with school will be more significant and enduring than relationships conducted with welfare service providers.

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assist young people as they navigate the social security system. You can get access to this resource by visiting <http://www.welfarerights.org.au/> and clicking on the links to the 'Independent Social Security Handbook Online'.

Two Things that Can be Done...

1. Register your support by visiting the ACOSS website at <http://www.acoss.org.au> and using their 'Take Action' tool to inform your local Member of Parliament that you support the rights of social security recipients to a fair go.

2. Talk to YANQ – we will be seeking any opportunities we can, along with Youth Peaks across the country, to advocate for changes. To do this well we need to hear how young people that you work with experience Centrelink, and what impact this has on their lives. Phone us on 3844 7713 or 1800 177 899 (for regional members) or e-mail David (ndo@yanq.org.au) at YANQ with your stories and experiences.

ⁱThis information obtained from Welfare Rights Centre. 2006. Welfare to Where? Participation and Compliance Handbook. Available online:

http://www.wrcqld.org.au/pdf/Participation_and_Compliance_Handbook.pdf.

ⁱⁱCoad, M, Finlay, J., Raper, M. & Thomas, G. 2006. Welfare to Work or Unworkable Welfare?. Available online:

http://www.welfarerights.org.au/syd-ney/NACLC_welfarework.pdf.

ⁱⁱⁱKerr, L. & Savelsberg, H. Breaching and Disadvantaged Young People: The Social and Financial Impacts. University of South Australia. Available online:

<http://www.sapo.org.au/binary144/Breaching.pdf>

(cont. from page 3)—**Staying Out But...**

For that reason, school represents the logical point of coordination for service provision.

Research Design

A survey instrument was developed. Eighteen secondary schools, eight state and ten non-state, faith-based schools, in the Logan-Beenleigh area were selected to participate. There were six sections to the survey that requested a mix of quantitative and qualitative data.

Initially, it was anticipated that the researcher would collect the quantitative data on the survey instrument, and at the same visit, conduct the qualitative interviews concerning schools' experience and the three strategies.

By the time eleven schools had participated it became apparent that retrieving accurate quantitative data for the survey was extremely difficult and time consuming for most schools. The decision

was taken to abandon the gathering of quantitative data and continue to collect the qualitative data with remaining schools wishing to participate in the research.

At the conclusion of data gathering, 12 of the 18 secondary schools had taken part by contributing data concerning their experiences with homeless students as well as assessment of the 3 strategies.

Four other data sources were included in the form of qualitative interviews – Bridges Reconnect (federally funded family mediation service in Logan), The Spot Community Services (Logan youth service trialling emergency accommodation facilities in Browns Plains), a Youth Support Coordinator and The Smith Family.

The interviews with Bridges Reconnect and Youth Support Coordinators were particularly relevant to developing

guidelines for the school-based case management strategy, and the interview with "The Spot" was invaluable in developing the Community Placement strategy. The Smith Family interview was very useful in thinking through the issues surrounding homework programs, the variety of activities provided in after school programs, the use of community volunteers as mentors and the necessary school-community linkages needed to develop effective programs.

Circumstances and needs of homeless students

When the insights of the youth at risk, school engagement and precarious institutional relationship perspectives are combined with those of the homelessness literature it is possible to create a profile of the potential range of circumstances and needs of homeless students. These are set out in the table below.

Disconnection from Family	"At risk" vulnerabilities and behaviours	Nature of school engagement	Range of potential needs
Unresolved conflict Loosening of ties to family Periodic stays away from home Final break with family Seeks independent living	<u>Vulnerabilities</u> Dropping out of school Dropping out of family Failure to acquire basic literacy skills Becoming jobless Potential for abuse and exploitation <u>Behaviours</u> Criminal activity Substance abuse Health (mental, sexual etc)	<u>Behavioural</u> Challenging behaviours Strained ability to participate & attend <u>Emotional</u> Strained relations with teachers & peers <u>Cognitive</u> Strained ability to engage curriculum & acquire skills, pursue academic interest & career direction	<u>Accommodation</u> Emergency (local) Medium to long term Accommodation support service <u>Welfare services</u> Family mediation/counselling Health (substance abuse, mental & sexual) <u>School support</u> Career guidance Vocational placement Academic support Counselling (social & emotional) Peer support Recreational activities

From needs to strategies

The needs described above point to three strategic areas of service:

Accommodation options in the Logan-Beenleigh area - community placement model

The community placement approach to the provision of emergency, medium and long-term accommodation utilizes local families to provide homes for students. It requires a management system capable of recruiting, screening, selecting and training appropriate

families to provide safe, secure and caring homes for students. An effective system is also able to meet the needs of both the families and the young people, make the placements, monitor the well being of students and their host families and prepare the way for students to move on to the next accommodation arrangement. It is the favoured model for the following reasons:

- It builds on the informal arrangements where many homeless students stay with the families of their friends

- Schools can assist by reaching out to their school communities for appropriate volunteer families
- It is not a bricks and mortar solution to homelessness – it is not the core of business of Education Queensland to establish and manage crisis facilities, however, the department and schools can play an assistance and support role to a community placement service.

The capacities of an effective community placement service are set out in the

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Police cautioning in Queensland: the impact on juvenile offending pathways

By Susan Dennison, Anna Stewart and Emily Hurren
Australian Institute of Criminology February 2006
(Summary by Wally Dethlefs)

Formal, rather than informal cautions form the basis of this study. According to the *Juvenile Justice Act* 1992, a caution is typically administered in cases of offending that are non-serious, though a caution can be administered in a case of serious offending at the discretion of the police officer.

While labelling theory was originally one of the key justifications for juvenile diversion, this theory has encountered varying levels of popularity, and empirical findings have often been inconsistent (Bernburg & Krohn 2003).

In the Australian context, some additional anticipated benefits of diversion were that the processing of juveniles would be less expensive and more expedient, and the process would become much simpler (Wundersitz 1997).

Finally, as the majority of cases would not result in a court appearance, court resources could be more efficiently applied to the remaining more serious offenders requiring more intensive and considered state intervention (Wundersitz 1997).

Research questions

The current study addressed four specific research questions:

1. What proportion of young people who are cautioned have re-contact for an offence as a juvenile?
2. For young people who are cautioned, are sex, age of caution, and maltreatment contact risk factors for re-contact with the juvenile justice system for an offence?
3. Are young people who are cautioned for their first offence more likely to have re-contact with the juvenile justice system than young people who go to court for their first offence?
4. Do multi-agency contacts impact on the seriousness of a young person's offending?

Method

Research Data

This project uses three Queensland Government administrative datasets. Data was collected on contacts by children born in 1983 and 1984. Information on juvenile offending contacts was obtained from two sources, the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and Department of Families (DoF). Data from DoF included all recorded cases of juvenile offending which resulted in the young person appearing in court or being held in custody. The QPS data included all recorded police cautions for juvenile offending. History of child maltreatment was identified by examining DoF data for any child maltreatment notifications recorded before a child turned 17 years of age.

Research Sample

There were 14,730 children in the two birth cohorts who were cautioned between the ages of 10 and 16. These children received 19,299 cautions and 30,133 charges. On the basis of population statistics, 20% of boys compared with 10% of girls were cautioned.

Results

1. What proportion of young people who are cautioned have re-contact for an offence as a juvenile?

Of the 14,472 young people who initially received a police caution, the majority (69%) did not have offending re-contact. Of children who did have re-contact, 49% received a further caution.

2. For young people who are cautioned, are sex, age of caution, and maltreatment contact risk factors for re-contact with the juvenile justice system for an offence?

Cautioned males were almost twice as likely as females to have re-contact, with

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Kate Morioka

YANQ Multicultural Development Officer

My job at YANQ is to...

- Advocate and carry out research on the needs of young people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds

- Increase the capacity of young people from CALD backgrounds to participate in policy making and develop the cultural competency of youth workers in Queensland

- Develop a state-wide strategy for combating racism against young people from CALD backgrounds

- Organise the annual ERACISM! Forum

- Coordinate Multicultural Youth Network Queensland (MYNQ)

When I'm not at YANQ I...

- Train and compete as a dragon boat paddler for Redcliffe Dragon Boat Club

- Try to learn about the culture and people of the Pacific islands (I think I should be reborn as a Pacific Islander!)

- Draw, paint and make documentaries

- Volunteer as the executive director of a youth-run organisation called Youth for a Sustainable Future Pacifica

- Sleep! Not because I'm tired but because I love dreaming! (I'm notoriously known for my day-jas)

Drink Spiking

Drink spiking is a concern that the media has highlighted in recent times. In fact, it's not a new issue – many older readers will remember the term "Mickey Finn" for a "doctored" drink.

How often does it happen?

It can be difficult to estimate. The number of suspected cases reported to authorities in Australia in 2002/03 was between 3000-4000. Approximately one third of these incidents involved sexual assault; and between 15-19 suspected drink spiking incidents occurred per 100,000 persons in Australia during 2002/03.

However, unless medical assistance is sought, or police are notified, cases aren't recorded – so this number may be a gross underestimate. The Australian Institute of Criminology supports this. Only 25% of victims ringing a designated hotline actually reported the incident to the police. Another 20-40% reported to a hospital or a doctor.

What are the risks?

The potential consequences of drink spiking can be severe, both physically and emotionally, depending on the type of additive used and the motivation of the perpetrator. A primary risk is over-intoxication; memory loss, nausea and dizziness can occur. Dangerous physical consequences may follow: over-depression of the brain or CNS - leading to respiratory (breathing) suppression and coma is an example. Impaired judgment and behavioral abnormalities are also frequent – people behave in ways they would not ordinarily consider. This may also render them vulnerable to others - predators –

assault and rape are often the intention of a drink spiking.

What is used?

Despite much publicity of other drugs, alcohol is by far the most frequently used substance – both in spiking a non-alcoholic drink or the doubling-up of an intended one. Rohypnol, known as the 'date rape drug' is used here in Australia less often than feared. Other substances that have been used include gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB, known as fantasy or liquid ecstasy) and ketamine (a veterinary tranquiliser, known as Special K). The risks of mixing alcohol and these substances are often far greater than the risk of each substance alone. Sadly, some instances of deliberate self-use have been reported. In all cases, a victim is left at great disadvantage unable to avoid dangerous situations or assault.

How can you tell?

The substances mentioned above can be very difficult to detect in drinks – they are often colourless, odourless and tasteless. People should watch for signs of heavier-than-expected intoxication - disorientation, lack of coordination, lack of response to others, loss of consciousness in more severe cases. Other than alcohol, these substances can be difficult to test for – they have a short half life in the bloodstream, so that by the time tests are done, often nothing is detectable.

How can people avoid it?

People should carefully monitor their drinks – alcoholic or otherwise – and those of their friends. This includes making sure that they don't lose track of how much alcohol they have consumed. Don't allow strangers to buy

or provide drinks. Watch the drinks and don't leave them unattended at any time. Watch for strangers hanging around the group.

Importantly, people should keep an eye out for their friends – don't let them out of sight if they are showing signs of intoxication or incapacitation. Get them home safely, with a designated driver, or supervised by someone trustworthy.

If a drink spiking is suspected, call an ambulance immediately. Let them know what has happened, and if possible give them the drink that is suspect so it can be tested.

References:

Drink Spiking Fact Sheet: Centre for Addiction Research & Education, DRUG ARM Australasia, February 2006

Drug Testing Fact Sheet: Centre for Addiction Research & Education, DRUG ARM Australasia, June 2005
Beyond "drink spiking": drug and alcohol facilitated sexual assault, Alexandra Neame, Australian Institute of Family Studies, November 2003
<http://www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/pubs/briefing/b2.html>

National project on drink spiking: investigating the nature and extent of drink spiking in Australia, Taylor N, Prichard J & Charlton K., Australian Institute of Criminology, 2004
<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/reports/2004-11-drinkspiking.html>

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POLICE MOVE ON POWERS

With the new legislation for Police Move On Powers coming into effect from Thursday 1 June, 2006, Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House Inc (QPILCH) has produced an up-to-date information flyer.

Also on the information flyer is the list of Homeless Persons' Legal Clinics held by QPILCH. That information flyer has been copied on white paper and inserted with this edition of *Network Noise* so that it can be easily copied for distribution.

CALD MATTERS

Culturally And Linguistically Diverse

There is No Room for Racism

CALD Young People's experiences of racism in the Queensland housing sector

Having a roof over one's head is a basic human right, just as having food to eat and water to drink is essential to one's survival as a human being. But what if you are denied of finding a place to live because of your skin colour, language or the way you dress?

Well, this is not a case unfamiliar to young people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. There has been a report of a young African refugee in Queensland being told by a real estate agent that there are no places available for rent even though they had a full list of rental properties!

With the rapid population growth driving up the housing prices in Queensland, young people are finding it difficult to find an affordable, safe and accessible place to live. But if you are a young person from a CALD background, then you face the additional challenge of being discriminated against: a) because you are 'young' and b) because you *look* or *sound* different.

Previous studies have found that very few young people from CALD backgrounds are likely to be informed about how to report racist incidents and the fact that reporting an incident is less of a priority than finding a place to live, there are difficulties in obtaining data related to CALD young people's actual experiences of racism in the housing sector.

As a first step to assess and document the types of difficulties experienced by CALD young people in securing housing, YANQ's Multicultural Development Officer undertook consultations with youth and community service providers in southeast Queensland.

A total of 16 youth and community workers participated in a discussion on housing and CALD young people at the Multicultural Youth Network Queensland (MYNQ) meeting in June. Their concerns highlighted the evident gap in housing information and support, and living conditions for CALD young people. The issues identified at the MYNQ meeting included:

1. *Self-identification of homelessness and verification of identity*

- There are difficulties in identifying appropriate housing support services for CALD young people if their 'documented' age does not match their biological age. Some CALD young people have multiple names on their documentation which create difficulties when verifying their identity to access social services such as Centrelink.
- Some CALD young people do not self identify themselves as being homeless. For example, a CALD young person who sleeps in a public park does not feel that he/she is homeless because they see the park as being a safe and familiar place.

2. *Access to Interpreting Services*

- There is no guarantee of long-term availability of fee-free interpreting services.
- Cost and quality of interpreting services needs to be considered, particularly to support CALD young people in finding housing.

3. *Communication, Information and Support*

- Lack of community awareness about CALD young people and their housing needs.
- There is limited information and understanding within certain CALD communities on Centrelink's youth allowance for young people. This has resulted in some CALD families expressing their concern that Centrelink is actually encouraging their children to move out of home. Centrelink has informed families that all young people who seek financial assistance from Centrelink are required to be assessed by a Centrelink officer/counsellor regarding their family circumstances before a decision can be made as to whether he/she is eligible to access Centrelink's youth allowance.
- There needs to be a clear explanation given to refugee families about the settlement processes, including processes for accessing social services to prevent family breakdowns, which subsequently leads to young people moving out of their family home.
- CALD young people who move out of home are at serious risk of being in debt.
- CALD young people have no or very few referees when applying for private rental accommodation.

4. *Housing Type and Location*

- There are reported cases of overcrowding within CALD households.
- Limited access to transport and other related support services can contribute to social isolation of CALD young people.

The issues identified at the MYNQ meeting will inform the development of a discussion paper on CALD young people, housing and racism. In the next couple of months, YANQ's Multicultural Development Officer will also consult Indigenous and CALD young people in regional areas to document their stories on racism. The findings of the consultation will be brought into community debate and discussion at the **state-wide ERACISM! (Erase Racism) Forum in Toowoomba on Friday 20th of October.** For more details, please contact Kate Morioka on 07 3844 7713 or at cald@yanq.org.au

¹See O'Conner, I., Gowing, A. and MacDonald, C. (1994) *Accommodating Difference: The Accommodation and Support Needs of Young People from a Non-English Speaking Background in Southeast Queensland*. University of Queensland, Brisbane.

(cont from page 5) **Police cautioning....**

36% of cautioned boys having re-contact compared with only 22% of girls

Additionally, cautioned young people who had re-contact were significantly younger (13.99) at their first caution than cautioned young people who did not have re-contact (14.79).

Just over 7% (1041) of young people cautioned has a maltreatment contact. These children were almost four times more likely to have offending re-contact than children who had no maltreatment contact. Of young people who were cautioned and also had a maltreatment contact, just over 60% had offending re-contact compared with only 29% of young people with no maltreatment contact.

The majority (82%) of Indigenous males who had maltreatment contact and were cautioned had offending re-contact, compared with 66% of non-Indigenous males. Similar findings were apparent for Indigenous females with 74% of Indigenous girls with maltreatment contact having offending re-contact after receiving a police caution, compared with 47% of non-Indigenous females.

It is apparent from these figures that while the majority of young people who are cautioned do not have offending re-contact before the age of 17 years, children who have been maltreated and then come into contact with the police for a caution are more likely to have offending re-contact than no further contact with the juvenile justice system. This is particularly apparent for Indigenous children regardless of sex.

3. Are young people who are cautioned for their first offence more likely to have re-contact with the juvenile justice system than young people who go to court for their first offence?

Overall, 1634 young people appeared in court at their first contact who could have been cautioned and 14,573 young people were cautioned at their first contact. Of the young people who were cautioned, 31% had re-contact. When compared with young people who were cautioned on their first contact, significantly more young people (42%) whose first contact resulted in a finalized court appearance had re-contact.

Young women who were cautioned were less likely to have re-contact

(22%) than young women who went to court (36%). However Indigenous young women who went to court were more likely to have re-contact (53%) than non-Indigenous young women who went to court (28%). Similar patterns were evidenced for young males.

Less than 50% of cautioned young people would have re-contact by the time 300 weeks had passed. However, almost 80% of young offenders who appeared in court for their first contact would have re-contact in the same time period. Furthermore, the young offenders who appeared in court have re-contact earlier, with 50% having re-contact within 100 weeks compared with only 20% of cautioned offenders.

4. Do multi-agency contacts impact on the seriousness of a young person's offending?

Of young people with offending contacts, those with maltreatment contacts are almost 5 times more likely to have received a supervised order than young people with no maltreatment contact. Males were more than twice as likely as females to receive a supervised order by the age of 17. Young people with offending contacts who were not cautioned on their first contact but appeared in court were more than 7 times more likely to receive a supervised outcome than young people who were cautioned on their first contact.

While Indigenous status could not be included in the analysis, examination of the available data indicated that Indigenous young people were more likely to receive a supervised order across all conditions, compared with non-Indigenous young people.

Discussion

Findings

1. While 15% of children from the birth cohorts were cautioned, the majority of these young people did not have re-contact for an offence before 17 years of age. These results support Challinger's (1981) conclusion that police cautioning may be an effective cost saving strategy in relation to young offenders, compared with the costs associated with processing these children through the court system.

2. For young people who were cautioned, sex, age of caution, and maltreatment contact were significant risk

factors for offending re-contact. Males were almost twice as likely to have re-contact as females and those young people who had re-contact were younger at their first caution than children who did not have re-contact. Maltreatment contact was a significant risk factor for offending re-contact, with maltreatment contact children being almost four times as likely to have offending re-contact subsequent to a caution compared with children with no maltreatment contact. Maltreatment contact may serve as an indicator that a child is exposed to a number of circumstances that place them at risk of offending re-contact (Stewart, Dennison & Waterson 2002).

3. Young people whose first offence contact resulted in a court appearance were more likely to have re-contact, and to do so sooner, than those who were cautioned at their first contact.

4. In terms of seriousness of offending, a history of maltreatment contact, being male, and appearing in court for first contact, were factors that increased the likelihood of a young person eventually receiving a supervised order for an offending re-contact. However, across the maltreatment and sex categories, appearing in court for a first offence contact rather than being cautioned was a significant risk factor for the most serious offending outcome.

Conclusions

1. The majority of children are being cautioned for their first offence contact, and that of these children, the majority do not have re-contact prior to the age of 17 years. Therefore, diverting children away from the court system is likely to be an efficient way of responding to young people on their first contact.

2. When comparing children who were cautioned for a first contact with children who went to court for a first contact but appeared to be eligible for cautioning, children who were cautioned fared better in terms of likelihood of re-contact, frequency of re-contact and most serious sentencing outcomes. We can suggest that cautioning does not appear to increase offending contacts relative to those young people whose first contact was a finalized court appearance.

Policy Implications

1. Formal police cautioning is not suffi-

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cient if it is used as a crime prevention strategy in the presence of other risk factors. Children who have contacts across multiple systems fare worse in terms of offending re-contact and eventual detention orders.

2. If police cautioning is used for the majority of children, then the timing of the caution may be an opportunity to engage children and their families in targeted crime prevention programs.

However, intensive or high-resource intervention programs should be limited to those children with multiple risk factors. A whole-of-government approach is required to address children's experiences across multiple systems.

Dr Susan Dennison is a Lecturer and Anna Stewart is an Associate Professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University. Emily Hurren was a research assistant on the project.

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table below:

Capacities of an effective community placement service	Details
Provides local emergency accommodation	Allows students to remain close to school
Draws on informal community networks	Formalises stays with local families particularly in school communities
Coordinates with schools & welfare agencies	Becomes part of continuum of care built around young person
Offers appropriate accommodation for young people out of home for the first time	More appropriate than SAAP crisis shelters located out of the local area
Provides "time out" periods for local family mediation service	Links and supports local reconnect and family counselling services
Works with natural parents	Negotiates the student placement and facilitates support for parents
Complements other housing providers to avoid lack of exits from emergency stay	Links with <i>The Shack</i> and medium to long term community housing providers for students who choose to live independently
Conforms to child protection standards	Recruits, screens, selects and trains host families
Prepares students for independent living	Works with schools to help students acquire necessary skills for successful independent living
Has secure, long-term funds	Pilot requires three years secure funds

Recommendation One – Emergency Accommodation

It is recommended that a trial of the community placement service be conducted in the Logan-Beenleigh area for a three year period in response to the lack of local emergency accommodation for young people of school age.

A community placement service in the Logan-Beenleigh area that proves its effectiveness in creating safe and

appropriate short term crisis accommodation to students would not only respond to needs recognized by schools and community organisations, as the research has shown, but would also respond to needs identified in the core business activities of the following state and federal departments: Commonwealth Department of Families and Community Services (FACS); Queensland Department of Child Safety; Queensland Department of Communi-

ties and Education Queensland.

2. School based case management

The central issue for schools when reaching out to welfare organizations on behalf of their students is to link external services and coordinate them with their own services. This inevitably involves some kind of school-based case management system capable of referral to appropriate welfare agencies, and monitoring student progress.

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Federal Budget Priorities Miss the Mark for Young People

The Federal budget was released earlier this month, with 55% of spending allocated to personal tax cuts and allowing for a budget surplus of approximately \$10 billion.

Unfortunately it provided relatively little investment in young people. This is not surprising given the rapidly diminishing profile young people's issues enjoy at a Federal level since the abolishment of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, the dramatic sizing back of the National Youth Roundtable and the de-funding of the national youth peak body.

Whilst the budget does include some positive initiatives such as new spending on mental health and drug and alcohol services, they are countered by a focus on tightening compliance measures for young people accessing social security payments and the further promotion of a user pays higher education system. Below is a snapshot of some of the key Federal budget implications for young people.

Expanding Fraud and Compliance measures

The Government will spend \$10.6 million over four years increasing the number of fraud and compliance tests that will be carried out by Centrelink on Youth Allowance, ABSTUDY and AUSTUDY recipients. The number of risk profiled reviews for Youth Allowance recipients will be increased from 35,000 to 75,000 a year and from 5,000 to 10,000 a year for AUSTUDY recipients. The Government anticipates this will generate savings of \$73.0 million, leading to net savings of \$62.4 million over for years.

Funding has also been dedicated to increasing the number of Youth Allowance, AUSTUDY and ABSTUDY recipients to be targeted by the rolling random survey program for student payments. The random review of the circumstances of income support recipients will be expanded from 1,500 to 2,000 per year for Youth Allowance recipients and from 500 to 1,000 per year for AUSTUDY payments. The number of ABSTUDY reviews will sit at 750 per year. Whilst the Government anticipates this will generate savings of \$7.2 million dollars, the costs of implementing the extended measures sits at

\$9.6 million, resulting in a net cost of \$2.4 million over the next four years.

The Government also expects to generate savings of \$1.8 million by tightening compliance measures for Indigenous students receiving ABSTUDY payments by linking payment to attendance and introducing a measure through which payment of the School Term Allowance for terms two, three and four 'will be paid in arrears and only when there is evidence of attendance on 85 per cent of school days'¹. The Government believes this initiative will encourage school attendance by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. However, it may also have the consequence of financially penalising families by insisting they front the costs of their children's education without previously available financial assistance. Further, the initiative runs the risk of particularly penalising those students already disadvantaged and struggling to engage with school. Recipients of ABSTUDY will also cease to receive payments after four years for vocational studies at Certificate levels 1 & 2.

The budget also provides for income support recipients residing in Greece, Italy, Malta Turkey and the UK to be targeted for reviews to curb social security fraud.

Higher Education

Whilst the budget dedicates \$95.5 million to infrastructure in universities, the budget undercuts the accessibility of higher education to students under the guise of increased spending on student loans. In a move that acts to further entrench a user pays system by raising the cap on loans for local fee-paying students, the Government is further shifting the costs of education onto students. It is anticipated that universities, whose reliance on revenue from student fees has increased with the decline of Government funding will welcome the initiative.² The loan limit has been raised from \$50,950 to \$80,000, with the exception of loans to medicine, dentistry and veterinary science students for whom the cap is set at \$100,000, and is expected to encourage more students to take up full fee paying places at university.

The Government will spend \$81.6 million assisting universities in the transition

to voluntary student unionism. The money will be spent on assisting universities who had previously relied on union fees to provide sporting and recreational facilities to construct and maintain those facilities. Also to be funded by this initiative is an independent assessment 'of the economic and other consequences of voluntary student unionism'.³

In terms of the delivery of other services on regional campus, the Government has dedicated \$10 million to universities 'to encourage local businesses to establish and maintain key services in regional areas'.⁴ A further \$10 million dollars will be spent on the Australian University Sport initiative, to encourage regional university students to participate in sporting activities.

Schools

The Government has dedicated \$5.8 million to a study into funding for school students with a disability, stemming from reported concern from parents that funding available to students with a disability in the non-government sector is less than that provided for students with a disability in state schools.⁵ Non-government schools that specifically cater for students at risk of dropping out of the education system will also receive financial assistance.

Improving literacy is a focus of the budget with \$20 million dedicated to extending the Tutorial Voucher initiative and \$40.8 million over four years to expand the English as a Second Language program for recently arrived school-age migrants.

The Government invests in its agenda to promote civic pride through the civics and citizenship education package, whereby \$16.3 million over four years has been committed to providing travel rebates to school groups 'visiting Parliament House and other national institutions in Canberra' and to 'provide educational resources to help students better understand and appreciate Australia's democratic values and processes'.⁶

Training

The Government has committed \$64.3 million over four years to work with the States and Territories to implement 'a new approach' to apprenticeships, training and skills recognition 'to alleviate

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skill shortages currently evident in the some parts of the Australian economy.⁷ Also a focus in New Apprenticeship initiatives are a 'Rural and Regional Skill Shortages incentive rationalisation' whereby a \$1000 incentive is paid to employers taking on certain apprenticeships.⁸

Mental Health

The Government has dedicated to spending \$1.9 billion over five years on mental health as part of the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) mental health initiative. The initiatives are broadly focused at this stage, and whilst the budget details areas of focus for the package, it does not provide clear details as to how the money will be spent. It is expected that more specific details will be released following the COAG meeting in June.

The budget allocates \$380.5 million towards 'better access to psychiatrists, psychologists and general practitioners through the Medicare benefits Scheme'. As mental illness is the primary health burden for young people, it is hoped that initiatives such as this will assist young people in accessing treatment and support.

Other initiatives for mental health that specifically target young people relate to:

- Expanding the Youth Pathways program to assist more young people experiencing mental illness to stay at school, and
- New early intervention services for parents, children and young people 'to assist parents and schools to better identify children at risk of mental illness and to offer early

referral for appropriate treatment.⁹

A campaign to tackle substance and alcohol abuse is also a focus of the budget. Young people attending university have been targeted through a \$19.8 million initiative to employ specialist counsellors on campuses 'to focus on the needs of people with substance abuse problems, including identifying the early onset of psychosis'¹⁰, to provide family support services and referral to specialist and mainstream community services. An awareness campaign will also be hosted in universities, highlighting the links between substance abuse and mental illness.

Addressing Indigenous Disadvantage

The budget includes initiatives relating to Indigenous health, housing and Community Leadership. Overall spending in the portfolio has only marginally been increased and the Australian Council of Social Service reports the spending allocated to health as 'inadequate to address Indigenous disadvantage significantly'.¹¹ Specific to young people is an initiative to expand the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme to vocational education and training students. In the context of the restrictions this budget places on ABSTUDY, the value of in-class tutorial assistance may be limited in its capacity to improve educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Young People.

Encouraging Young People from Diverse Cultural Backgrounds to Participate in Surf Lifesaving

Another sports based initiative, is the provision of \$0.9 million over three years to encourage young people from diverse cultural backgrounds to gain surf lifesaving skills. The initiative will engage the Sutherland Shire Council, Surf Life Saving New South Wales and

Surf Lifesaving Australia.

Prime Minister's Youth Challenge and World Youth Day 2008

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney will receive \$20 million as a contribution to host World Youth Day in July 2008. A one off grant of \$600,000 will be received by the Duke of Edinburgh Awards to fund the Prime Minister's Youth Challenge, which will aim to increase the number of young people participating in the Awards nationally from 15,000 to 25,000 by 2010.

For further information on the Federal Budget allocations and measures see www.budget.gov.au

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- 3 2006-07 Budget Paper No. 2: Budget Measures 2006-07. p.166
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- 5 op.cit.
- 6 2006-07 Budget Paper No 2: Budget Measures 2006-07. p.163
- 7 2006-07 Budget Paper No 2: Budget Measures 2006-07. p.155.
- 8 2006-07 Budget Paper No 2: Budget Measures 2006-07. p.162.
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- 10 Budget Measures 2006-07. Expense Measures 2006-07. p. 262.
- 11 Australian Council of Social Service. Federal Budget Briefing, 16 May 2006. Indigenous Disadvantage Budget Brief.

The assistance and information on the Federal Budget analysis by Luke B'osher, Youth Coalition of the ACT and the Australian Council of Social Service is acknowledged.

The preceding article, as appeared in Volume 4 Edition 8 June 2006 *yikes!*, the newsletter of the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria (YACVic), is reproduced with the permission of YAC-Vic..

Want more info about your sexual and reproductive health?

Children by Choice, an unplanned information service now offer unplanned pregnancy including Children by Choice now have a youth



pregnancy counselling, education and referrals for all options relating to abortion, adoption and parenting. specific sexual health website

www.childrenbychoice.org.au

click on the youth link!

Characteristics of an effective school based coordination and case management committee	Details
Committee formalises coordination and case management in the school	Some form of student support committee that draws together all key services
Committee becomes the focus within school for centralized service coordination	Coordinates school services and external welfare services
Committee establishes protocols to access external services	Protocols facilitate service links and ensure regular post-referral feedback
Committee establishes protocols to ensure confidentiality of student information	Protocols allow appropriate and selective information sharing
Committee designates member to liaise with external agencies	Maybe guidance officer and/or Youth Support Coordinator
Committee appoints student's principal worker/case manager	Recognise student preference/interest in appointing principal worker/case manager
Committee uses a variety of communication methods to track student progress	Update information can be given at committee meetings or passed on to committee chair via email and phone

Recommendation Two – school based case management

It is recommended that each secondary school in the Logan-Beenleigh area review its case management of homeless and other vulnerable students with particular focus on the referral and reporting procedures needed to conduct effective relations with those external agencies that provide services to students.

Bearing in mind that schools are quite individual institutions with varying characteristics and practices, the development of case management protocols and procedures that coordinate internal and external services to vulnerable student will be most effective if undertaken as discrete exercises by individual schools and their external service providers.

Study support

Most homeless students recognize that success at school is critical to realizing aspirations. By monitoring academic performance and providing additional study support schools can ensure homeless students maintain the level of academic progress necessary to secure their desired life course beyond school.

Characteristics of effective study support programs	Details
Programs are multi-faceted	Include academic/homework, cultural, emotional and social/recreational components – provided by schools and other providers
Programs need to be flexible	Fit in as part of package of diverse activities delivered at the venue – for example, school and youth service providers
Programs need external linkages	Linked to parents, cultural communities, local residents, business and community organisations with an interest in education support
Provide light meal	Breakfast and afternoon tea can be provided for before and after school programs
Facilitate safe transport home from program	Ensure students have access to safe transport home – for example, use of parents and community volunteers
Utilise mentors	Recruit a variety of industry and community mentors to extend program scope and to accommodate a greater number of students
Cater to the needs of independent students	Provide access to a study support program as part of a package of supports including life skills, counselling and accommodation

(continued on page 13)

Recommendation Three – after school study support and mentor programs

It is recommended that Education Queensland, and the secondary schools in the Logan-Beenleigh area, conduct:

- *A review of existing after school programs in the district and arrange for their coordination to ensure that homeless and vulnerable students have access to a range*

of academic, emotional development, cultural and recreational learning experiences; and

- *A trial of mentoring initiatives in the Logan-Beenleigh area to ensure that homeless and vulnerable students have access to a range of adult mentors who can offer academic and emotional support, and guidance towards vocational pathways and successful transition to adulthood and community life.*

State Election Campaign – The Issues we want on the Agenda

Unless you've been hiding under a rock, you'll know that the next State Election will be held on September the 9th. During the election campaign, YANQ will be working to try and get the main concerns of our members on the agendas of each of the parties. Here are the main issues YANQ will be focusing on:

- ◆ Increasing public and community housing targeted to young people;
- ◆ Funding community services to the full cost of the services they deliver;
- ◆ Moving 17 year olds from adult prison to juvenile detention;
- ◆ Increasing the focus on crime prevention rather than criminal detention and increasing the number of youth workers available to young people between the ages of 10-17 that have a broader focus than corrective services;
- ◆ Providing detoxification services combined with drug and alcohol rehabilitation support available to young people;
- ◆ Reforming the "Places of Safety" program such that it embraces a social model of health and strengthens the role of various key stakeholders including community organisations.

Our campaign will be all the more powerful with your local support. All you need to do is take some time to ask your local candidates what their attitudes are to these issues. You can information about your local candidates (for the major parties) from:

Labor: <http://www.teambeattie.com/YourLocalCandidate.aspx>

Liberals: <http://www.qld.liberal.org.au/>

Nationals: <http://www.springborg.com/candidate-locator.htm>.

QLD Greens: <http://www.qld.greens.org.au/>

Democrats: <http://qld.democrats.org.au/branches.htm>.

CROSS CULTURAL YOUTH WORK PRACTICE TRAINING

**Do you work with young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds?
Do you need skills in dealing with cross-cultural youth issues?**

YANQ delivers cross-cultural youth practice training to individuals and organisations interested in enhancing their knowledge and skills in working with young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The full day training sessions are facilitated by Peter Westoby who is currently a director/community development practitioner with Community Praxis Co-op and also a consultant with the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. Peter has extensive experience in cross-cultural youth work practice in South Africa, Ghana, PNG, the Philippines and Australia.

Upcoming training sessions are as follows:

- ◆ Tuesday 12th of September, Logan
- ◆ Tuesday 24th of October, Cairns
- ◆ Tuesday 7th of November, Sunshine Coast

Venues for the above sessions are to be confirmed. All sessions start at 9.00am and finish at 5.00pm.

Training costs \$120 per person which includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

**To register your interest or for further information, please contact YANQ on Ph 3844 7713
or email admin@yanq.org.au**

Why young can't quit bad jobs

by Debra Jopson

Almost one in five workers under 26 is unhappy with pay and conditions, but most young people will not quit a job straightaway even when they feel poorly treated.

A survey provided exclusively to the [Sydney Morning] Herald gives this insight into the insecurity of young workers, while an investigation by the newspaper has found many young Australians put up with poor pay, unreasonable sackings, bullying and shoddy contracts.

Most of the 400 young people surveyed were university, TAFE or school students, and employed mainly as casuals, but their work was so important to them that just one in five said they would quit and look for another job if their pay and conditions turned out to be really bad.

The rest would simply "put up with it" and wait until they had more skills or had finished studying, or they would hang on until they got a better job, the Sydney-based Youth Action and Policy Association NSW Inc (YAPA) found in the survey.

However, while low-skilled young workers may not be game to quit, the picture is starkly different for apprentices and trainees. As many of these young people quit their courses as complete them.

And another set of survey results given to the Herald confirms union officials' private fears that, despite the weaker bargaining power of young people, many of them believe the boss knows best. Of 940 students answering a questionnaire distributed by the Sydney University Students' Representative Council with Unions NSW, four in 10 said they would contact their employer if they had a problem. Only 6 per cent said they would get in touch with a union.

The YAPA survey found the low-skilled jobs most young people occupied left them feeling weak when it came to bargaining. Only two in five said they felt "confident" or "very confident" about negotiating their own pay or conditions. Most said the main factor strengthening their boss's hand was "the job requires only basic or common skills".

"When they need that money, they're not prepared to leave that job and battle with 10 other young people for another job," said the Association's policy officer, John Ferguson. "Young people are quite powerless when it comes to negotiating pay and conditions."

He called on the Federal Government to ban individual contracts for workers aged under 20. However, Kate Walshe, a spokeswoman for the Workplace Relations Minister, Kevin Andrews, said strong protection for young workers was provided by a requirement that a parent or guardian must authorise any workplace agreement signed by workers under 18.

Mr Ferguson said this was not enough. "A lot of parents wouldn't know enough. A lot would say: 'Little Johnnie, get a job.' The parents are just as vulnerable."

The prospect of more contracts made the workplace future look bleak for the young, he said.

"Young people [already] experience unacceptably high rates of bullying and harassment at work. They are often coerced into doing unpaid work trials and unpaid overtime."

Tough at the bottom: what the surveys say

Casual affair

Australian Centre for Industrial Relations Research and Training (ACIRRT) 2005

Surveyed: 5262 people in NSW aged 12 to 25, of whom 72% were in paid work.

Findings

- 78 per cent were casuals
- 60 per cent were in retail or restaurants/hospitality
- One in seven working as casuals were asked to work unpaid overtime
- 12 per cent had worked an unpaid work trial
- 23 per cent had been bullied at work

Children at work

NSW Commission for Children and Young People 2005:

Surveyed: 11,000 children aged 12-16 years. Fifty-six per cent had worked in previous 12 months.

Findings

- 50 per cent casuals
- 38 per cent have regular work
- 29 per cent earned \$4 or less per hour
- 22 per cent earned \$6-8 per hour
- 48 per cent had been verbally harassed
- 23 per cent experienced physical harassment

Work pressure

SA Unions 2004:

Surveyed: 576 South Australians aged 15-35. Ninety-four per cent had worked at some time.

Findings

- 22 per cent said they had been fired for unfair reasons
- 17 per cent had been fired or lost shifts after a birthday
- One in four were bullied at work
- One in four aged 15-19 sometimes felt pressured to work overtime without pay
- Two in five 20-24 years old felt pressured to work overtime without pay
- One in four in both age groups felt pressured to work while sick

Fast food folly

Jobwatch Victoria

Surveyed: 670 fast food industry workers aged under 25

Findings

- Ten per cent were not being paid the legal minimum
- More than 43 per cent did not know whether they were paid the legal minimum
- More than a quarter were not paid or only sometimes paid for overtime
- More than 35 per cent had experienced workplace violence or bullying.
- Of these 68 per cent did not report it in the workplace.

The preceding article, first published April 25, 2006 in the Sydney Morning Herald, and by Youth Action & Policy Association NSW Inc (YAPA) in its newsletter *YAPRap*, Volume 16 No 5 May 2006 is reproduced with the permission of Sydney Morning Herald and YAPA.



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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 _____ Postcode _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ Fax _____

Mobile _____ Email _____

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

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

***ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

Organisation _____

Contact Person Title _____ First Name _____

Last Name _____ Position _____

Postal Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Mobile _____ Email _____

Does the organisation specifically work with ATSI, Anglo-Celtic or other CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) background. Please specify _____

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

***SUBSCRIBER**

Department/Service _____

Contact Person Title _____ First Name _____

Last Name _____ Position _____

Postal Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Mobile _____ Email _____

Does the organisation specifically work with ATSI, Anglo-Celtic or other CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) background. Please specify _____

Subscription please tick

Community Not For Profit Organisation ☐ \$160.00

For Profit Organisations ☐ \$200.00

Government Department or Service ☐ \$185.00

(Federal State 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 _____

Do you attend/are a member of (please indicate) a youth interagency ☐ Yes ☐ No *please tick*
 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 ☐ Master Card ☐ Visa *please indicate*

Card No

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.

Signature..... Date..... **HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT YANQ**

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 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.