

Network Noise

Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

Quarterly Newsletter November .2006

The 9th State Youth Affairs Conference March 2008



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YANQ is proud to announce that the ninth State Youth Affairs Conference will be held in March 2008. YANQ is calling for members to nominate to join the conference reference group and assist with planning and staging of the conference. YANQ is also encouraging the youth sector to register their interest and receive update information on the 2008 State Youth Affairs Conference and the lead up activities.

The last conference held in 2005 at Bardon/Brisbane was highly successful with over 470 delegates over a three day period attending 56 workshops and 6 keynote speakers presenting papers. The theme of the conference –*Working Together for Young People, What Works, What Could Work*, explored how the community sector and government are working and could work to meet the rights of young people. The evaluation from the conference was very positive with 70% of evaluation forms rating their general impression as above average. Overall 94% indicated their satisfaction with conference structure and 92% were satisfied with conference content.

Recent conferences held in Mackay in 2003, in Toowoomba in 2000 and in Townsville in 1998 also proved highly successful and they have become part of the fabric of the Queensland youth sector. They have also played a key role in bringing the community youth sector together as they have been one of the very few opportunities available to the youth sector for face-to-face policy debate, networking and professional development.

YANQ will commence the planning processes early 2007 and is seeking nominations from its members to form a conference reference group. The conference reference group will assist YANQ in engaging the youth sector in shaping the 9th State Youth Affairs Conference.

To become engaged with the 2008 State Youth Affairs Conference:

1. Send an email, fax or post a letter to YANQ indicating your interest in receiving update information about the next State Youth Affairs Conference.
2. Send an email, fax or post a letter to YANQ indicating that you are a YANQ member and that you want to nominate to be part of the conference reference group.

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Network Noise

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Contributions Welcome

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

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

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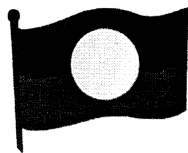
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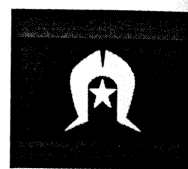
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this publication do not necessarily rep-
resent the views of YANQ.

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 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.

Update on Strengthening Non-Government Organisations Project

The next series of workshops preparing for the new Community Services Standards *Strengthening NGO Workshops - Preparing Your Organisation* (for all services funded by the Department of Communities) commenced in mid-October 2006 with follow up workshops planned for March 2007. The workshops are facilitated by the QCOSS Community Sector Development Workers and aim to:

- provide up to date information regarding the Standards and SNGO initiatives generally
- increase preparedness and confidence in working with the Standards
- align the Standards with an organisation's broader context (vision, values, practices etc.)
- develop an action plan to prepare organisations for self-audit
- provide materials, resources and other support to assist with the ongoing development of community based organisations.

The other major piece of work that the Community Sector Development Workers are currently undertaking is gathering feedback from the sector on how peer support will take shape in each of the regions. In particular they are interested to work with organisations to build peer support at a network level in each region to assist with implementing the standards in a sustainable way.

To access the latest calendar of the state wide standards workshops, a contact list for the SNGO team and for more information and resources on the Strengthening NGOs Project, visit the link below:

<http://www.qcoss.org.au/Article.aspx?type=news&id=659>

Turning Coal-Face Knowledge into Policy Gold: the Youth Consultative Network 3 Quarters In

by David Powell, YANQ

The Youth Consultative Network (YCN) - now 9 months old in its current incarnation - is growing well and helping YANQ to fulfil its goals of involving the sector in policy development and advocacy for the interests of young people.

Between August and September this year 10 interagencies participated, informing YANQ about the challenges facing young people and youth services in their regions. As with the previous quarters, YANQ has collated this information and distributed it broadly, back to interagencies but also to relevant Government Departments and Peaks.

The participating interagencies for the 3rd Quarter of 2006 were:

- Brisbane Inner Urban Youth Inter-agency
- Zillmere Youth Organisations Network
- Service Providers Action Group for Youth (North-West Brisbane)
- Inala Youth Interagency
- Redlands Youth Network
- Gold Coast Family Connections
- Caboolture Youth Area Network
- Mt Isa Combined Action Team

The Hot Issues for Quarter #3

Altogether, the 10 interagencies raised 43 different issues.

For young people, housing and accommodation was again the most common issue being raised. General service availability, education (particularly for disengaged young people) and transport were the next three major issues.

For services the main areas of concern were lack of funding, need for more flexibility in funding agreements, and difficulty recruiting staff.

Briefly, YANQ's initial response to housing and accommodation issues has been to familiarise ourselves with the topic. Staff at YANQ have devoted

time to reading a range of articles on the housing crisis, as well as meeting with the relevant Peak Bodies - particularly Queensland Shelter, the Queensland Youth Housing Coalition and the Queensland Community Housing Coalition. At this stage, we anticipate producing a short briefing paper to share with members and to help inform our next steps. You can find more information about this in the article *The Value of Housing* (pages 4 and 5).

YANQ's more detailed response to some of the other issues has been distributed widely and readers can download it from the website at http://www.yanq.org.au/files/YCN_ResponseQ306.pdf. The details of all the issues raised are also available.

What the Networks are Saying About the Process

Our discussions with the workers from the seventeen interagencies that have participated in the YCN in the first 9 months have often reflected some of the following points:

- ◇ Broadly speaking, the YCN is a good strategy for YANQ to pursue as it does provide a clear avenue for participating in policy development, advocacy and social change work.
- ◇ Some interagencies find coming to an agreement on the high priority issues difficult. In some cases, more assistance in facilitating discussions would help. In other cases, the load of consulting with the networks and compiling the main issues falls too heavily on the shoulders of one worker.
- ◇ Some interagencies have found it very easy to fill out the YCN forms and come to agreement on the key issues. For some, this is because coming to some agreement about high priority issues was already a regular part of their meetings. For others they put the ease down to a good facilitator.

Where to Now for YANQ and the YCN?

YANQ will be continuing with the YCN strategy. Perhaps one of the better, though less tangible outcomes from the first 9 months is the increased contact (if only by phone or e-mail) with interagencies. For staff within YANQ, it certainly 'feels' like we have a better understanding of what 'youth work' looks like from the ground up.

The raw information that interagencies have trusted us with has also been of great value. When writing policy or funding submissions, demonstrating levels of need or the geographical extent of problems facing young people has been much easier. And following on from the point above, it has also been much easier to make contact with youth workers that are dealing with the issues on a day-to-day basis. This ability to learn from the coal-face experiences of youth services and the young people they work with is worth much more than the weight in gold of a thousand statistical reports.

However, the YCN is still young and there is plenty of room for improvement. At the time of writing this article a semi-random¹ selection of representatives from interagencies are being invited to join a YCN Action Research team. This team will set about the task of helping YANQ to improve and expand the YCN so that it provides value to young people, youth services, YANQ and the general community.

For more information about the YCN generally, or the results from the 3rd Quarter of this year, please contact David at YANQ on (07) 3844 7713.

¹ *Semi-random in the sense that we have made sure that the team includes people from metropolitan, outer urban, regional and remote interagencies*

The Value of Housing

by David Powell, YANQ

A home is a form of protection, a launching pad from which to grasp life's opportunities, and a stronghold where trust and relationships are developed and nurtured. At the very least, a safe, secure and affordable place to live is a human right, not just a tool for individual wealth.

Unfortunately many people are unfairly denied the opportunity to affordable safe and secure housing, and this problem is perhaps one of the most pressing (and distressing) problems in Australia today. If the information that youth workers are providing to YANQ is any guide, then Queensland's young people are one group feeling the brunt of Australia's housing crisis. Lack of housing and accommodation was rated as the top issue in January's survey of YANQ's members and subscribers. And in the first nine months of the Youth Consultative Network, inter-agencies have collectively raised this issue more than any other.

So as part of our response to this, we want to use this article to take a step back and have a broad look at the housing landscape in Australia, and more specifically the values that are underpinning housing policy and what it all means for young people?

Let's start with some basic facts about housing affordability and some of the factors that are driving it down. There is little doubt that housing (whether buying or renting) is less affordable now than at many times during the last century. According to a recent forum on affordable housing¹, in the last decade:

- average house prices, relative to income have almost doubled;
- the proportion of first-home buyers has decreased 20%;
- average monthly payments on a home loan have increased by about 50% or \$500;
- the proportion of low-rent homes have fallen by about 15%;
- opportunities to rent public housing have dropped by at least 30%.
- SAAP funded services that deliver crisis accommodation services con-

tinue to report that they are turning away 1 in every 2 people presenting to their service²;

What these figures tell us is that many people on low incomes (and this includes young people) can't afford to either rent or buy and that the long waiting lists for public housing (10 years is not uncommon) has meant that people are taking up insecure and/or unsafe housing options – in some cases camping grounds³.

Housing industry groups, advocacy bodies and academics have identified a number of factors underpinning the drop in affordability. These include (among others):

- Patterns of Government expenditure and tax rebates that favour established home-owners over first-home buyers and which also fuel speculative investment in housing and drive up prices.
- A widespread view of housing as a commodity to further wealth creation (rather than as a basic human right for instance).
- Increases in population.
- A trend toward building larger houses, whilst at the same time the size of households (number of people living in a house) is decreasing. So there are less incomes in a household (e.g. after divorce) to contribute to payments on bigger houses.
- Not enough high-density housing being developed to cope with population increases
- Not enough land being released for development.

The fact that lack of housing for young people is constantly raised with YANQ would suggest that most readers will agree there is a problem here. But it would be a mistake to assume that everyone agrees that there is a problem, or that everyone agrees the problem is at crisis levels. An understanding of this is vital if progressive advocates are to have any long-lasting impacts on the policies that government's choose to respond to this crisis.

We all know that in today's world the

dominant values are those of self-reliance, individual effort, loyalty to 'Australian values' and discipline. These values underpin many government (State and Commonwealth) policies that affect our everyday lives. Take for instance: an industrial relations system that focus on individual, not collective agreements; harsh penalties for citizens receiving social security who fail to meet their 'obligations' to be self-reliant; and housing policies that emphasise individual choice in the private market and that reward home-owners and investors (supposedly self-reliant, disciplined and therefore worthy) much more so than young people or those on low incomes.

From the perspective of this world view safe, affordable and secure housing is not a right. It is something to be earned and a reward for being disciplined, self-reliant and working hard. This is almost certainly the view of the current Commonwealth Government.

For example, in their 2004 examination of government policy, Powall & Withers⁴ found that in the area of Commonwealth tax concessions and deductions⁵ "outright owners receive more than five times the amount of assistance provided to purchasers". They further stated that

"[i]n broad terms most benefits ... go to high income households who live in high valued dwellings ... [and] ... benefits to high-income older households are considerably greater than those enjoyed by younger households".

Negative gearing (the ability to deduct housing investment costs from non-property income) is another tax concession that is effectively a reward for those that have accumulated the financial resources to invest in additional housing.

One could argue that Commonwealth Rent Assistance resurrects some of the balance by providing a rent-subsidy to people on low incomes (which includes many young people). However the levels of rent assistance provided are relatively low and don't allow people as much choice as is often claimed. Data from the then Department of Family

(cont. page 5)

(cont. from page 4)

and Community Services (cited in Powall and Withers) shows that high numbers of Rent Assistance recipients continue to live in low-rent areas with few employment opportunities.

The overall imbalance of public financial support and the continued decline in public housing sends a clear message: find your own way in the market and if you want a better house work harder. For young people the message is even more harsh. It goes something like this: you need to be taught self-reliance and discipline (through learn or earn policies), if you learn these lessons, work hard and prove your worth (by earning a high income) you will be rewarded (with tax concessions once you get into home-ownership and investment) and failure to comply will result in harsh punishments (withdrawal of social security, eviction, suspension, exclusion, imprisonment).

While this statement characterises the current policy setting, the housing crisis in Australia is growing to such an extent that sooner or later all levels of Government will have to enact new or alter existing policies. However, given the value systems that dominate (as above) it is unlikely that the responses will have any long-lasting positive benefits for young people already marginalised or disadvantaged in some way. It is probably a safe-bet to say that policies will be tinkered with to

make housing a little more affordable for the upper-lower and middle income groups. This will likely have some positive flow-on effects to low income groups and young people (i.e. the trickle down effect) but many will remain on the margins with few opportunities to improve their situation and you might be reading articles just like this again in 10 years time.

For those who value fairness, equality, opportunity and protection among others the challenge is two-fold. On the one hand we need to advocate for short-term practical policies and programs that can ameliorate the negative effects of poor housing conditions (low educational and work opportunities, poor health, high transport costs etc. etc). This means working within the system and squeezing every last drop of compassion out of it that we can.

On the other hand, we must also look to the long-term and a future in which housing policy is driven by the values of fairness, opportunity, protection, empathy and compassion. Only then will housing policy reflect the view that safe, secure and affordable housing is a human right. Only then will ideas that require governments to support people to take up their right to housing (rather than treat citizens as children) gain any traction.

Achieving this long-term goal is (obviously) easier than it sounds. But youth services and the young people

they work with have a vital role to play. In the next few months YANQ will be releasing a discussion paper that outlines our options, in both the long and short terms. We'd like your help in deciding what actions we can take. For more information phone or e-mail David at YANQ on 3844 7713. ndo@yanq.org.au.

1. Achieving a National Affordable Housing Agreement – Background Paper 1. July 2006. Available online at <http://www.housingsummit.org.au/media/BP1c.pdf>.

2. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, cited in Nicholson, A. *Children and Homelessness in Australia – A Nation's Shame*. Address to the Fourth National Conference of the Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations, *The Great Australian Dream? Waking up to Homelessness*. Sydney, March 2006.

3. See for example, *Families Forced to Live in Tents* by Melanie Christiansen, page 3 of the Courier Mail October 19, 2006.

4. Powall, M. & Withers, G. 2004. *National Summit on Housing Affordability: Resource Paper*. Available online at http://www.housingsummit.org.au/05/media/resource_paper.pdf.

5. Capital gains exemptions and non-taxation of imputed rent from owner-occupiers.

Criminalisation of Poverty project Online Survey of Criminal Justice Professionals 2006

The Criminalisation of Poverty project is an investigation into the criminalisation of people living in poverty in Queensland.

The first part of the project was to undertake a series of focus groups and individual interviews with people experiencing poverty. So far there have been around 100 respondents to the research. The planning committee is also hoping to raise enough money to take the research into rural and remote Queensland in the coming weeks.

The second part of the project was the administration of an online survey of professionals who work within/interact with the criminal justice system.

This has now been programmed and is available at

www.lawandpoverty.org/survey2006.

YANQ invites the youth sector members to participate in this survey, on the subject of 'poverty and the criminal justice system', as a professional who engages with the criminal justice system on a regular basis. The purpose of this survey is to ascertain your views on the extent to which people experiencing poverty are impacted by the workings of the criminal justice system, including policing, the court system and corrections.

The survey does not require you to identify yourself - you will remain anonymous at all times.

The chief investigator is Dr Tamara Walsh, Lecturer in Law at the University of Queensland. Tamara is as-

sisted by a steering committee comprised of representatives from a number of organisations including:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service
- Boystown
- Prisoners' Legal Service
- Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House – Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic
- Sisters Inside
- Uniting Care Centre for Social Justice
- Catholic Prison Ministry
- ACRO
- Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ)

The survey can be found at www.lawandpoverty.org/survey2006

CALD MATTERS

Please note that Multicultural Youth Network Queensland (MYNQ) will not hold its scheduled last meeting for the year on December 12.

Earlier this year MYNQ members identified education, housing and young women's issues as the three main priority topics for MYNQ in 2006. Accordingly, the following activities were organised throughout the year to focus on MYNQ's priority topics:

- Special meeting on CALD young people and housing (June) – guest speakers from the Queensland Youth Housing Coalition and Agencies Supporting Housing for Refugees And Migrants (ASHRAM) attended the meeting to inform MYNQ members about the current housing situation for CALD young people. A number of issues such as young people's access to Centrelink's independent allowance and homelessness among refugee young people were raised at

the meeting. As a result, YANQ released a discussion paper, *No Place for Racism*, documenting the housing needs of young people from Indigenous and CALD backgrounds. The discussion paper is available at <http://www.yanq.org.au/index.pl?page=extra3>.

- Special meeting on education (August) – this meeting was organised as part of a follow up for the MYNQ Education Forum held in October 2005. Speakers from Education Queensland, TAFE and Youth Advocacy Centre reviewed educational issues for migrant and refugee students, including funding and support for AMEP and other language, literacy and numeracy programs. At the October meeting, MYNQ members agreed that YANQ's *Cultural Chasm* report needed to be updated in light of recent changes in the *Education (General Provisions) Act*. The *Cultural Chasm* report is available at

<http://www.yanq.org.au/index.pl?page=extra3>.

MYNQ is a community-driven network of individuals and organisations committed to multiculturalism and improving opportunities and outcomes for CALD young people in Queensland. MYNQ members come together every two months in Brisbane to share information and discuss issues relating to CALD young people. The outcome of discussions are fed directly back to YANQ's Multicultural Development Officer who then undertakes research and advocacy to place CALD young people's issues on the policy agenda.

Everyone is welcome to come along to the next meeting. Meeting dates for 2007 will be available soon under calendar of events on the YANQ website www.yanq.org.au

Young Women's Project Update

by Kate Morioka and Claire Cottone



In June 2006, YANQ received one-off funding from the State Government's Department of Employment and Training to identify existing gaps in training and resources within the youth sector to effectively respond to young women's issues. YANQ employed a project officer over a 10 week period to undertake this project.

YANQ's Young Women's Sector Training Needs Analysis project aimed to identify the training needs for the youth sector to improve and strengthen its advocacy and delivery of services to young women in Queensland, particu-

larly those of Indigenous and CALD backgrounds, young women with disabilities, young women from rural areas and lesbian young women.

The findings and recommendations in this paper are based on consultations conducted by YANQ with government and non-government service providers, young women and individuals across Queensland over a three-month period. One hundred organisations and over 200 people participated in the consultations for this project via written surveys, telephone interviews, face-to-face meetings and four consultative forums (Brisbane, Bundaberg, Rockhampton and Yeppoon).

During the course of the consultations, participants aired many other urgent issues which went beyond the training needs of the sector to better respond to young women's issues, such as infrastructural and service delivery gaps.

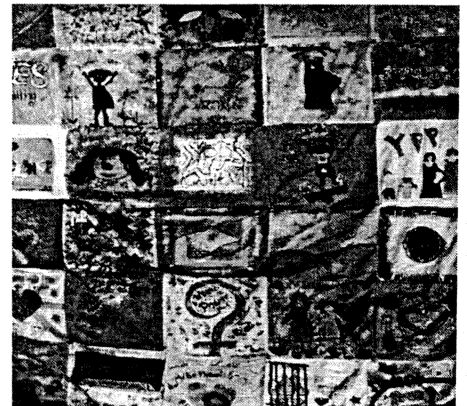
The report also captures some of these accompanying issues as they arose.

YANQ's Young Women's Sector Training Needs Analysis project had a very short time frame and limited

resources. Therefore, the report is not an exhaustive assessment of the needs of young women or the young women's sector in Queensland.

A reference group was also established to support the project officer in carrying out this project. In addition, a young women's steering committee has been formed by YANQ as a separate body to inform YANQ's policy development and advocacy for young women.

The report will be available on YANQ's website as soon as it is released.



ERACISM! Forum #4

by Kate Morioka



Racism and discrimination were issues at the centre of the ERACISM! (Erase Racism) Forum held on Friday October 20 at the St Saviour's College in Toowoomba.

Coinciding with the National Anti-Poverty Week, the forum brought together approximately 50 young people, youth and multicultural workers, teachers, police and members of the public to directly challenge racism and its impact on the lives of young people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

ERACISM! Forum is an annual event which grew out of YANQ's ERACISM! strategy in 2004. Following the previous forums held in Brisbane and Townsville, this year's forum was directly brought to Toowoomba as a response to racist incidents against the growing number of refugees settling in the area.

Representatives from the Anti-Discrimination Commission of Queensland, Anglicare Southern Queensland, Lifeline Darling Downs, Toowoomba City Council, Sisters Inside and members of the refugee community participated in a panel discussion to identify the types of racism and discrimination faced by young people from Indigenous and CALD backgrounds.

Of particular interest was the impact of racism and discrimination on young people's housing options. Amidst the housing crisis in Queensland, it was important to understand how discriminatory attitudes towards Indigenous and CALD young people may decrease their opportunity to secure safe and affordable housing. The panel members expressed their concern that the decrease

in government funding was not helping to alleviate the housing crisis. Addressing the problem at a policy level was identified as a critical step forward.

"It's the policies that fail the Aboriginal people not the Aboriginal people who fail. We have to challenge the government policies" was a key message stated by Rose Best, who currently works as a coordinator of housing at Sisters Inside.

Housing was not the only area in which Indigenous and CALD young people were experiencing racism and discrimination. Stereotypes and preconceived ideas about people from Indigenous and CALD backgrounds were noted as being the causes of unfair treatment and discrimination in schools, workplaces and communities.

Anglicare South Queensland's IHSS Coordinator¹, Angelo Geng expressed that racism was experienced by some refugees on a daily basis. "Racism is part of the daily life because some people will see themselves more important than others. What makes the difference is whether we acknowledge the existence of racism and what we are doing about it," he said.

Jok Keer, who arrived in Aus-

tralia 8 years ago as a refugee from Sudan, was all too familiar with both overt and covert forms of racism. Shortly after moving into his neighbourhood, his family home was constantly pelted with eggs as people drove by his house shouting racist slurs. He said "if a white person picks up the phone and say I need police, the police will be there in 5 minutes. But why does it take longer if I'm not white? We have to start changing by not assuming that because I'm black, I'm the bad person."

Aside from the panel discussions, the forum showcased local talent with a live music performance by Triple Click, a Sudanese youth rap trio from Toowoomba. The forum was officially opened by the Jarowair Gaibal people including members from Ngambileh Mallarah. A photographic display consisting of photographs taken by refugee students at Milpera School were also showcased at the forum.

YANQ' discussion paper, *No Place for Racism*, can be accessed at <http://www.yanq.org.au/index.pl?page=extra3> The ERACISM! Forum report is also available from YANQ's website at www.yanq.org.au

¹Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy is a settlement support program funded by the Federal Government's Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs to assist newly arrived refugees and Special Humanitarian Program entrants.



Youth Violence Taskforce

The Queensland Government has established the Youth Violence Taskforce. This Taskforce aims to help reduce the level of violence that is ruining young Queenslanders' lives. The Taskforce will meet once a month over the next 12 months in Brisbane.

The Honourable Judy Spence, Minister for Police and Corrective Services is the chair of the taskforce along with Communities Minister Warren Pitt as Deputy Chair. YANQ is a member of this Taskforce and YANQ members can become involved with this Taskforce by nominating to become a member of YANQ's Youth Violence Reference Group.

The Taskforce is made up of community representatives and key stakeholders, including:

- Paul Stanley, whose son Matthew was killed three weeks ago outside a teenage birthday party;
- Dr Paul Mazerolle, Professor of Criminology, Griffith University and Director of the Griffith University Violence Research Program;
- Siyavash Doostkhah, Director of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ);
- Dr William Bor, Director, Kids in Mind Research: Mater Centre for Service Research in Mental Health;
- Neville Coventry, CEO, Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group;
- Mark Gladman, Chaplain at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre;
- Brett Devenish, President, Queen-

sland Council of Parents and Citizens Association

- Matthew Swift, Operations Manager, YMCA Brisbane;
- Rebecca Smith, a Department of Child Safety employee whose brother died as a result of a violent assault in Mackay in 2004;
- Faiza El-Higzi, President of the Al-Nisa' Youth Group Inc;
- Herman Hunt, a Queensland Reds Academy player who also works for Lifeline Community Care Queensland agency, RAPT, that delivers services to the families of children and young people in foster care;
- Ethnic community representatives;
- The Brisbane Broncos.

A number of key government agency representatives are also on the taskforce, including:

- Queensland Police Service – Commissioner Bob Atkinson APM;
- Department of Premier and Cabinet/ Coordinator General – Project Manager Mike Spencer;
- Communities – Director of the Office for Youth Michael Tansky;
- Queensland Health - Child Safety Director Corelle Davies;
- Justice – Director of Strategic Policy Terry Ryan;
- Education Queensland – Deputy Director General Jenny Cranston;
- Education Queensland - Patrea Waltom, Executive Director - Schools, South East Brisbane District;
- Multicultural Affairs – Executive

Director Steve Maguire;

- Liquor Licensing - Executive Director Chris Watters.

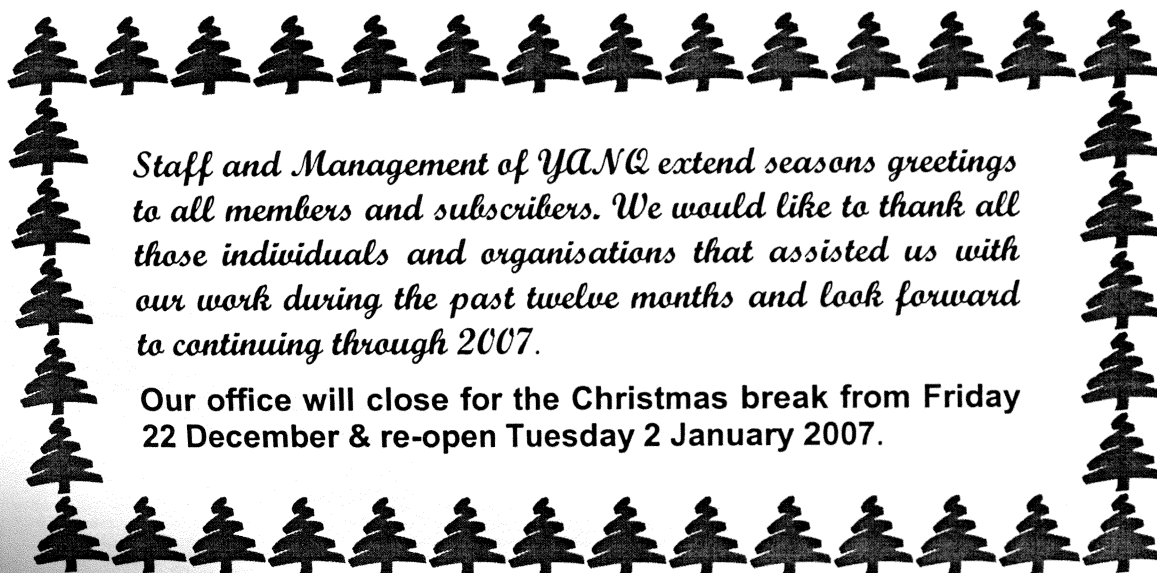
Broadly speaking, its terms of reference are:

- To examine the incidents and any trends of violence among young people in Queensland and Australia;
- To examine the factors that lead a young person towards violence such as:
 - ◊ Anger management;
 - ◊ Domestic and family influences;
 - ◊ Peer influences;
 - ◊ School – including any link to scholastic ability, failure and behaviour;
 - ◊ Community influences, such as role models;
 - ◊ Alcohol and drugs

Taskforce members will be required to recommend proven, evidence-based youth violence prevention strategies and ways to help educate young people how to avoid the potential for violence, how to prevent it and what the consequences are.

YANQ members who can assist us with the above task are encouraged to nominate to become a member of Youth Violence Reference Group.

To nominate please send an email to director@yanq.org.au giving us your contact details and a brief description of your interest in this reference group.



Interagency Meetings

current as at November 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

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

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

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

Contact: John Sharp

Mundubbera Community Development

Ph: 07 4165 4690 Fax: 07 4165 3143

Email: mceda@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

Contact Peter for further details. *Current as at August 2006*

Charleville Youth Interagency

(formerly 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@swhcp.org

Meets 10am the third Thursday of each month at Charleville Neighbourhood Centre.

Emerald Shire Youth Rep

Contact: Melinda Knox, Youth 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

Contact Melinda for details of local youth networks.

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

Meets first Wednesday of the month 12 noon 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

Meets last Tuesday of each month 10.30 am. Contact Sue for venue.

Innisfail Community Sector Network

Contact: Community Services Officer

Ph: 07 4030 2253 Fax: 07 4061 6005

Email: csco@jisc.qld.gov.au

Meets fourth Thursday of every second month 1pm at Parish Centre, Rankin Street, Innisfail

Laidley Youth Interagency

Contact: Neil Williamson, Community/Youth Development Worker

Laidley Shire Community Care Assoc Inc

Ph: 07 5465 1889

Email: neil@lscqa.org.au

Meets approximately every 6 weeks at the Laidley Shire community Care Assoc. Please contact Neil for details.

Mackay Youth Connections Network Inc

Contact: Julie Shuttleworth

C/- Mackay and District Education Centre

Ph: 07 4951 1233 Fax: 4951 3471

Mobile: 0419 738 935

Email: j_shuttle@madec.org.au

Meets third Tuesday of the month 10.30am Mackay PCYC

Maryborough Interagency Network

(formerly 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

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

OR: Jay Hinchcliffe, Chair, Email:

ysc@isaskills.org

Alison Martens, Vice-Chair, Email:

amartens@rfdsqld.com.au

Shelley Howe, Treasurer, Email:

showe34@eq.edu.au

Meets twice per school term. Details can be obtained from any of the above contacts.

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

Meets third Friday of the month 9.00-11.30 am at CQ Youth Justice Service Centre 155 Alma Street, Rockhampton. *Details current as at August 2006*

Sarina Interagency Meeting

Contact: Margie Ward, Sarina Youth Centre

PO Box 219, Sarina Q 4737

Ph: 07 4943 2962 Fax: 074956 1508

Email: youthcentre@mcs.nct.au

Meets first Wednesday of every second month. For additional information, please contact Margie on the above details. *Details current as at August 2006.*

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

Meets first Tuesday of the month 10am-12 noon Wondai Council Supper Room. South Burnett Youth Network meets 2pm, second Tuesday of the month at Centrelink office, Kingaroy.

The Youth Network NQ Inc

Contact: Clea Alcorn

Ph: 07 4725 6970

Email: clea.alcorn@thesmithfamily.com.au

Meets third Thursday of the month 9-11am. Contact Clea for venue.

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

Meets occasionally. Main activity through email discussion

(TYON@discussions.eq.edu.au). Contact Ed Bradbury to join discussion list or for details.

Warwick Youth Network

Contact: Christine Gleeson, Community

Youth Worker

PO Box 26, Warwick Q 4370

Ph/Fax: 07 4661 7166

Email: pburley@warwick.qld.gov.au

Meets quarterly (dates change) at McCarthy House, Warwick Base Hospital, Locke Street, Warwick.

Whitsunday Youth Focus Network

Contact: Wendy Olsen, Youth Services

Officer Whitsunday Shire Council

Ph: 07 4945 0216 Fax 07 4945 0222

Email: wendy.olsen@whitsunday.qld.gov.au

Contact Wendy for Network details.

Interagency Meetings

current as at November 2006

South-East Queensland

Beaudesert Shire Youth Network

Contact: Jo Perrett, Youth Development Officer, BeauCare
Ph: 07 5541 4391 Fax: 07 5541 3654
Email: youth@beaucare.org.au
Contact Youth Development Officer for meeting details as venue, days & times vary.

Brisbane Inner Urban Youth Interagency

Contact: Libby Butler
Ph: 07 3407 0208
Email: libby.butler@brisbane.qld.gov.au
Meets 10-12 noon first Wednesday of the month. Contact Libby Butler for details.

Brisbane South Youth Interagency

Contact: Craig Cranston
Brisbane South Youth Justice Service
306 Ipswich Road, Buranda
Ph: 07 3406 2801
Email: Craig.CRANSTON@communities.qld.gov.au
Meets quarterly, contact Craig for details.

Brisbane Southside Indigenous Youth Interagency

Contact: Suzanne Perry
Brisbane South Youth Justice Service
Ph: 07 3406 2802
Email: suzanne.perry@communities.qld.gov.au
Contact Suzanne for meeting times and venue details.

Caboolture Youth Area Network (YCAN)

Contact: Francis Mills, Youth Planner, Caboolture Shire Council
Ph: 07 5420 0225 Fax: 07 5420 0350
Email: millsf@caboolture.qld.gov.au
Meets third Wednesday of every month 12.30-2.30pm with exception of 1 meeting each quarter occurring 3.00-5.00pm 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
Web: 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: gcyouth@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@thesmithfamily.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@iyfss.org.au
Meets 12noon second Thursday of the month at Centrelink Office, 2nd Floor, Wirraway Parade, Inala.

Ipswich Youth Interagency Group

Contact: Nicole Turner, Youth Community Development Officer, Ipswich City Council
PO Box 191, Ipswich Q 4305
Ph: 07 3810 6658 Fax: 07 3810 6741
Email: NTurner@ipswich.qld.gov.au
Meets first Tuesday of the month 12.30pm at alternate venues throughout Ipswich region.

Life's Worth It-Sandgate

Contact: Sophie Morson
Ph: 07 3835 1444
Email: 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: Youth Planner, Community Services, Logan City Council
PO Box 3226, Logan City DC 4114
Ph: 07 3826 5029 Fax: 07 3808 0014
Email: ContactCommunityServices@logancity.qld.gov.au
Contact Community Services, Logan City Council for details.

Maroochydore Youth Interagency

Contact: Lyndall Hennel, Integrated Family & Youth Service
Ph: 07 5438 3000
Email: lhennel@ifys.com.au
Meets once per term. Please contact Lyndall for meeting dates and venues. *Current as at August 2006.*

Nambour Youth Interagency

Contact: Lyn Harris, Youth Support Coordinator, United Synergies
PO Box 365 Tewantin Q 4565
Ph: 07 5442 4277 Fax: 07 5442 4846
Email: nambouryouthinteragency@yahoo.com.au
Meets once each school term; dates for meetings & venues are advised prior to meetings. *Current as at August 2006.*

Northern Gold Coast Interagency

Contact: Veronica Cox (Studio Village)
Ph: 07 5529 8253
Email: 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 34806353
Email: kym.purcell@pinerivers.qld.gov.au
Meets second Monday quarterly 1-4pm (lunch provided) 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
Meets second Wednesday of every second month 3pm at Redcliffe Area Youth Space.

Redlands Youth Network

Contact: Courtney Gillot, Youth Development Officer, Redland Shire Council
Ph: 07 3829 8233 Fax: 07 3829 8891
Email: courtneyg@redland.qld.gov.au
Meets third Monday of the month 3-4.30pm at Redlands Health Service Centre, Weippin Street, Cleveland.

Service Providers Action Group for Youth (SPAGY)

Contact: Martin Turrell
Picabeen Community Assn Inc for meeting details
Ph: 07 3354 2555 Fax: 07 3355 4222
Email: viro@picabeen.org.au

Tweed Shire Youth Network

Contact: Jessica Walker, Secretary (The Family Centre)
Ph: 07 5524 8711
Email: jessica.walker@fcep.org.au
Every 3 months a half day forum is held. Venue alternates between Murwillumbah and Tweed. Contact Jessica for details. *Current as at August 2006.*

Zillmere Youth Organisations Network (ZYON)

Contact: Kelly Rivas
Ph: 07 3865 2880
Email: yacca.zcc@bigpond.com
Contact Kelly for meeting details.



youth affairs network qld

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

***MEMBERSHIP/*SUBSCRIPTION APPLICATION FORM.**

TAX INVOICE (on payment) **ABN 28 205 281 339**

All fees are 10% GST inclusive. Pay by personal cheque, money order, credit card or cash. *No income or funding—contact YANQ for special consideration.*

PLEASE COMPLETE CATEGORY APPLIED FOR:

***INDIVIDUAL/*YOUNG PERSON MEMBERSHIP**

Title _____ First Name _____ Last Name _____

Postal Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ Fax _____

Mobile _____ Email _____

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.