

AFTER 15 YEARS OF INACTION ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

STOP LOCKING UP CHILDREN IN QUEENSLAND ADULT PRISONS

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



In 1992 when the *Juvenile Justice Act* was passed by Parliament, the Government said:

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

(cont. page 2)

Network Noise

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

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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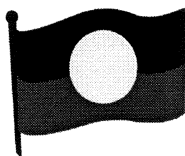
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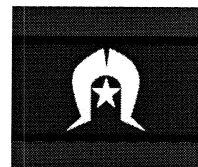
Contents

STOP Locking up our Children in Qld Adult Prisons	1— 3
The Future of the Sector Project	4
Sisters Inside Conference	4
The Prickly Process of Prioritising Issues	5— 6
National Youth Affairs Conference	6
NSW protects young people from WorkChoices	7
Community Door website for NGOs	7
CALD Matters	8
CROCCS Conference	8
Young People take up Right to an Education	9
Adolescence & young adulthood	10—11
Interagency Meetings	13—14



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.

(cont. from page 1) Stop Locking up Children in Qld Adult Prisons

The purposes cited by the Government expressing its intention to stop dealing with 17 year old children in the adult system still ring true today. Eighteen is the age of majority in Queensland and throughout Australia, yet 17 year olds in Queensland continue to be exposed to the deleterious effects of adult prisons. It is time to make this change and stop treating children as adults in the criminal justice system.

It is unfair that 17 year olds are treated as adults by the criminal law because:

- 17 year olds are often still physically and mentally immature, and ought to be dealt with by a legal system that understands that developmental immaturity;
- if children cannot vote, drink alcohol, buy cigarettes, or otherwise participate fully in society until they become 18, they should not be treated as adults by the criminal law;
- Children should not be kept in adult jails;
- the Child Protection system treats 17 year olds as juveniles; so should the Youth Justice system;
- year 12 students should be treated the same way by the criminal law, irrespective of whether they happen to be 16 or 17;
- Queensland 17 year olds should not be worse off than 17 year olds in every other Australian state.

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

- the 1988 Kennedy Review Into Corrective Services
- the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- the 1997 Australian Law Reform Commission Report
- the 2002 Youth Justice Conference in Brisbane
- the 2002/03 Annual Report of the President of the Children's Court
- the 2005 UN Consideration of the Report Submitted by Australia for the 40th Session

(cont. page 3)

YOUTH AFFAIRS NETWORK OF QLD

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- the 2006 Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland recommendations

After 15 years, it is time for the juvenile justice system to include 17 year olds.

When the Juvenile Justice Act (Qld) 1992 ("the JJA") was assented to on 25 August 1992, it was envisaged that its scope would subsequently be extended to cover 17 year olds. In this respect, section 6(1) of the JJA was drafted so that this extension could take place simply, by regulation, rather than by way of legislative amendment. Nearly fifteen years have now passed since the JJA was assented to without the requisite regulation having been implemented.

2005 United Nations Consideration of Australia's Joint Second and Third Reports on CROC, and the Parallel Non-Government Organisation Report

The United Nations expressly stated concern about Queensland's practice of treating 17 year olds as adults in the criminal justice system¹.

It specifically recommended that the State party remove 17 year olds from the adult justice system in Queensland².

"The Committee recommends that the State party bring the system of juvenile justice fully in line with the Convention, in particular articles 37, 40 and 39, and with other United Nations standards in the field of juvenile justice, including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules), the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines) the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of Their Liberty and the Vienna Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System; and the recommendations of the Committee made at its day of general discussion on juvenile justice."

2006 Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland

The Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland March 2006 report, *Women in Prison*, highlighted the issues involved in housing 17 year olds in adult prisons and made two recommendations:

Recommendation 48:

The Queensland Government immediately legislate to ensure that the age at which a child reaches adulthood for the purposes of criminal law in Queensland be 18 years.

Recommendation 49:

It is not in the best interest of 17 year old offenders to be placed in an adult prison, or for correctional authorities to place a female 17 year old offender in a protection until of an adult prison. The Queensland Government and correctional authorities should take immediate steps to cease this practice.

The recommendations concluded that placing a 17 year old female prisoner in specific prison areas based solely on her age is *prima facie* direct discrimination on the basis of age.

¹UN Consideration of the Report Submitted by Australia for the 40th Session. Administration of Juvenile Justice, 73
"Furthermore, the Committee is concerned that: ... (c) in Queensland, persons of 17 in conflict with the law may be tried as adults in particular cases" (See, pp 14, Administration of Justice, 73 (c)).


²UN Consideration of the Report Submitted by Australia for the 40th Session (CRC/C/46, § 202-238).

³17 year old women are kept in a segregated unit called "S4". S4 houses women with mental illness, women who have a disciplinary breach or problems, and juveniles. Sisters Inside reports that two women have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of their experience in the S4 unit. (*In Corrections*, pp121).

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
8 March 2007

The Office for Women has produced a range of free resources (fact sheets, infosheets, checklists and more) to provide information about the origins of IWD, the history and current status of women and work as well as understanding women's rights at work. Check out the IWD website for more information www.women.qld.gov.au/iwd

THANK YOU



THANKS to all the Inter-agencies who responded swiftly to our recent request for confirmation of contact details. The YANQ Team very much appreciates this and it also ensures our records remain current.

The Future of the Sector Project

The Future of the Sector project was initiated in late 2005 by a collaboration of Queensland community service state-wide peaks and networks. The collaboration includes representatives from:

- Centre of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies, QUT
- Combined Churches Community Service Forum
- Community Centers & Family Support Network Association Qld
- Council on the Ageing Qld
- Ethnic Communities Council Qld
- Peakcare Qld
- Qld Alliance
- Qld Association of Independent Legal Services
- Qld Community Housing Coalition
- Qld Community Services and Health Industry Training Council
- Qld Council of Social Service
- Qld Disability Housing Coalition
- Qld Domestic Violence Services Network
- Qld Public Tenant's Association
- Qld Shelter
- Volunteering Qld
- Women's Health Services Network Qld
- Youth Affairs Network of Qld Inc

The purpose of the project is to envisage and promote a positive future for the community services sector through creating a shared vision for the community services sector.

Building the collective vision will include:

- Recognising the economic significance of the community services sector.
- Acknowledging the current trends impacting on the sector and the opportunities they present.
- Recognising the strengths of the sector and the unique value it adds to service delivery.
- Identifying the shared values that underpin the community services sector.

The creation of such a vision for the sector will:

- Enable the sector to demonstrate solidarity and speak with a collective voice on key issues of concern.
- Support the development of ways the sector can work better together.
- Facilitate the development and implementation of strategies for building the vision and promoting its realisation.
- Allow the sector to be proactive, rather than simply reactive to government agendas.

The *Creating a Future for our Sector* workshop (May 2006) was the first initiative of the project. The workshop began the process of creating a collective vision for the sector and identified strategies for its realisation. From the workshop it was decided that the best way to progress the project was to broaden the discussions and ideas from the workshop across the state.

From August to November a state-wide consultation *Creating a Future for our Sector: A Consultation* was held. The consultation aimed to engage the sector around identifying the common values that unite us and key issues of concern. Over 150 responses to the consultation were received. The results will be collated into a consultation report which will be available from the QCOS website in mid February.

On 9 March 2007, a sector round table will be held. The round table will comprise approximately eighty representatives from a cross section of the community services sector. It is proposed at that event to develop a Community Services Sector Charter which will represent a unified position demonstrating the solidarity of the sector. At the same roundtable, methods and strategies to pursue common goals identified in the consultation process will be agreed.

The content of the Charter and the priorities for action will be a major theme at the QCOS Conference later in March 2007.

For more information contact:

Tanya Hall, QCOS Sector Development Project Officer
Ph: 07 3832 1266 (ext. 25) Email tanyah@qcos.org.au
or

Siyavash Doostkhah, Director, YANQ, Ph: 07 3844 7713
Email director@yanq.org.au

SISTERS INSIDE INC 4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 28, 29 AND 30 JUNE 2007 AT Crowne Plaza Darwin



"Is Prison Obsolete" addresses the crucial issues relating to the criminalisation of women, their experience of prison and post release. The conference focuses on women in prison, service provision, advocacy, alternatives to prison. International Guests: Angela Davis, Kim Pate, Gina Dent.

Training Opportunities: Human Rights in Action Training; Working with Women with lived Prison experience. Facilitated by Sisters Inside Director & Human Rights Advocate Debbie Kilroy OAM.

REGISTER ONLINE www.sistersinside.com.au

The Prickly Process of Prioritising Issues

Youth Consultative Network Update

Youth workers support young people that face a myriad of challenges and difficulties in their lives – homelessness, unemployment, abuse, neglect, addiction, disengagement from education and so forth. YANQ's role is to advocate for, and with, young people facing these challenges. But determining which of these challenges should be highest priority is difficult, not just for YANQ, but for locally based networks and interagencies of youth organisations. Is unemployment a more pressing issue than homelessness? Or is abuse and neglect a higher priority than either?

These are the sorts of questions that many interagencies faced during the first 12 months of the Youth Consultative Network¹ (YCN). Indeed, answering these questions (as a group) was one of the most common difficulties encountered by youth interagencies/networks that participated in the YCN. In at least one instance after coming up with a long list of issues facing young people and services, interagencies allowed 1 or 2 people in the group to make the decision about which of these would be submitted to YANQ as the highest priorities. In other instances, no decisions were made and the interagency opted out of participating in the YCN, despite having done the work of defining a list of issues that concerned the.

In this article we provide some practical advice that might make it easier for groups (interagencies, networks, teams, organisations) to prioritise the issues facing the young people they work with, and services. The process described here may be useful for interagencies participating in the YCN, but also for any groups that are involved in planning processes that involve prioritising between different choices.

Dot-Voting

Dot-Voting (or multi-voting) is a collaborative process for a group to select their most important issues/priorities. The process does not necessarily result in a consensus decision (i.e. where everyone agrees with the issues), but it will give everyone in the group an equal role in making the decision.

What you Need

You will need Butchers paper, flipchart or whiteboard and marking pens. You will also need plenty of slips of paper, large enough to write short, 3-4 word, sentences on.

For the actual voting you can use sticky dots, small post-it notes or a thick pen for marking dots. You will need to provide each person in the group the same number of dots/post-it notes (or if just using markers, a limit on the number of votes they can indicate). A rough rule of thumb for determining the number of stickers/votes you need is to divide the number of issues by 3 and give each member that many stickers (rounded up). So if there were 14 issues, each group member would get 5 sticky dots or post-it notes ($14/3 = 4.67$). Giving too many or too little dots/votes to each person can hamper the process – a minimum of 3 and maximum of 10 votes per person are good limits to work within.

How to Facilitate the Process

First the group needs to create a list of options. In the case of an interagency deciding on top priority issues facing young people, the list might include things such as: unemployment, homelessness, alcohol abuse and so on. This process can be done before a meeting (e.g. ask participants to e-mail their suggestions to the facilitator). It can also be done as a brainstorming session during the meeting.

Once you have the list, place each item up in a visible spot. You can use the slips of paper, or write them on the whiteboard/butchers paper. Next, spend some time discussing the issues. This discussion can be used to clarify issues and remove duplicates. Make it clear that during this discussion no-one is to be attacked for advocating for (or against) a particular issue.

After the discussion, provide individuals with the required number sticky dots. If using pens, explain the limits on the number of votes members of the group can make. Each individual uses their dots, post-it notes or pens to vote for the they consider most important. Each person's dots can be placed on one item or spread across a number of items.

As an example, an interagency voting (with ten people assigned 3 votes each) on what they see as the high priority issue facing young people might get something like the following:

Lack of accommodation	●●●●●●●●●●
Transport to work or recreation	●●●●●●
Not enough affordable recreation	●●
Underage drinking	●●●
Centrelink Breaches	●●●●●●●
School expulsions	●
Self-harming	●●●●●●

From the example above, it is clear that the high priority is "Lack of Accommodation". The second priority would be "Centrelink Breaches". The third priority is a tie between Transport and self-harming.

If the group needs to break a tie, then provide some more time for discussion. If through discussion the group cannot come to a consensus that breaks the tie, repeat the voting process (provide more dots). This time however, limit the voting to just those issues that are tied – or to the top 3-5 issues that were identified in the first round.

Next Steps

A more detailed explanation of this process is available on YANQ's website at http://www.yanq.org.au/files/Dot_Voting_for_YCN.pdf.

(cont page 6)

(cont from page 5) **The Prickly Process of Prioritising Issues ...**

The article also provides links to a number of variations of the process documented on the World Wide Web.

For interagencies using this process to determine their top issues facing young people and youth services, the next step is to head to <http://www.yanq.org.au/ycn> and fill out the form (either online, or download a hardcopy and fax or post it back).

For others, if this process is being used to determine top priority issues to deal with, the next step for a group to do is to discuss actions that can be taken to deal with the issues. This process can also be used on a regular basis to provide the group with a mechanism for detecting 'issues' in a community (or just in an organisation) early, before they turn into serious problems.

Footnotes

¹ See <http://www.yanq.org.au/ycn>.



The *Are We There Yet?* National Youth Affairs Conference is shaping up to be a major event for the youth sector. Now extended to three days, the continued interest and enthusiasm for the conference has been fantastic.

The conference preliminary program has been compiled which outlines the plenary sessions and presentations that are occurring over the three-day period. The program reflects the diversity of the sector with presentations ranging from "The Secret Life of the Youth Roundtable" to "It's a long way between toilet breaks." It is truly a varied and diverse program that will have something of interest to all. This is the **preliminary** program so presentation topics and times may change.

The preliminary program outlines the Young People's stream, including sessions such as: Young People and Media Platforms, Young Australians and the UN and Presenting Comedy Shows. The fun stream is also shaping up with workshops including: Guerrilla Journalism, Circus Skills and Slam Poetry and hIp hop.

The Extra Events will also prove to be an exciting addition to the three days. "Curry Conversations" happening on the first night will provide an opportunity for people to discuss youth policy in Australia and Europe with two specialists in the field, while relishing a curry. On the second night the "Conference Celebration" will take place at the Curve Bar in Melbourne's Art precinct. The night will include gourmet BBQ snacks, drinks and comedy from the Class Clowns- a great mix! Extra events will run throughout the three days during the various breaks. For details on the events please refer to page 8 and 9 of the preliminary program.

The Conference Youth Team are now meeting regularly at the YACVic office and are providing valuable input and insight into the conference planning. The Conference Youth Team will play a large role in decision making over the next few months and will ensure young people's voices and opinions are factored into the conference.

The website is now up and provides additional information for delegates, presenters and young people. It also outlines accommodation options offering a conference discount and a list of things to do while in Melbourne, including a list of favourite cafes and bars of YACVic's staff. The preliminary program can be downloaded from the website and registrations are open via an online form or people can register by mail. The Early bird registration discount has been extended to 9 March.

Visit the conference website www.yacvic.org.au/conference to download the preliminary program and to learn more about what is happening at the conference. For further details please email Erin Johnson at conference@yacvic.org.au

'Are we there yet? National Youth Affairs' Conference is an initiative of Youth Affairs Council of Victoria, Youth Affairs Network of Queensland, Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia, Youth Coalition of the ACT, Youth Affairs Council of South Australia, Northern Territory Youth Network, Youth Network of Tasmania, and the Youth Action and Policy Association of NSW

NSW protects young people from WorkChoices

by John Ferguson, YAPA Policy and Training Officer

YAPA welcomes the move by the NSW Government to protect young people from WorkChoices.

The protections have just been passed by NSW Parliament and they are a welcome addition to the workforce laws in this state. The legislation requires that an employer of an employee under 18 years of age has to provide employment terms and conditions at least equivalent to applicable NSW awards and legislation.

This is a fantastic result for the young people of NSW. This protects young workers from exploitation and increases their chances of finding a fair and equitable workplace.

The NSW Government has made these protections possible using their power to make "child labour laws", which are exempt from the Federal WorkChoices

legislation. The protections for young people also include the continued application of unfair dismissal laws, a move that further adds to a fair workplace for young employees.

The NSW Government has really listened to the concerns in the community regarding WorkChoices. They have shown real leadership to respond to the dangers that young people faced under the Federal workplace laws.

Australians love their sport; however, in our football codes we have junior grades, because we don't put young people on the same playing field as professionals. It wouldn't be fair on the footy field and it wouldn't be fair in the workplace. It's just common sense.

Young people are a valuable part of our community and deserve every support to gain meaningful and rewarding employment. We want young people in NSW to have real jobs with fair pay and fair conditions.

YAPA recently conducted research with over 400 young workers that showed that the majority of young people are not confident to negotiate at work. The majority of young people felt that they would be better off under an award rather than negotiating on an individual basis.

The Federal Government claims that it is patronising to say that young people cannot negotiate their own pay and conditions, however our report clearly showed that young people are not confident to negotiate and that they would prefer to work under an award. This is not patronising, it is simply realistic.

Now we need the rest of the country to follow the lead set by NSW.

The preceding article as appeared in the newsletter of the Youth Action and Policy Association NSW Inc, YAPRap, Vol 16 No 11 November 2006, is reproduced with the permission of YAPA and the author.

Community Door website opens up new resources for NGOs

Support for the day-to-day business of running a non-government organisation is now just a mouse click away, thanks to a new website targeted at managers and workers in Queensland's community and disability services sectors.

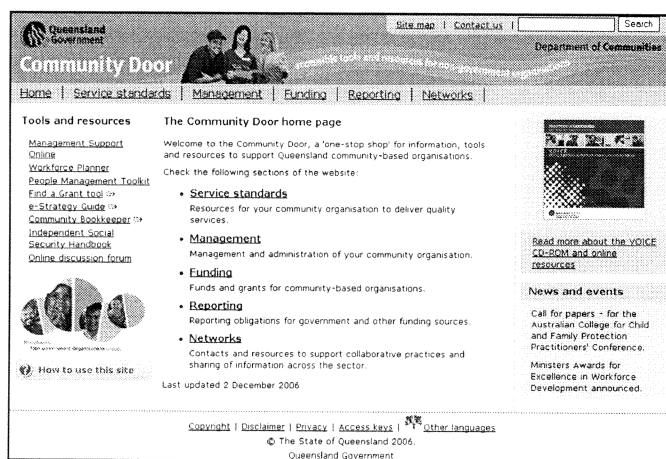
Developed as part of the Queensland Government's Strengthening Non-Government Organisations strategy, the Community Door website contains tools, resources, and information on topics such as human resource management, finance, service standards, reporting and marketing.

Feedback and guidance from sector representatives have helped to ensure materials suit the needs of community and disability organisations.

Silky Oaks Children's Haven Chief Executive Officer Wendy Williams who participated in the website's development and user testing said she welcomed the "one-stop shop" convenience it offered. "The Community Door provides a good range of information and resources on all the activities involved in managing an organisation, including business planning, financial management and working out your staffing needs," said Ms Williams.

"The site is well organised and easy to find your way around, with links to additional information and sites if you want to find out more about a particular topic."

The website also has an online forum for networking and information sharing.



With almost 2800 "hits" recorded in its first month of operation, the website is set to become a key resource and point of contact for community and disability organisations across the state.

Development of the Community Door will continue during 2007-08, with input from sector representatives.

To view and give feedback on the website, visit www.qld.gov.au/ngo. For further information or to join the user-testing group, please contact Claire Rowland, Strengthening Non-Government Organisations team, phone: 1300 794 611, email: ngos@communities.qld.gov.au.

CALD MATTERS

Freestyling It Like Thorpe

YANQ is currently engaged with Al-Nisa in a research project about young Muslim women's participation in sport.

Although sport in general contributes significantly to many people's ideas about Australian culture and lifestyle (as shown in its unification of people from different ethnic and religious backgrounds in a common sporting goal, which in turn shapes the Australian identity), sport and recreational activities in Australia are not entirely inclusive, particularly for people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. Young Muslim women in particular are presented with physical, cultural, social, economic and religious barriers that may limit and/or shape their participation in sports and recreation.

The project, known as 'Freestyling It Like Thorpe' (perhaps now a lacklustre title considering Ian Thorpe's recent retirement from professional swimming), is a play on the popular film "Bend It Like Beckham", which explores the issues surrounding the cultural concerns a young woman's family has in regard to her passion for soccer. While Australia is renowned for nurturing some of the world's best swimmers (and Queensland for its sun, surf and beaches) the title of this research project reflects the irony between perceptions of the Australian culture and that experienced by young Muslim women living in Australia.

Currently in its early stages, the project aims include:

- The identification of barriers and factors that limit young Muslim women's participation in sports and recreation at family and community levels;
- The compilation of a list and description of the type of sports and recreational activities that young Muslim women prefer to get involved in;
- An exploration of the culturally responsive and inclusive delivery of sports and recreational activities for young Muslim women in Queensland;
- The development of recommendations and strategies for key stakeholders involved in the planning and delivery of sports and recreational activities that provide practical solutions to addressing the needs of young Muslim women; and
- The engagement of young Muslim women in southeast Queensland in the data collection process to develop their research and leadership capacity.

Through this project, YANQ seeks to identify and analyse socio-cultural barriers affecting young Muslim women's participation in sports and recreation and to develop strategies that promote a greater participation of young Muslim women in sports and recreation in Queensland.

To assist with this project, Al-Nisa is also employing two Muslim youth workers who will be engaged in both the research and the policy development phases of the project.

CROCCS (Mackay Centre for Research on Community & Children's Services) 5th International Conference

Overcoming Violence & Poverty to be held at the Seabreeze

Tavern, Lamberts Beach Mackay on **3, 4 & 5 August 2007.**

Conference Convenors: Michael Bishop, President CROCCS
michael@croccs.org.au

Conference Organiser: Kerrod O'Neill, Executive Officer, Mackay Centre
for Research on Community and Children's Services PO Box 1401 Mac-
kay Q 4740 Ph 07 4957 5400 fax 07 4957 5488 Email info@croccs.org.au



YANQ is very pleased to welcome Kirsten McGavin to the team as our new Multicultural Development Officer. Kirsten started work with YANQ Monday the 8th of January.

The main focus areas of Kirsten's role at YANQ are to advocate and implement research on the needs of young people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds; and to increase the capacity of young people from CALD backgrounds to participate in policy making. Kirsten will also be coordinating the Multicultural Youth Network Queensland (MYNQ).

Kirsten comes to the role of Multicultural Development Officer with an academic background in anthropology and is currently in the final stages of completing her PhD through the University of Queensland. Her studies in anthropology have also allowed her to investigate and explore her heritage; having close family ties to Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and the Philippines. A first generation Australian, she hopes to bring a personal and professional understanding of multiculturalism and all its implications to the position.

Kirsten is excited about facilitating the amplification of the voice of CALD youth in Queensland, and is pleased to be able to use her planning, research and writing skills in this role. When not at YANQ, Kirsten's still writing (articles, letters, novels), and likes TV, photography, reading (although it depends on what), listening to Stevie Wonder and skating (roller-skating that is...although sometimes she does take to the ice!).

Kirsten is looking forward to meeting and working with all of you who have an interest in supporting CALD young people. She can be contacted by phone or by email to cald@yanq.org.au.

Helping disengaged Young People take up their Right to an Education: What works?

During the past two months, YANQ has been working on a small research project, interviewing youth workers about the opportunities available to young people that are unemployed (or employed tenuously) and not participating in education. The research has focused specifically on young people aged 12-18. It is not about young people 'at risk' of disengaging, but those that are already disengaged from education and work.

YANQ decided to undertake this research after a number of interagencies participating in the Youth Consultative Network raised the need for more alternative education options. After some informal discussions with a number of youth workers and organisations it appeared that there is a view in the sector that little is being done to support disengaged young people and that the Education and Training Reforms for the Future (ETRF) are only targeting young people 'at risk', to the exclusion of young people that have become disengaged already.

The aim of this research then is to explore:

1. what strategies (programs, policies etc) are most effective in helping young people overcome these obstacles;
2. what services (including but not limited to those funded under the ETRF umbrella) are available in Queensland for young people to assist them to re-engage with education;
3. what are the obstacles that can make it difficult for young people to take up these opportunities;

The last two of these research aims are being addressed through one-on-one interviews and focus groups with youth workers and others that work with this group of young people. The first is being addressed through a literature review and as well as inviting the sector to provide ideas from its experience (see the "Call to Action" in this article).

Early Findings – Re-engagement is no easy task

As at the time of writing the research is not completed but it is clear at the early stages that supporting young people to re-engage into education is a very difficult task. For any

reader familiar with this area of work, the challenges young people face that are being identified won't come as a surprise. They include, among many others:

- lack of secure and stable accommodation;
- low income;
- poor access to public transport;
- anxiety associated with past experiences of failure in the school system;
- lack of role models or role models that don't appear to value education;

CALL TO ACTION

YANQ needs to hear your ideas. What strategies, tools, policies, techniques work well in re-engaging young people back into education.

Your ideas might include things like:

- services models
- community wide strategies
- intervention techniques
- social policies
- school based strategies
- anything you think is important in helping young people take up their right to an education

Send your ideas to ndo@yanq.org.au or phone David on 3844 7713 or 1800 177 899 (for readers outside SEQ).

So What is Working?

Despite these challenges, some young people, with support, are able to make a successful return to education and give themselves much better chances in life. The challenge for YANQ and youth workers that work with disengaged young people is to identify and replicate where possible the strategies that make it possible for young people to overcome their obstacles and take up their rights to an education.

This is where we need your help. YANQ would like your ideas and suggestions about the strategies that work well in supporting young people to re-engage with education. See the "Call to Action" in this article for details.

Participating in the research

Readers that have recent direct experience working with young people (12-18) that are disengaged from education and have (at best) tenuous links to the labour market are strongly encouraged to participate in the research. One-on-

One interviews take 30-40 minutes to complete, your involvement will be kept confidential and no identifying information is stored with your responses to the questions.

To take part, please contact David at YANQ on 3844 7713 / 1800 177 899 or e-mail ndo@yanq.org.au.

The research will be completed by late March with a report on the finding to be released soon after.

Adolescence and young adulthood: the importance of support

The following article is an excerpt of the report Youth Support Services: Who's Carrying the Can?" a report into youth services gaps in Victoria produced in 2006 in partnership by VCOSS (www.vcooss.org.au) and YACVic (www.yacvic.org.au) and is reproduced with the permission of the partnering authors

Adolescence and young adulthood are critical stages for emotional, social and physical growth and development, including brain development. In this report, adolescence is defined as 12 to 17 years of age, and young adulthood from 18 to 25 years of age.

Adolescence is a critical phase of development, during which young people undergo profound personal and physiological change. The range of experiences that young people have as adolescents not only impacts on them at that time of their lives, but can profoundly impact on their futures. It is a time during which young people can be particularly vulnerable and require appropriate support to ensure that they have every chance to reach their potential, and to assist their development into healthy adults who can make a valuable contribution to society.

Brain development during adolescence

The work of Dr Jack Schonkoff on the development of the brain during the early years of childhood is well known and has provided important information which has influenced the development of the Victorian Government's policy to invest in ensuring all Victorian children have 'every chance' and get the 'best start' in life. In addressing the 'Putting children first: Their future, our future' forum, The Hon. Sherryl Garbutt, Minister for Children and Minister for Community Services, highlighted the influence of Dr Schonkoff's work in the development of the Government's policy approach and investment in early childhood:

'Our agenda has been informed by experts and underpinned by the sort of research that Dr Shonkoff and others such as Professor Frank Oberklaid will share with

you throughout the course of today's forum. Consistent with another key theme of Dr Shonkoff, the Government has recognized the nexus between investing in our children and the long term prosperity of our community.'

What is less well known is that during adolescence the brain continues to undergo key development stages, with significant connections or 'wiring-up' occurring. Significant connections and remodelling occur in the frontal lobe, the area of the brain responsible for a range of functions including coordinating behaviour, impulse control, decision making, judgement, planning and other higher order cognitive functions. Much of this remodelling is influenced by a young person's experiences.

This highlights the importance of young people being able to access supports when there are issues that may negatively impact on this development process. A young person's capacity to remain in education and training, their access to opportunities for recreation and creative pursuits are clearly linked to the development of their brains and will impact on their futures in the long term.

Increased risk taking behaviour

Young people are particularly vulnerable in a number of ways while their brain is still developing in adolescence. A crucial stage of brain development occurring at this point is the development of the frontal lobes, the area of the brain that 'helps us plan, consider, control impulses, make wise judgements'.¹² This means that adolescents can be more prone to making impulsive decisions, to not necessarily thinking through the longer-term consequences of their actions and to risk-taking behaviours.

Emotional vulnerability

At this time of brain development too, adolescents' brains show more activity in the emotional parts of the brain (the limbic system) than they do in the frontal lobes and prefrontal cortex (those parts responsible for planning and

impulse control).¹³ This explains why adolescence can be a particularly challenging time emotionally, during which young people can be particularly vulnerable to depression and anxiety. Andrew Fuller explains that:

'Between late childhood and early adolescence there is a 'fall from grace' with the number of reports of feeling 'very happy' dropping by 50%¹⁴ (Larson and Richards, 1994). Even when engaged in the same activities, adolescents find them less pleasurable than adults. They experience an increase in negative feelings, depressed mood and mood ranges than younger and older people.'

Increased stress

Adolescence is typically a time of increased stress for many young people. During adolescence, many young people experience 'more negative life experiences (friendship changes, alterations in romantic liaisons, school work) that they tend to view more negatively and have less control over.'

It is important that young people have access to generalist youth support services through which they can access assistance in dealing with the increased stress they may be experiencing.

Substance use

Adolescence can be a time when young people experiment with alcohol and drugs, alongside a range of other 'testing out' behaviour. This is not surprising given the greater propensity to risk taking, the typical rise in emotional dissatisfaction and the commonly experienced increased stress levels. ORYGEN Youth Health highlights just how vulnerable young people are to substance use disorders:

'In the 18-24 age group, substance use disorders were the most prevalent, affecting about 1 in 5 males and 1 in 10 females. Alcohol dependence was the most prevalent substance use disorder, affecting 12% of males and 4% of females.'

(cont. on page 11)

(cont. from page 10)

Substance abuse during adolescence can impact on physical health including brain development, on mental health and on emotional wellbeing. Further, 'early onset alcohol use strongly predicts later alcohol abuse and dependence.'

Mental Health

Adolescence and young adulthood is the key period for the onset of a range of mental health disorders, including depression, anxiety disorders, substance abuse disorders and psychotic illnesses such as schizophrenia.

ORYGEN Youth Health notes that:

'Over 75% of all serious mental health problems commence before the age of 25 years....Mental disorders and related substance abuse disorders account for a staggering 60% of the total nonfatal burden of disease for the age group 15-24 years and are therefore the single most important health issue affecting young people.'

Research evidence highlights that an early intervention response to a young person experiencing a mental health disorder is the most effective means to recovery and reduced risk of relapse.²⁰ Such an approach is reinforced in the recent report prepared by Boston Consulting for the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Improving mental health outcomes in Victoria: The next wave of reform. This report highlights three key issues in the services delivered in the mental health system in Victoria, one of

which is:

'Limited investment in prevention and early intervention, with many children and young people in particular not receiving support designed to forestall or avoid the escalation of mental illness.'

The Boston Consulting Group highlights that the limited investment at this level of service intervention occurs in Victoria 'despite emerging evidence from studies around the world that effective early intervention for children and youth can deliver significant social benefits, including a reduction in suicide and crime rates, as well as a strong economic return on investment.'

A lack of generalist youth support services hampers young people accessing timely assistance and increases demands on tertiary services. Over recent years there has been a move to increased targeting of services and to prioritising resourcing of tertiary or crisis-based services. As a result, many young people have no access to any early intervention support services.

'Delays in help-seeking and major gaps in the continuum of care continue to exist as a result of under-resourcing and/or poor coordination of services.'

This results in many young people not being able to access support when they need it.

Future Directions: An Action Agenda for Young Victorians states that the Victorian Government has identified that this situation is a major concern to

young people:

'Young people care deeply about their mental health and wellbeing and are concerned about the rising rates of anxiety and depression among their peers. They want greater access to support at early stages to prevent issues escalating and to be equipped to manage their own situations.'

Locally-based, youth-specific early intervention mental health services are key to supporting and promoting the wellbeing of young people and to reducing the onset of tertiary mental health issues.

The essential role of generalist youth support services

Generalist youth support services play a pivotal role in supporting young people across this range of important issues at the early intervention and secondary support level. Currently, large gaps exist in the availability of these support services for young people. This means that many young people do not have every chance to fulfil their potential. Further, these service gaps place increased stress and demand on existing youth services and workers.

'Unmet need is still too high.'

Improved coordination across service providers is also critical in supporting and promoting the health and wellbeing of young people. Ensuring strong coordination across the planning, development and delivery of support is important in developing a youth services system.

TRAINING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 15 – 17

Need training for a job? 15 – 17 years old?

Want help deciding on a career? AND have fun at the same time?

BoysTown is running the Get Set For Work Program in your area.

The training program is for 15 – 17 year olds and will help you get a job, into a course or even back to school.

For more information contact **BoysTown** on phone 3387 8800

Get Set For Work is funded under the State Government's *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative.

Telstra \$5 Phone Cards

Does your service work with low income young people who rely on public pay phones for their communication? If so, YANQ still has approx 2,500 five dollar (\$5.00) Telstra Phonecards (for use in public payphones) to give to services to distribute to young people.

Please read on for details on eligibility criteria and how to order cards to distribute to young people that use your service.

Eligibility

Under the Program, participating services or agencies have the discretion to issue Telstra Phonecards according to the eligibility guidelines listed below. Telstra respects the independence of the agency's assessment. The decision by the agency to issue or not issue a Phonecard shall be final. The welfare agency must assess the person as being a person, residing in Australia, who depends/ relies on public payphones from time to time for their communications.

It is expected that in most cases that the person receiving the Phonecard will either:

- have a current Australian Health Care Card; or
- have a current Australian Centrelink Jobs Network Card; or
- be a new arrival in Australia with a temporary Protection Visa; or
- have a current Australian Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card (including an Age Pension, or a Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment recipient); or
- be in a crisis situation; or
- be in a situation where there is a high risk to safety and security, where privacy is paramount (eg. Domestic violence); or
- be a job seeker; or
- live in a remote indigenous community

Distribution Process

YANQ will give services the phonecards in multiples of ten, with a maximum of 100 cards per service. To reduce postage costs, YANQ will (where practicable) post all cards for one region to a single service. Other services in the same region will be asked to arrange pickup from this service. All recipients will be notified when the cards have been posted and be provided with their pickup location.

To order cards for your service, please contact YANQ Ph 07 3844 7713 or 1800 177 899 or email admin@yanq.org.au for an order form to be forwarded to you. Please note: Distribution will be based on a first-come-first-served basis.

At YANQ's 2005/2006 Annual General Meeting held 7 December 2006, the following members were elected to our Management Committee for 2006 / 2007 :

Phil Dodds, President
Adrian Hepi, Vice President
Diane Forsyth, Treasurer
Matilda Alexander, Secretary
Adam Barnes
Trish Ferrier
Liz Shield
Tanya Genito
Gillian Mason-Johnson
Jarryd Williams



Management & staff at a recent planning workshop (*absent Jarryd Williams*)

A little about Liz Shield

Born and schooled in Brisbane, I studied 2 years of a Bachelor of Education at QUT but after deciding teaching wasn't for me, took a few years off and did Certificate courses in Massage and Aromatherapy at The Academy of Natural Health in Spring Hill. I was working in retail at the time, and while employed at "Gypsy's" clothing and accessory store in McWhirters (Fortitude Valley) I came into contact with many homeless and marginalised young people. We would sit down and have a smoke and a yarn and it was then I thought - there's not enough out there for these young people. I realised they had a lot to offer and not enough people were interested in listening to them or supporting their needs and interests.

This is what led me to apply and then graduate from UQ after 5 long years (in 2003) with Bachelors of Social Work and Arts (major in Women's Studies). I have worked for a time as a sexual assault counselor and at a domestic violence shelter. I also worked for two years at the "Reconnect" Programme with Mercy Family Services supporting young people who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and their families. It was probably through these experiences I gained a solid understanding of the links between violence and homelessness, and realized the appalling lack of affordable and safe housing in Queensland.

I am currently employed as a Housing Support Worker and General Counselor with Zig Zag Young Women's Resource Centre Inc. and am active in the Women's and Youth sector interagencies and committees. I enjoy creative resistance, riding my bike, swimming, playing Frisbee and taking up public space.

Watch this space for more goss on our new committee members!!!!

Interagency Meetings

current as at February 2007

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 Bargara Road Bundaberg.

Cairns Youth Service Network

Contact: Carly Herbertson, A/Youth Development Officer PO Box 359, Cairns Q 4870
Ph: 07 4044 3016 Fax: 07 4044 3830
Email: c.herbertson@cairns.qld.gov.au
Meets last Thursday of month at Cairns City Library, Abbott Street, Cairns.
Contact Carly 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: mcda@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.

Charleville 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: Pamela White, 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 Youth Interagency

Contact: Andrea Hughes
Gladstone City Council
PO Box 29, Gladstone Q 4680
Ph: 07 4976 6300 Fax: 07 4972 6557
Email: andrea.h@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: csa@jsc.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.
Current as at November 2006

Maryborough Interagency 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: 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: Stephen Baldwin
Australian Redcross
Ph: 07 4922 0020 Fax: 07 4921 4802
Email: SBaldwin@redcross.org.au
Meets third Friday of the month 9.00-10.30 am at CQ Youth Justice Service Centre 155 Alma Street, Rockhampton.

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.net.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.
Current as at November 2006.

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 at Youth Justice Service on Bamford Lane behind the bowling alley in Kirwan.

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 February 2007

South-East Queensland

Beaudesert Shire Youth Network

Contact: Joetta Perrett, Youth Development Officer, BeauCare

Ph: 07 5541 4391 Fax: 07 5541 3654

Email: youth@beaucaire.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. *Current as at November 2006*

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: Tracey Wood (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: gc youth@bigpond.net.au

Meets last Wednesday of the month 10.30am-12.30pm at Robina Uniting Church, Community Complex, 4 Greenwich Court,

Robina.

Goodna Youth Interagency

Contact: Nicole Morris, Learning for Life 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.

Logan Youth Networks

Contact: Kirsty Robson, Youth Planner,

Community Services, Logan City Council

PO Box 3226, Logan City DC 4114

Ph: 07 3412 5029 Fax: 07 3412 3444

Email: KirstyRobson@logan.qld.gov.au

Contact Kirsty 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: Narelle Poulsen, Learning for Life Worker, The Smith Family

Ph: 07 5443 6214 Fax: 07 5443 7203

Email:

Narelle.Poulsen@thesmithfamily.com.au

Meets once each school term; dates for meetings & venues are advised prior to meetings.

Northern Gold Coast Interagency

Contact: Veronica Cox (Studio Village)

Ph: 07 5529 8253

Email: svcc@commmail.com.au

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

Pine Rivers Youth Service Providers Network

Contact: Mark McCormack, Community Development Team Leader, Pine Rivers Shire Council

Ph: 07 3480 6470 Fax: 07 34806353

Email:

mark.mccormack@pinerivers.qld.gov.au

Meets second Monday bi-monthly 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:

jacqueline.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 alternate meeting venues. Contact Courtney for meeting calendar.

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: jessicaw@thefamilycentre.org.au

Every 3 months a half day forum is held.

Venue alternates between Murwillumbah and Tweed. Contact Jessica for details.

Zillmere Youth Organisations Network (ZYON)

Contact: Julian Hunt, Coordinator of Sport &

Recreation, Kurbingui Youth Development

Ph: 07 3865 1462

Fax: 07 3265 3263

Email: sportrec@kurbingui.org.au

Contact Julian 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 ☐ 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.