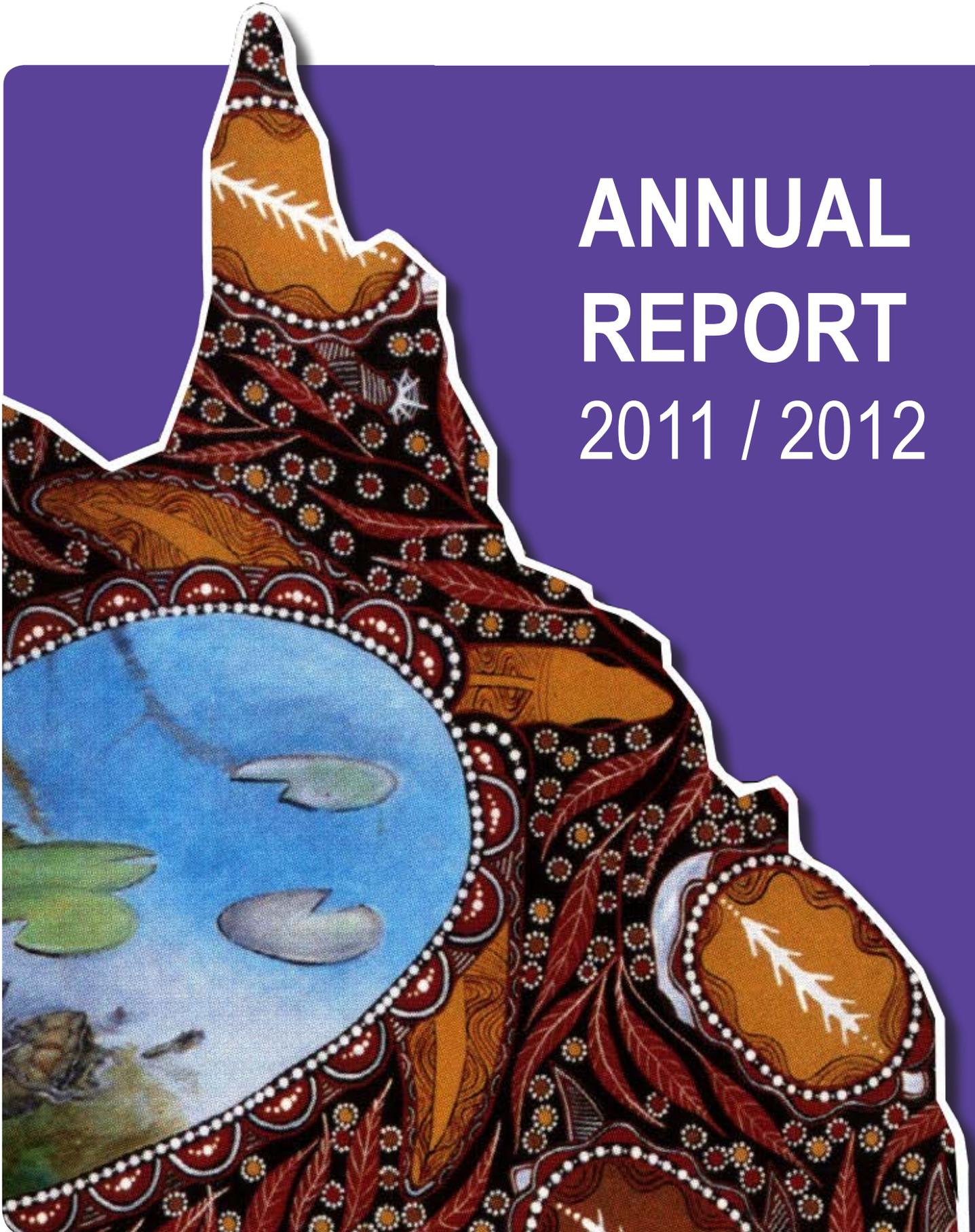




youth affairs network qld

ANNUAL REPORT 2011 / 2012





YOUTH AFFAIRS NETWORK OF QUEENSLAND INC.

Annual Report 2011 / 2012



YOUTH AFFAIRS NETWORK OF QUEENSLAND INC.

ANNUAL REPORT 2011 / 2012

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BOND UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
PARTNERSHIP BROKERS
YOUTH CONNECTIONS STATEWIDE

YANQ extends its appreciation to Telstra for again donating 5000 \$5 Telstra cards for distribution to marginalised young people across Queensland.

YANQ would also like to thank all our members, all networks and communities that invited, hosted or worked with YANQ in various ways during past twelve months.

Report layout
Steve Skitmore

Cover picture
Tex Skuthorpe
Co-Author
Treading Lightly

Acknowledgement of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders.....4

ABOUT YANQ

About the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland.....5

A Summary of YANQ's Values.....6

Creating a Values Driven Organisation.....7

The YANQ Team from July 2011 to June 2012.....8

CPLAN: YANQ's Regional Networks9

Meet the CPLAN Facilitators.....10

2011-12 REPORTS

President's Report.....12

Director's Report13

CPLAN Updates14

2011 Policy Forum16

2011 Queensland Youth Affairs Conference17

Statewide Workforce Development18

Research and Advocacy.....18

Communications.....21

Meetings and Presentations.....22

Alliances and Partnerships.....23

Multicultural Development.....24

Treasurer's Report.....25

Auditor's Report.....26

Acknowledgement

We believe that the Traditional Custodians and primary Culture of Australia is Aboriginal.

We recognise that Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Islander peoples are three separate cultures. We recognise Aboriginal people as the permanent custodians of mainland Australia, including those areas of land on whose owners no longer live as a result of racist policies and acts. We use the term custodianship in the context of protection and care for the land.

YANQ is committed to respecting Murri communities and individuals. We seek to understand their responses to policies and issues affecting them. We are committed to learning about their understandings of the impact of decisions on them. YANQ apologises for the past and present social mistreatment of Murri and Islander people created by colonisation, and is committed to supporting the healing process.

Aboriginal Flag



The Aboriginal flag was designed by Harold Thomas in 1971, and first flown in Adelaide's Victoria Square. The flag is widely recognised today as being the symbol of the Aboriginal people for the Aboriginal people.

The flag is made up of three colours -black, red and yellow. Black represents the Aboriginal people of this land, the red represents the earth we live and feed off and the yellow represents the

Torres Strait Island Flag



The Torres Strait Island flag was designed in 1992 by a 15 year old student, Bernard Namok of Thursday Island. The flag has a white star underneath it.

The green represents the land and the Deri is a symbol of all Torres Strait Islander people.

The black represents the people and their culture while the five pointed star symbolises the many island groups and represent peace. The flag also stands for unity and identity of all Torres Strait Island people.

1. This is an extract from YANQ Values – for a full outline of YANQ's values see www.yanq.org.au/values

About the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland

The Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc (YANQ) is the peak community youth affairs organisation in Queensland, representing 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
- input into policy development
- enhancing the professional development of the youth sector

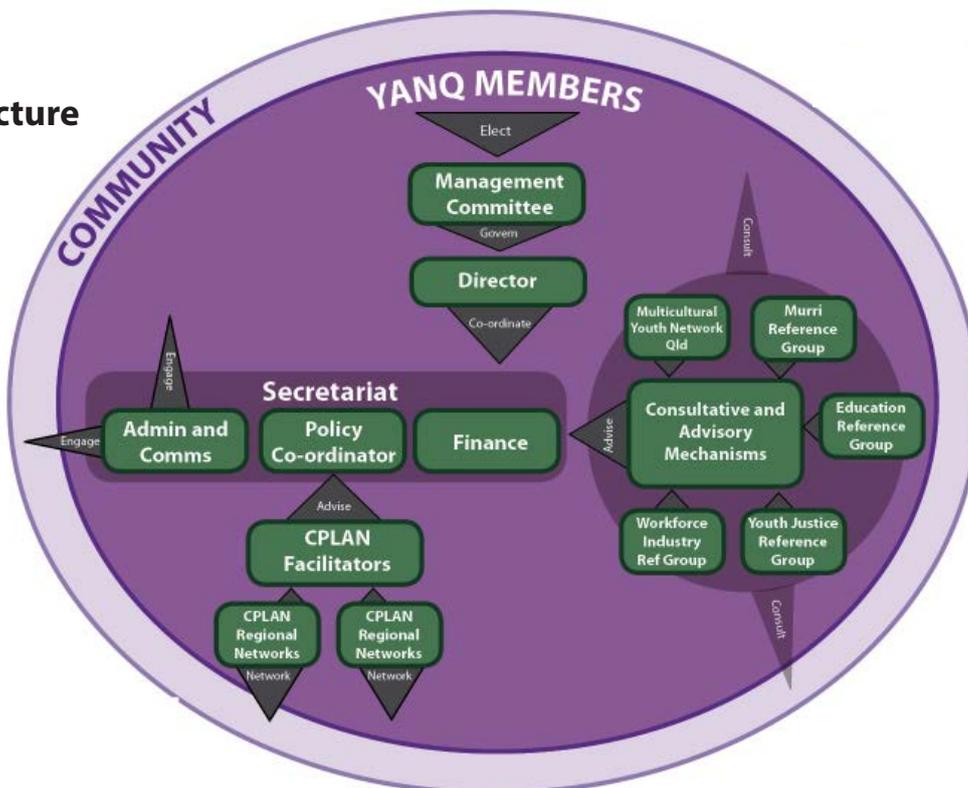
We advocate on behalf of young people in Queensland, especially disadvantaged young people, to government and the community.

We promote and support cultural diversity. We encourage the development of policies and programs that respond to the rights and needs of young people.

YANQ employs a small team in its Brisbane based secretariat and 10 CPLAN Regional Facilitators across Queensland.

The organisation is managed by a committee elected from our membership base.

YANQ's Structure



A Summary of YANQ's New Vision and Values

YANQ believes that the Traditional Custodians and primary Culture of Australia is Aboriginal.

We support the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to self determination, and recognise their capacity to generate their own solutions to the problems imposed on them by continuing colonisation and ongoing pressures to assimilate. We recognise the proven credentials of Aboriginal Traditional Owners and Custodians in connecting with and managing this Land. We value the wisdom and leadership Aboriginal cultures can bring to addressing the problems faced by Australian society.

We aspire to a world which recognises the interdependence of all species on this planet. We envisage a future where Australia is in a position to benefit from Aboriginal Culture; where Australians collectively acknowledge the strengths of one of the world's oldest surviving cultures and embrace highly evolved Aboriginal tradition, Lore and practices. This would play a critical role in achieving a sustainable future for humankind.

YANQ supports the human rights of all Australians.

These include the necessities of survival; everyone's right to achieve their full potential; and their right to make choices about their lifestyle, and express their culture, without fear of penalty. Everyone has the right to mean-

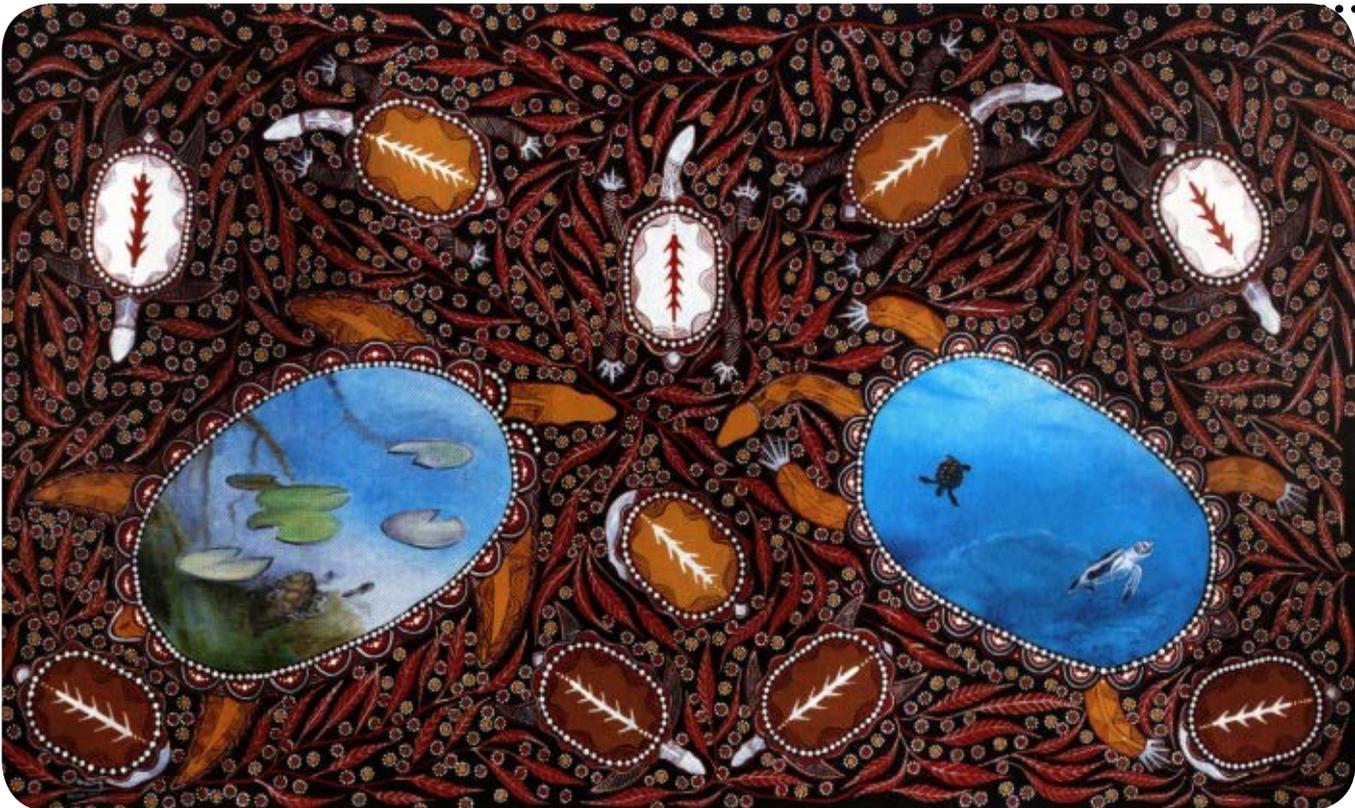
ingfully participate in their community and decisions that affect their lives.

We recognise that systemic issues contribute to a failure to meet young people's rights, and the social exclusion of groups of young people. Most young people are disadvantaged – culturally, socially and/or economically. Major social systems continue to fail the majority of young people. Further, socially excluded young people face ongoing pressure to conform to dominant Anglo-Celtic values. This generates disharmony within and across communities, making them vulnerable to prejudice and discrimination. It is only when we recognise the cultures of our First Peoples as the basis for genuine multi-culturalism, and value the identities, contributions and rights of all Australians, that we can achieve social harmony.

Young people have the capacity to play an important part in their communities and the wider society. Young people's social role and contribution, both now and in the future, largely depends upon how they are treated. The greater the participation of young people in social decision-making, the healthier the community and society.

Community organisations provide a unique pathway to optimising young people's social participation. They can facilitate genuine participatory democracy and respond to young people's needs in an alternate, holistic way. Young

Vision for a Sustainable Planet by Tex Skuthorpe, co-author of Treading Lightly. Tex's paintings and book have largely inspired our new values.



people are entitled to access services which respond to their rights and needs, and freely choose whether or not to use these services. Competent Youth Workers have the values, attitudes, knowledge and skills required to work effectively with young people and their communities, using a rights-driven approach.

Australian governments are obliged to meet young people's internationally-agreed human rights. Governments should take full responsibility for meeting these obligations toward young people. Governments should value the expertise of community organisations in providing complementary services, and resource them

them to take the lead in addressing the rights and needs of young people within their particular community.

Ultimately, YANQ envisages a future where young people are seen as equal, active participants in Queensland society. As a result, Queensland would be a fair, equitable diverse state; a bastion of human rights. It would be a healthy society in which individuals, families and communities are inter-connected; where a culture of mutual respect generates resilience and genuine social inclusion. Its thriving youth sector would enthusiastically stand alongside Aboriginal people and young people, to continue to improve the world. The powerful voice of YANQ would be seen as an invaluable social asset.

Creating a Values Driven Organisation

At a Special General Meeting held on 14th May 2012, YANQ members voted to adopt the revised set of values and priorities (the summary of which is on the previous page) to guide YANQ's work in the coming years. For the past 10 years, YANQ has used a value base to ensure consistency of work towards achieving the organisation's vision. There has been a great deal of learning in the last decade and a comprehensive review of the 10 year operation has informed changes to the organisation's value and priorities.

Over the past decade, YANQ has been promoting a values driven model of youth work in the sector and in recent times we have been running workshops in various parts of the state assisting organisations to articulate and integrate values into their organisational frameworks, develop values-driven models of service delivery and ensure ethical practice throughout their organisation.

Organisational frameworks and policies and procedures relating to service provision, including organisational ethics, are driven by values. Sometimes these are the result of conscious processing of values by the organisation - resulting in a coherent organisational framework. All too often, however, organisational frameworks/policies/procedures have been developed in a reactive, ad hoc way. This often results in incongruent frameworks, internal conflict and a lack of coherent practical and ethical guidance for organisational staff.

Every individual has thousands of different beliefs and values. Developing a coherent set of values for an organisation is therefore a complex governance issue.

The deeper the shared values across an organisation, the more coherent the organisation and its collective actions/decisions will be.

In community services organisations, the imperative to develop shared values is high. Most organisations in the youth sector workforce recognise the importance of developing coherent organisational values and seeking staff who hold compatible values.

The youth sector workforce are widely aware of the impact of values on policy and practice - in particular, they are conscious of the adverse consequences of insufficient values processing within organisations. These consequences are most commonly evident in internal organisational conflict, or poor/patchy quality of service to young people.

There is currently a lack of specialist organisational development models and processes which address these issues to the level of sophistication required in the community services industry.

Corporate development models tend to address values at a general, aspirational level - through Mission Statements, codes of conduct and similar. Documents of this kind do not provide sufficient guidance, at either a policy or practice level, for the youth sector workforce.

If you are interested in learning more about how to develop and integrate values in your organisational frameworks or if you like YANQ to hold a training workshop in your region please contact YANQ.

The YANQ Team from July 2011 to June 2012

STAFF

Mr Siyavash Doostkhah
Director

Ms Trish Ferrier
Policy Coordinator

Mr Steven Skitmore
Administration & Communications
Dec 2011 - June 2012

Ms Rebekah Oldfield
Administration & Communications
July 2011 - Nov 2011

Ms Katrina Brink
Re-engagement Project Officer

Ms Sue McComber
Financial Officer

CPLAN Regional Facilitators

Ms Amanda Wright (South-East)
Ms Rebecca Schroder (South-West)
Mr Howard Buckley (Sunshine)
Ms Nikki Hughes (Mid-North)
Ms Victoria Homer (Central)
Ms Sheree Miller (Central-West)
Mr Sam Loy (North)
Mr Alvin Hava (North-West)

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How Now Solutions
Dr Phil Crane, QUT
Dr Richard Hill
Liz Archer
Steve Fisher
Prof. Martin Mills, UQ
Hamza Viyani
Lightworks Community Consultants
Dr Glenda McGregory, Griffith University
Suzi Quixley
Dr Peter Westoby
Cherie McGregor
Sarah Roberts

Committee Executive



Mr Jude Saldanha
President



Mr (Kuot) Elijah Buol
Vice President
(Dec 2011-June 2012)



Ms Matilda Alexander
Secretary



Mr Phil Dodds
Treasurer
(Dec 2011-June 2012)



Mr Barry Springett
Vice President
(July 2011-Dec 2011)



Ms Trish Ferrier
Treasurer
(July 2011-Dec 2011)

Committee Members



Ms Yassmin
Abdel-Magied



Mr Steve Fisher
(Dec 2011- June 2012)



Ms Deb Kilroy
ex officio



Ms Margaret Hornagold
(Dec 2011- June 2012)



Mr Gavin Tyson



Mr Siyavash Doostkhah
ex officio



Mr Ricky Morgan
(Dec 2011- June 2012)



Ms Anna Spencer
(Dec 2011- June 2012)



Dr Cheryl Livock
(Dec 2011- June 2012)



Mr Robert Hayes
(July 2011-Dec 2011)



Meet our new CPLAN
Facilitators on page 10!

*CPLAN Facilitators and Co-Facilitators
at the March gathering in Brisbane*

CPLAN : YANQ'S REGIONAL NETWORKS

Since July 2011, YANQ has established Communities of Practice Leaders Action Network (CPLAN) to decentralise our workforce development and policy work. Ten semi-autonomous regions have now been established.

CPLAN aims to create an ongoing and sustainable structure across ten regions in Queensland to support a consistent focus on:

- Workforce development strategies for the youth sector from a local, regional and state perspective;
- Policy issues relevant to young people.

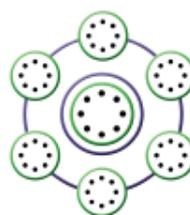
In each region, CPLANs include representatives from the youth sector. They are resourced by a regional CPLAN facilitator who is employed by YANQ for 7.6 hours a month to organise and support CPLAN meetings and activities.

The CPLAN facilitator is supported by a nominated representative from the regional CPLAN. The CPLAN Co-Facilitator is involved in the implementation of the CPLAN and attends training events so that should the Facilitator leave the region, they can provide an important information link to the region about CPLANs. The CPLAN Facilitators are paid by YANQ to work one day a month in their region to facilitate interested members of the youth sector about workforce development and youth policy issues.

Each CPLAN organises themselves in each region, depending on their own youth sector structures. For example in one region the CPLAN is a standalone entity (Metropolitan Region), whereas in other regions the CPLAN is a subcommittee of an interagency (Mid North and North Regions).

CPLANs meet regularly to inquire on youth sector issues, focusing their inquiry on four key questions:

1. What will it take to develop a strong and vibrant youth sector workforce in Queensland?
2. What would it take for this sector to contribute to improved access and opportunities for young people to enhance their inclusion and equity in society?
3. What would it take to increase the level of connection and collaboration across the youth sector?



CPLAN
Communities of Practice
Leaders Action Networks

4. What would it take to create a coherent and collaborative youth policy platform in Queensland?

This inquiry is supported by Participatory Action Research and Queensland University of Technology. As part of their participation in the initiative, the Facilitators and Co Facilitators have been enrolled in four modules of a Diploma of Community Development through the Metropolitan Institute of TAFE. The CPLANers have been involved in three Forums in Brisbane, November 2011, February 2012 and June 2012.

The Forums have provided participants an opportunity to:

- to meet and get to know each other;
- undertake induction in the CPLAN initiative;
- discuss the logistics of establishing and operating a CPLAN in each region;
- provide an opportunity for YANQ to update participants on sector information;
- provide information on YANQ initiatives that link to the regions; and
- undertake training for their Diploma of Community Development.

There is a considerable amount of experience in the group, amounting to 250 years of experience in the youth sector, with some youth workers with 4 months experience and other youth workers with 25 years. As a Community of Practice, this group has a lot of valuable knowledge to share with each other to establish and implement the CPLAN initiative.

Meet YANQ's CPLAN Facilitators

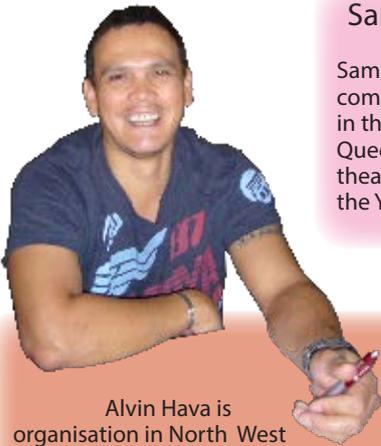
Daniel Morris - Far North Region

Daniel has worked for the last 11 years in Cairns within the youth sector in a variety of roles and is currently co managing Youth Link. He is involved in the Regional Area Sexual Health Advisory Committee, the Time Out Program Steering Committee, Joint Action Group, the Cairns Alliance of Social Services and the Youth Services Network. Daniel grew up in Cairns and has an excellent understanding of youth and workforce issues in rural and regional Queensland.



Sam Loy – North Region

Sam is the Youth Worker for Headspace Townsville. Sam has been working in the community sector for 4 years, both in Townsville and Melbourne, and is actively involved in the youth and community sector in Townsville, as a member of the Youth Network North Queensland, and the Anti Violence Committee. Sam also has a background in film and theatre. He likes drinking sarsaparilla and believes that James Hird should be Australian of the Year, every year.



Alvin Hava - North West

Alvin Hava is organisation in North West 17 year old, volunteering

manager of Young People Ahead Inc, the largest youth Queensland. Alvin began his entry into the youth sector as a his time at the old YACCA program for 'at risk' youth. After his time of volunteering Alvin was offered a permanent youth worker position, and stayed with the program for another 3 years, mostly looking after juvenile justice clients and implementing restorative based programs and activities. From there Alvin acquired the role of youth development officer at a local Indigenous youth health service, coordinating programs centred mainly around volatile substance misuse, with a strong emphasis in breaking the cycle of petrol sniffing happening.

Alvin has also been employed in various other roles, including as the ETRF Youth Coordinator for Mount Isa and district, Program Coordinator for Youth Justice service at Department of Communities, Case Manager for the Reconnect Service, as well as 9 years working as a Senior Health Worker at Mount Isa Health Service District, within the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Communicable Disease Unit. Alvin is also sits on various community boards, namely the Multicultural Society, Youth Alliance and Integrated Case Management, Housing and Homelessness Leadership Team, as well as being part of the North West Queensland Action Group 4 Suicide Prevention.



Sheree Miller – Central West Region

Sheree is the Youth Development Officer for the Winton Shire Council and is facilitator of the Central West Youth Interagency. Prior to her position with Winton Shire Council, Sheree worked at PCYC. She has a Bachelor of Education. Whilst Sheree is relatively new to the youth sector, she has a good understanding of youth and workforce issues in a remote area of Queensland.



Rebecca Schroder – South West Region

Rebecca is the Community Development Officer - Youth for the Toowoomba Regional Council. Prior to taking this position in Toowoomba, Rebecca worked in a Youth Development Role in Stanthorpe for 5 years. She was very actively involved in South West Youth Network and the Southern Downs Youth Network. Her work as Youth Development Officer has given her an excellent understanding of the challenges for young people in rural areas.





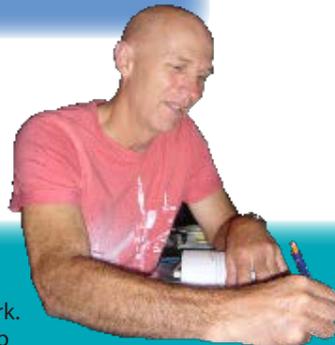
Victoria Homer – Central Region

Victoria Homer is the Partnering and Innovation Officer for Centacare Rockhampton. Victoria is an accredited partnership broker with experience across a range of sectors including, local primary health care sector, the statewide youth sector, and the local mental health sector. Her background includes working in public and private sectors, including experience with large scale community development projects and small scale, multi-organisational group facilitation projects. Consultation work includes qualitative research roles at CQUniversity and James Cook University, community consultation projects with a private urban development company, and non-government sector development. The skills that Victoria brings to partnering include strategic visioning and planning, high level facilitation and negotiation skills, marrying the strategic and the operational, and establishing and facilitating multi-sector Communities of Practice.



Nikki Hughes – Mid North Region

Nikki has been the Youth Development Officer for the Mackay Regional Council for the last five years and is an active member of the Mackay Youth Connection Network. She has worked in the youth sector for 10 years. In her role in Council Nikki is also a member of the Local Government Association of Queensland North Queensland Youth Development Network, providing her with an excellent understanding of issues facing young people in regional and rural areas in North Queensland.



Howard Buckley – Sunshine Region

Howard is Manager of Deception Bay Community Youth experience in the community sector including youth work. the Moreton Bay Youth Service Collaborative Action Group provide a vehicle for youth organisations in the Moreton Bay Region to work together to strengthen their capacity to support young people. Howard is also a consultant for Community Praxis Cooperative.

Programs. He has significant He is a founding member of which has been established to other community organisations in the regions he has worked. He others that share a vision for cooperative work to improve the

Howard has been involved in working with community organisations for over 25 years. During this time he has seen the benefits of linking small scale and local work to larger movements for social change. This has inspired him to be actively involved in building strong connections with other community organisations in the regions he has worked. He is particularly keen to build partnerships with others that share a vision for cooperative work to improve the outcomes for young people.



Trish Ferrier – Metropolitan Region

Trish Ferrier has worked in the youth sector for 15 years and managed a youth organisation for 6 years. She is currently the Policy Coordinator at YANQ and responsible for supporting the CPLAN Metropolitan region and the State CPLAN. As well as her experience in the youth sector, she has worked for Local and State Government as well as a number of environmental organisations. Her passion during all of her roles over the last 25 years has been to empower communities in South East Queensland to respond to rapid population



Amanda Wright – South East Region

Amanda works for the Gold Coast Youth Service as their Resource and Development Service worker. She has held that role for two years and is secretary of the Gold Coast Youth Network. Amanda has worked in the youth sector for about 11 years in a number of roles including housing support. She has worked in the community sector for 15 years. She has a passionate commitment to ensuring young people realise their full potential and for advocating for change.

President's Report

It has been another big year for YANQ and more broadly for the Queensland community. We have seen a historic political change at state level with rapid changes to systems and structures, as we have known them.

YANQ continued to lead the youth sector development, advocacy and representation of marginalized young people. A number of long-term projects such as our research into reengaging marginalized young people with education and the campaign to get kids out of adult prison have been receiving wide support.

Much of YANQ's work in 2011/2012 has been focused on the implementation of priority strategies from the Youth Sector Development Plan. One of the key achievements would have to be the establishment of ten Communities of Practice Leadership Action Network (CPLAN) covering all of Queensland. This is the first time in the history of the youth sector in Queensland that a state-wide infrastructure has been planned and implemented.

YANQ also staged a highly successful youth affairs conference with six engaging keynotes as well as 42 workshops over two days. Conference themes included Youth Justice, Health, Housing, Education and Workforce Development.

As well as these great projects YANQ has been involved in many other projects across the state this year and a plethora of other work in advocacy, lobbying, research and policy development all of which are outlined in more detail throughout this report. Please contact our staff if you would like any further information and/ or clarification about any of the issues documented in this report or if you would like to engage with any of our ongoing work, which we outline on a fortnightly basis in our email bulletin.

A special thanks to all YANQ members for your ongoing support of our work. Without members YANQ ceases to exist as we continue to work as we have always since being established in the 1980s to represent the sector. We believe that we continue to be a strong voice for the rights of young people and the development of our sector and welcome working with you!

I would also like to acknowledge my fellow Management Committee members for their hard work and dedication and especially to the Executive who have supported me in my role.

Finally, I hope that in the coming year we can continue to build on our strengths in partnership with the sector across Queensland and greatly look forward to working with you all.

Jude Saldanha

YANQ President



Director's Report

This annual report is for the financial year 2011/2012 and as such does not refer to the events between July and November 2012.

As I am writing this report in late October I cant not help but to write a few words in relation to LNP government's approach to the community sector, de-funding of YANQ and putting viability of many youth organisations in question.

The community sector in Queensland is on the verge of collapse and the leaders of the sector have been silent and refusing to work collaboratively in any advocacy process.

The youth sector has lost many programs which has taken decades to build and perhaps not replaced for decades. Many organisations are struggling with their viability after severe budget cuts. All youth services will still have to go through a recommissioning process with a great chance that many will loose their funding.



The cuts to the broader community services are also having an impact on the youth sector.

These are extraordinary times and require a high level coordinated response and YANQ as the peak body and Co-chair of the Futures Forum has done all we can to try to convince other representative bodies to work collaboratively but unfortunately the atmosphere of fear and competition which has accompanied the budget cuts by LNP has divided the sector with many organisations prioritising their own survival ahead of anything else.

There is also a very dangerous game played here by the government attempting to divide the sector by anointing QCROSS as the peak body for all human services. We hope that the sector does not fall for this as it is not up to a government to dictate what independent NGO's do.

There are dark days ahead for the marginalised young people in Queensland. I hate to think about the rates of young people in prisons in a couple of years. We must stay united and strong and with or without funding do whatever we can to stop and change the extremist approach that the LNP has taken against our sector.

YANQ will be continuing our role as the youth sector peak and believe that more than ever our role is paramount to salvaging what will remain of the youth sector in the next 12 months and to help rebuild the sector at the same time as strongly advocating for protection of young people's rights in Queensland.

In solidarity,

Siyavash Doostkhah

YANQ Director

CPLAN

Sunshine

Network Facilitator - Howard Buckley
Co-facilitator - Naomi Rayward

The Sunshine CPLAN has made efforts in 2012 to create links with the northern part of the region whilst maintaining a strong network in the south. Small steps have been made to achieve this, and given the geographical size and the numbers of youth networks these small steps will provide a platform for increasing this work in years to come. In the south, work has continued on the "Integrity in Our Practice" document, with the focus of providing a collective voice from the youth sector in this region about who are the youth

services in this region, what we stand for, the type of work we undertake with young people and how we work together. The writing of the document is almost complete and a further consultation phase will be undertaken to seek the endorsement from as many youth agencies as possible. Already in the drafting phase the document has opened up discussions with the TAFES and a University about how we can improve the level of youth work training in the region.

With the State Government funding cuts affecting many youth agencies in our region the CPLAN has taken a 'back seat' and

provided space for organisations to take stock of their situation and reappraise their collective activity. We are confident that as 'the dust settles' agencies will again reinstate their commitment to this important work. We hope that 2013 agencies will continue the good collaborative that has begun in the Sunshine region.

Contact Howard on
manager@dbcyp.org.au

Far North Queensland

Network Facilitator - Daniel Morris
Co-facilitator - Samuel Karam

"What would it take to develop a CPLAN in FNQ?" This is the question Sam and myself have been asking as we delve into the participatory action research process and most importantly, how can we ensure that it is participatory?

So far for the team here in FNQ we have looked at several opportunities for creating a medium for engaging youth service providers in a process that is participatory, not too time consuming and is inclusive of the diverse range of organisations, target groups and other community stakeholders.

Our initial concept was to utilise a consortium of service providers involved in a local initiative, Coordinated Care for Vulnerable Young People, whose primary purpose is to guide and strengthen the existing service sector to better respond to the needs of vulnerable young people; with outcomes indicating that it is certainly meeting its goal. Due to the fact that the key stakeholders involved in this consortium had a very particular target group, we felt that it may limit our ability to engage as much of the youth sector as possible.

Our next strategy will be to incorporate the CPLAN within the local council's Youth Sector Network and use it as a means for supporting and strengthening the aims and actions of this group who have a much larger range of stakeholders. We will be meeting council in the very near future to discuss how this may work in practice and to gain support for the initiative.

For the time being though, the PAR model has been informally incorporated into much of our current work, with Sam and I asking ourselves, each other and staff members during our team meetings, "what would it take to....."

Contact Daniel Morris on daniel@youthlink.org.au

Mid North Queensland

Network Facilitator - Nikki Hughes
Co-facilitator - Suelly Kelly

Mackay CPLAN project is definitely off and racing!!! Mackay Youth sector workers have found it useful to assign CPLAN discussions as a Mackay Youth Connections Network Inc general meeting agenda item. At meetings a focus has been the four questions:

1. What will it take to developed a strong and vibrant youth sector workforce in Qld?
2. What would it take for this sector to contribute to improved access and opportunities for young people to enhance their inclusion and equity in society?
3. What would it take to increase the level of connection and collaboration across the youth sector?
4. What would take to create a coherent and collaborative youth policy platform in Queensland?

This has lead into working groups around youth engagement / grassroots participation / increased skill development for young people. The second working group to arise via the CPLAN process is around work retention and useful job professional development. Both Suelly and myself have been involved with Youth Invests' project around service mapping, this regional based resource will provide information on what services are out there; including the name of the organisation, details of that organisation (i.e. works with disengaged young people, provides counseling etc.), where the organisation is located (i.e. street address, building etc.) and a contact number/s. Once collated the information will be organized as per region (i.e. Whitsundays, Bowen, Mackay and/or Central Highlands), and this resource will be provided free of charge.

Other working groups are in the pipeline so in the near future the Mackay CPLAN should be report more positive community development.

Contact Nikki Hughes on ydo@mackay.qld.gov.au

UPDATE

South East QLD

Network Facilitator - Amanda Wright

Co-facilitator - Donna Matulis

CPLAN on the Gold Coast has been running in conjunction with the Gold Coast Youth Network.

We have held some meetings separately and others within the GCYN meeting. Numbers at the CPLAN meetings has been mixed, but as GCYN has a good number of attendees we have decided to continue to hold the meetings as a part of the network, with the idea that sub-groups will form to look at specific issues.

Prior to this, the GCYN has primarily been an information sharing and networking meeting, so the response to CPLAN, and space within the meeting to discuss issues of relevance, has been received well.

Contact Amanda on
rads@goldcoastyouthservice.com

North Queensland

Network Facilitator - Sam Loy

Co-facilitator - Rachel Cook

The North Qld CPLAN has proved to be a beneficial and productive forum for raising and addressing concerns in our local sector. After successfully embedding CPLAN within our existing sector network (The Youth Network NQ), we have been able to attract and retain workers to the process who have investigated issues such as public transport, job security, and A&D service delivery. The North Qld CPLAN, in conjunction with the disability sector, was able to score a (kind of) win in regards to public transport, and we are gearing up for several training opportunities from the good folk at Dovetail and ATODS.

All in all, CPLAN has been a welcome inclusion in the working lives of Townsville's dedicated youth sector.

Viva la PAR process!

Contact Sam on sloy@tgpn.com.au

Central Queensland

Network Facilitator - Victoria Homer

Co-facilitator - Nyoka Henry

The Central Queensland CPLAN had its inaugural meeting in November 2011. After an initial information session about CPLAN with Phil Crane and John Flanagan in October, energy in the region was high. A number of people were very keen to be involved in this innovative strategy and as such we had representation from both NGOs and government organisations, as well as geographically from across the region. Once established, the group agreed that the concept of the CPLAN was great and were looking forward to getting stuck into coming up with creative ideas to support young people and the youth workforce as a whole.

During the last few meetings the group undertook a detailed mapping exercise to determine where the areas of need were in the youth sector, as well as identifying strengths to build on. Leveraging off this exercise the group is ready to start identifying some projects that they can undertake to address some of the identified issues. As a region we are very excited about taking our CPLAN to the next level.

Contact Victoria on
victoriah@centacare.net

North West Queensland

Network Facilitator - Alvin Hava

Co-facilitator - Craig Hardy

The North West CPLAN has been integrated into the Mt Isa Youth Alliance and at this stage is focused on youth agencies working in Mt Isa.

Our group has been working on putting together the final touches on the first ever Youth and Community Workers Forum in Mount Isa for around mid July. The main reason as to why the impetus for this event came about because of the CPLAN question, "How do we make our local youth sector stronger".

In response to this, the group is hoping to stage this forum for the benefit of all youth and community workers in the North West, as a means of showcasing the great working happening in our CPLAN region. We are looking to have some key note speakers who have a diverse and broad knowledge of issues and needs in the youth and community sector.

Contact Alvin on
manager@ypa-isa.com.au

Metro

Facilitator - Trish Ferrier

Co-facilitator - Amanda Margerison

The Metro CPLAN has been operating for 12 months. Initially the group was the Youth Leadership Group that informed the Workforce Development Project and was used as a reference group by the project worker. As the CPLANs were established, this group became the Metro CPLAN.

After the YANQ conference the group was keen to provide an opportunity for youth workers to explore 'hot' topics in a safe environment. What emerged from this discussion in answer to the question 'What would it take to develop a strong and vibrant Youth Sector?' was the idea of holding a forum or series of forums which enabled youth workers to explore issues together.

The Can of Young Worms idea was born, and the group then looked at how it could do this. We had hoped we would find some funding to do this, but when this became difficult we decided to give it a go without funding. Ipswich Community Youth Service took on the registration role and donated funds for catering, Byron Mulligan from Lightworks donated his time as a Facilitator, YANQ prepared the flyer and circulated the

information to the sector; Jabiru organised the event to be videod, and Visible Ink, Brisbane City Council provided us with a free venue.

The topic of the event was Sociality, Sexuality and Young People. Professor Alan McKee started the day with a discussion about some research he is currently undertaking on this topic. We also had some experienced practitioners in the audience who were available for speaking to the issues that emerged from the discussion. They were representatives from Family Planning Qld, Youth Advocacy Centre, Open Doors, Queensland Health and Education Queensland. Forty people participated in the Forum, including a broad range of workers and experience.

The Metro CPLAN are keen to find ways of replicating this again in the region as well as across Queensland.

Contact Trish on policy@yanq.org.au

Central West Queensland

Network Facilitator - Sheree Miller

Co-facilitator - Jade Fickling

The Central West CPLAN is in full swing and is run in conjunction with the Central West Youth Network. The Central West area starts in Winton and comprises all rural towns to Blackall. CPLAN meetings have a mixed group of youth workers, principals, guidance officers and others who work in the youth sector.

The CPLAN has provided a great opportunity to discuss pressing issues for workers and for the young people we work with. We are currently working on a project to assist youth workers in the Central West to work more collaboratively. This has been of great concern for workers as there is vast distances between each town and we find that it is necessary to work collaboratively to provide the best outcomes for the young people we work with.

Contact Sheree on
shereem@winton.qld.gov.au

YANQ Policy

On 19 July 2011 YANQ held a Policy Forum in the lead up to the State Youth Affairs Conference.

The Forum was well attended with 35 youth sector representatives from across the state, as far as Mt Isa and Rockhampton. The Forum provided YANQ with an opportunity to outline the history of YANQ and its policy work since YANQ was established in 1989. The Forum was also briefed about YANQ's new initiative called the Communities of Practice Leaders Action Network (CPLAN) that was being established across Queensland.

Dr Phil Crane was asked to present to the Policy Forum the four inquiry questions that had been developed for the CPLAN initiative. The four questions were discussed and wording was amended as a result of discussion with the participants at the Policy Forum.

The participants worked in small groups to answer these questions, generating considerable data for YANQ to include in its policy process.

Topics discussed ranged from the persistent issues of homelessness, criminalisation of young people through state interventions, young people in adult prisons, young people and education, mental health and a range of workforce issues such as practice principles, ethics of how to work with young people, working conditions and capacity of the sector to empower young people.

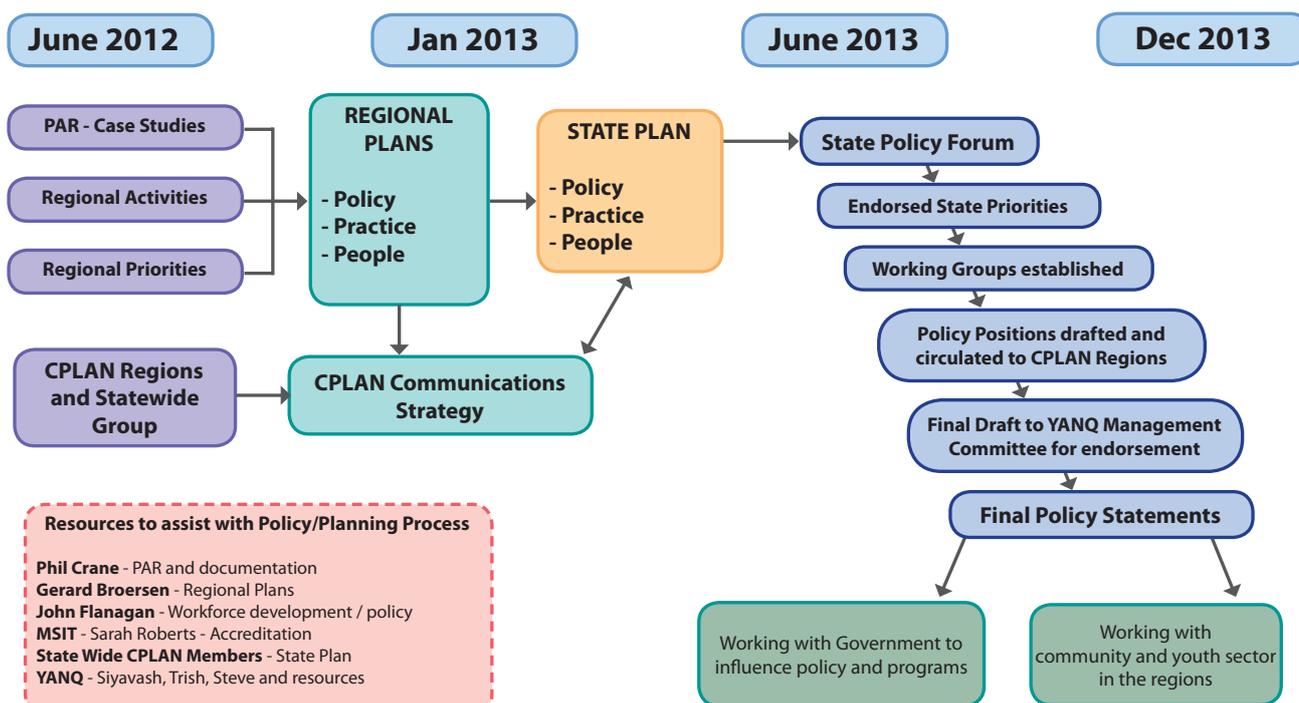
This information along with the data collected by the ten CPLAN regions will inform YANQ's policy development process in 2012 and 2013. Data will be collected from the Participatory Action Research Case Studies, the Regional Workforce Development Plans and regional priorities generated by the 10 regions.

It is anticipated that in each of the 10 regions there will be regional plans which then contribute to a State Wide Plan. This information will be presented to the State Policy Forum in 2013, which will endorse the state priorities for further work/action to be undertaken.



"Working together to improve the lives of young people"

ACTIVITIES OF YANQ DECENTRALISED POLICY/PLANNING PROCESS



Date: June 2012

2011 Queensland Youth Affairs Conference

The YANQ Youth Affairs Conference held on 20 and 21 July 2011 was a great success. Over 200 people from the youth sector in Queensland attended the conference. Participants really enjoyed the opportunity to get together as a sector again and inspire each other to continue our important work with young people.

The conference was opened by Turrbal Songwoman Maroochy Barambah. Her singing reminded us of the ancestors and the privilege of living in this beautiful land. Following an introduction and invitation by Siyavash Dookstah, Director of YANQ for us to explore our work and practice through out the conference, the conference delegates heard from students of Southside Education and Hymba Yumba Community Hub about the challenges of young people, the importance of alternative education and importance of youth workers working at the pace of the young person. Their contribution set the scene for an amazing two days of provocative speakers and discussion. There were 42 workshops over two days, and the wonderful stories of work undertaken by the sector across Queensland were shared by workshop presenters.

At the conference dinner, conference delegates participated in honouring and thanking Fr Wally Dethlefs for his inspiring work in the youth sector for many decades.

Another conference highlight was the opportunity to hear the poetry of rising star Luka 'Lesson' Haralampou - poet and hip-hop artist. What a privilege it was to hear him speak his poetry.

Thanks to everyone who made this wonderful event possible.

For information on the presentations from the State Conference, see www.yanq.org.au/qyac



Statewide Workforce Development

YANQ continued to lead the youth sector workforce development strategies across the state.

We worked with the Health and Community Services Workforce Council on the development of a Workforce planning Framework, the Industry Sector Profile for youth sector and the final Industry Workforce report.

YANQ developed a partnership for delivery of training with the Community Services Skilling Plan. Further information about this training can be found under CPLAN section of this report.

YANQ met with representatives of Skills Queensland in relation to the implementation of the Youth Sector Workforce recommendations and the roll-out of CPLANs across the state.

YANQ held a training session on *Integrated Values in Your Organisation* in the Fraser Coast area.

YANQ met with a number of Registered Training Organisations exploring partnership potential for delivery of training to youth sector across the state.

YANQ completed the review of the Youth Sector Development implementation and with the assistance of Youth Sector Industry Reference Group prioritised the future activities of the Youth Sector Development Strategy.

YANQ secured a grant from the National Workforce Development Fund for delivery of a skill set from the Diploma of Community Development to youth workers from across the state.

YANQ held meetings with Indigenous Youth Health, Dovetail and Youth Advocacy Centre in regards to VSM Service mapping across Qld.

Research and Advocacy

What is Youth Work?

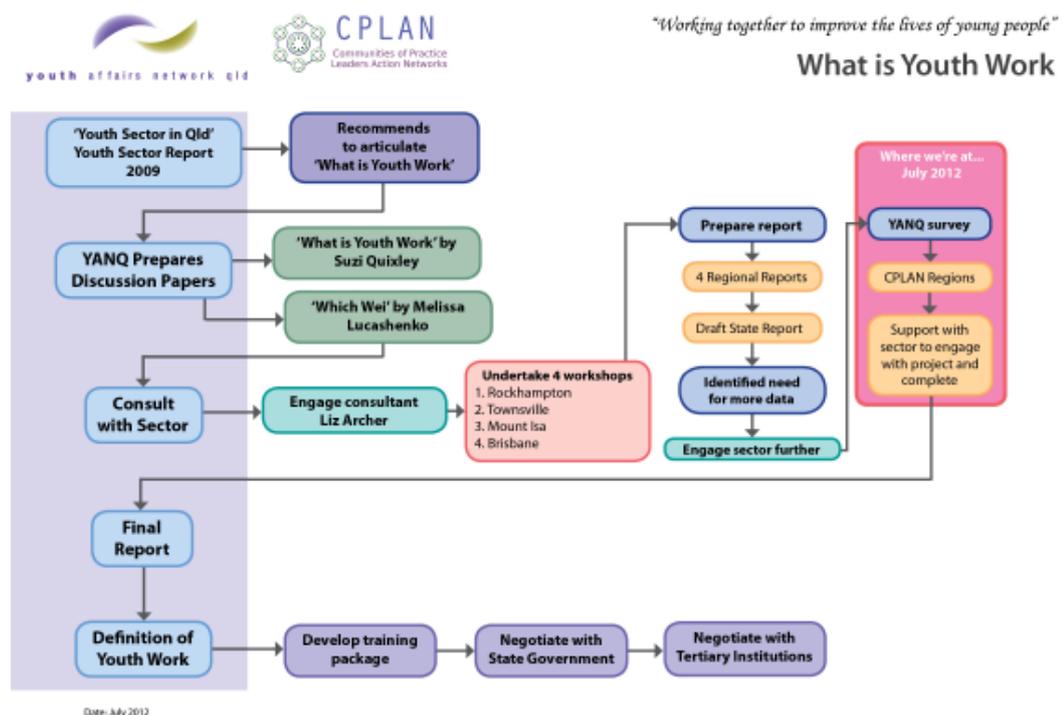
In March 2012, YANQ held consultations in four regions throughout Queensland as part of YANQ's Youth Sector Development Project.

This consultation has provided the first opportunity for groups of Queensland youth workers to compare the current working definition of youth work provided in the YANQ *What is Youth Work* Discussion Paper with their own ideas. Whilst being a relatively small group compared with the overall sector, workers came from four regions and about half of them were Murri or other First Nation Australians working with young Murris. The consultations also included a majority of regional and rural perspectives.

YANQ's *Youth Sector in Queensland* Report (Feb 2010) identified that youth program contracts are increasingly going to large, nationally or externally based organisations with insufficient understanding of and commitment to local or "youth centred" service and community contexts. Youth Workers are increasingly expected to take on roles or responsibilities that were previously undertaken by government or statutory bodies (e.g. child protection, juvenile justice, etc). Increasingly, workers in the broader youth or community services sectors either do not identify as being youth workers (but as case workers, child protection officers, education consultants, community development officers, etc.) or where they do, are being afforded insufficient recognition or being treated as "junior workers".

The lack of a commonly held definition of youth work was identified as a major obstacle to ensuring that Youth Work remains a clearly identified and valued occupation within the broader sector. YANQ has released two discussion papers to assist the sector to develop a shared definition.

Consultations were held to provide youth workers with the opportunity to discuss whether they saw "youth work" as being different from "working with young people" and if so, how they would define it, including gauging support for the working definition outlined in the background paper.



Celebrate, Don't Medicate

YANQ has continued its strong advocacy campaign to stop over-medication of children. As part of our Celebrate, Don't Medicate campaign we launched a new youtube channel with experts on 'ADHD' giving their opinions on overmedication. <http://www.youtube.com/user/celebratedontmed?feature=watch>

YANQ briefed both the previous and the current Minister for Child Safety on the "ADHD" labelling & drugging of children and young people in care of the Child Safety Department.

YANQ also lodged a submission to the National Health and Medical Research Council in response to the draft "ADHD" Clinical Practice Points (CPP). YANQ is one of many groups, practitioners, politicians parents and individuals concerned about the increase in cases of 'attention deficit hyperactivity disorder' ('ADHD') amongst young people in Queensland. A wealth of medical and psycho-social evidence points to the deficits of the 'diagnostic criteria' presently used to diagnose "ADHD" and the damaging side-effects of the stimulants prescribed to manage the 'disorder'.

Sexual Health Project

Marginalised young people have been consistently identified as a high risk group in relation to sexual health. YANQ received anecdotal feedback in recent years that youth workers are not engaging with young people and providing them with information and support in relation to sexual health matters. This research explored what impacts on youth workers' ability to provide effective interventions around sexual health and what knowledge, skills, resources, value and ethics, training and support is available to them.

YANQ conducted interviews with 34 key stakeholders across Queensland. We thank the individuals and organisations who gave generously of their time to participate in face to face and phone interviews. Feedback remains anonymous as this has enabled participants to be candid in the interviews.

The workforce development recommendations from the Project are aimed at increasing the effectiveness and capacity of the youth sector to support marginalised young people's sexual health.

You can download the project report at <http://www.yanq.org.au/our-work/4087-what-would-it-take-to-optimize-young-peoples-sexual-health>

Disability

YANQ released a new resource kit for engaging young people with a disability in decision-making. This exciting new

resource aims to support youth organisations in increasing participation, consultation and inclusion of young people with a disability into their service.

Youth Justice

YANQ attended the meetings of the Youth Justice Reference Group and the working group meeting of government and NGOs focusing on strategies to reduce the number of young people on remand. YANQ was pleased that the previous Queensland Government was starting to focus on this issue. Early signs were very positive with the remand numbers falling as a result of a number of new strategies put in place.

YANQ also demanded a formal response to a report released by the Coalition Against Inappropriate Remand (CARE) in 2008 titled "Reducing Remand and Enhancing Community Safety". We worked closely on justice advocacy issues with the InCorrection and Criminal Justice Networks.

YANQ conducted several radio interviews in regards to 17-year-old children being locked up in Queensland adult prisons. We also updated and re-printed our campaign kit on this issue. YANQ issued a media release and conducted media interviews in regards to Ipswich police using taser guns on a 12-year-old child.

In early 2012, YANQ worked with Australia's Slam Poet Champion, Luka Lesson, to tackle youth justice issues. Luka recorded "17"; his spoken word view of the continuing practice of the Queensland Government locking up 17 year olds in adult prisons.

YANQ also met with a research team looking at issues of remand in relation to Aboriginal young people and their families. We made a submission to the review of Police Powers and presented as a witness at the Parliamentary Hearing.

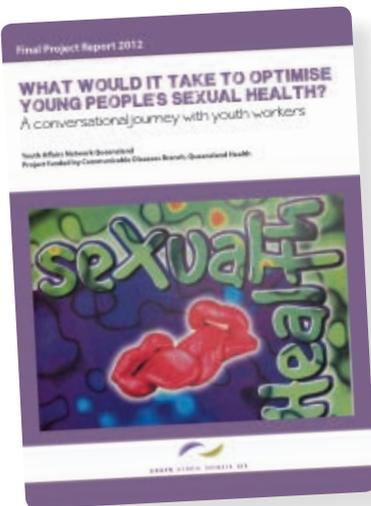
Office for Youth Projects

YANQ commenced two research projects for the Office for Youth in late 2011, looking at the collaboration and integration of youth service delivery, and the engagement of young people via social media.

The first project aims to assist YARI funded services and Youth Justice Services to improve the integration of their service delivery. The project is researching models of integration and collaboration, particularly those with an evidence base that have been evaluated locally or demonstrated to work well at the local level.

YANQ is gathering data from a range of areas; firstly we have conducted a literature review to gather current thinking and practices in service integration and collaboration. Secondly, we have a questionnaire in the two project locations that is designed to provide an opportunity to gather a range of perspectives from individuals across the range of service types.

We are also conducting individual interviews and focus groups to gather case studies and to provide further depth to the data already collected.



The second project looks to support the Queensland Government's inquiry into effective methods of service promotion and information delivery to young people, particularly those most disengaged, through the use of social media.

The project aims to:

1. Identify key policy and practice issues which can enhance the use of social media by disengaged young people, including examples of effective policy and service implementation by organisations
2. Develop an evidence base underpinning the key success factors contributing to use of social media by disengaged young people

Feedback is being sought from all parts of the Queensland Youth Sector, including community agencies, local Government organisations and State/Federal Government frontline services who work directly with young people. More than 60 organisations and departments have already contributed to this report, either online or through in-person interviews, along with 25 young people identified as significantly disadvantaged by appropriate agencies.

Re-engagement

This year, YANQ launched a three year effort to explore existing alternative learning pathways in Queensland for young people who have become disengaged from mainstream schooling.

In collaboration with researchers from The University of Queensland and Griffith University, YANQ has embarked on a project that seeks to assess educational principles and practices that work at sites that are successfully re-engaging high-school-age young people that have rejected or been rejected by mainstream schools.

The project has attracted support from a wide-variety of regional, state, and national stakeholders. Project partners are directly involved in the project through the Education Policy Reference Group; the utilisation of state-wide network contacts; and, in-kind and financial contributions.

Research Aims of the project:

Aim 1: to determine principles necessary to cater to the needs of young people who have become disengaged from mainstream schooling and have become unaccounted for in continuing education, training or work;

Aim 2: to explore and assess the effectiveness of alternative pathways and flexible educational options currently available for those young people who have rejected or been rejected by mainstream schooling; and

Aim 3: to develop future frameworks to improve and augment existing provision of alternative pathways and flexible educational options that cater to the needs of marginalised young people.

The project balances a broad and deep approach to these aims. The first phase of the project (February-June 2012) generated a list of over 60 alternative/flexi learning programs from across the state. These sites will be the focus of six case studies and a state-wide survey to learn more about 'promising practices' in re-engagement. In addition to reports to the field and policy-makers, the data will be used for the development of a framework of educational 'best practice' to inform the sector.

General Research and Advocacy

In addition to our research projects and targeted advocacy, YANQ has also participated in multiple reference groups and advocacy efforts.

YANQ worked with Qld Shelter as a reference group member for the "What Does It Take To House a Young Person" project which examined what is needed to provide long term housing options for persons aged 16 to 25 years of age (who are not subject to statutory protection order or accommodated in crisis or supported accommodation) within:

- Social Housing
- Mainstream Rental and
- Property Ownership Markets.

The project examined the policy settings and costs involved in creating improved access to housing for young people, and to produce a range of recommendations to achieve this.

YANQ participated in an interview with Siggins Miller consultants who were working for the Queensland Government looking at the *Drink Driving In Queensland* Discussion paper, which was released in March this year, and considering issues relevant to implementation of drink driving rehabilitation programs.

YANQ met with Queensland Co-ordinator for the *Say Yes* campaign that supported the carbon price, and the State Co-ordinator of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC) in regards to the role YANQ can play in community education.

YANQ met with consultants undertaking a research project looking at ways to strengthen collaboration between different COSS organisations in Australia. This research involves independent workshops with each COSS. Meetings and workshops are being held to discuss ways that we can work progressively to strengthen the influence and effectiveness of the COSS network on both state and national issues.

YANQ lodged a submission to the review of Australian Youth Forum operations focusing on the engagement of young people via social media.

YANQ met with Group X, an Information and Communications (ICT) resources initiative, with the aim of educating and connecting the ICT industry and careers with young people in Queensland. This was undertaken in conjunction with the Queensland Government's *I Choose Technology* promotion.

In addition, YANQ:

- attended the Anti Racism National Strategy consultation and contributed to the development of the strategy
- assisted the Australian Institute of Criminology with their national research project into young people on remand
- made a submission to the Strengthening Community Associations Review
- contributed to a research project undertaken on the impact of the Queensland Government's Education & Training Reforms for the Future (ETRF) Policy
- met with Brisbane officers from DEEWR in relation to youth issues and programs, and
- attended the closing session of Queensland Youth Forum.

ENEWS

NETWORK NOISE

TWITTER

FACEBOOK



Communications

2011/2012 was another busy year for communications and publications from YANQ. With the role now coupled with administration, all communications with members and the general community are tailored to promote our campaign work and engagement pathways.

In early 2012, the YANQ website was re-built with the focus on developing a more accessible platform for YANQ's work, online membership management and space for CPLAN communications. We are currently working on this and hope to have these functions available in early 2013. The website continues to be an active resource for the youth sector throughout Queensland. Around 50 000 individuals used the YANQ website in the 2011-2012 financial year.

The YANQ Email Bulletin was reborn in early 2012 to a html email format, allowing easier access for our enews recipients, which now top 1000. The enews is sent out each fortnight with updates from the website. Feedback on the new enews has been very

positive, with readers appreciating the new layout, the relevance of the updates, and the opportunity to promote their own events and news. YANQ has also maintained active Twitter and Facebook accounts to broadcast updates and important news and connect with the sector. We now have over 240 'likes' on Facebook, and 355 followers on Twitter.

Our members and subscribers also received our revamped quarterly print newsletter, Network Noise, which contains detailed reports on campaigns, project updates and stories.

Telstra Phone Cards for Young People

Once again this year, in partnership with Telstra, YANQ distributed more than 7000 Telstra \$5.00 Phone Cards across the state. Youth sector members from various regions have been assisting YANQ with promotion and distribution of these cards amongst marginalised young people across Queensland.

Meetings and Presentations

Meetings with Government

Prior to the March 2012 State Election

- YANQ met regularly with the Deputy Director General of Department of Communities and representatives from the Policy Unit and Office For Youth to discuss youth policy issues.
- YANQ attended the quarterly meeting of peaks and state-wide services with the Director General of Department of Communities.
- YANQ met with Department of Communities Policy Unit about the youth statement.
- YANQ met with Ron Weatherall, Deputy Director General of Department of Communities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services in regards to Murri Youth sector Development plan.
- YANQ met with Minister for Child Safety, Phil Reeves, in regards to use of psychotropic drugs on kids in care of the Department of Child Safety
- The Minister for Communities visited YANQ and met with staff, board and members.
- YANQ met with Deputy Director General of Department of Communities in regards to YANQ's priority work in 2012/2013.
- As Chair of the Youth Working Group of the Queensland Ministerial Advisory Committee HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Sexual Health, YANQ attend the annual representational meeting with the Minister for Health.
- YANQ participated in the review of the Qld Compact.

Following the March 2012 State Election

- YANQ met with Margaret Allison, the new Director General of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disabilities and briefed her about the priority issues for young people and youth sector.
- YANQ met with the new Attorney General, Jarrod Bleijie, in regards to youth justice issues. The responsibility for Juvenile Justice was transferred from Department of Communities to the Justice and Attorney General.
- YANQ met with Rob Molhoek, Assistant Minister for Child Safety in regards to use of psychotropic medication on children in care of the state.
- YANQ met with Debbie Best, Director-General Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs in regards to progressing the Murri Youth Sector Development and YANQ Multicultural Development work.

Presentations

- YANQ gave a number of talks to QUT students on policy and advocacy.
- YANQ gave a talk to Brisbane North Institute of TAFE students about advocacy.
- Presentation on youth work and advocacy to students at the Scripture Union.
 - Presentation to Job Service Providers on engaging with marginalised young people.
 - Gave a presentation to the Youth Employment Forum at the Edge, Brisbane.



YANQ Director, Siyavash Doostkhah speaking at the Youth Employment Forum, June 2012

Working with Queensland Health

YANQ worked with Queensland Health and other stakeholders in finalising the evaluation of HIV, Hepatitis C and Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategy 2005-2011 and drawing up recommendation in regards to young people for integration into the next four year strategy.

Working with the National Youth Peak

During the year, YANQ continued to work closely with the National Youth Peak, Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC). The YANQ Director met with the Director of AYAC in regards to YANQ's roll out of CPLANs and our work with the Murri youth sector. AYAC has been interested in YANQ's strategies for engaging regional members. Directors also discussed national youth issues and AYAC's Strategic plan.

YANQ worked with AYAC in coordinating a response to the Federal Government's Remote Services Review. YANQ distributed the Rural Employment Survey, which was used by YANQ and AYAC to respond to the Federal Government's Review.

YANQ attended the Policy Advisory Council meetings of AYAC and provided feedback on their draft national youth sector policy.

YANQ assisted AYAC with investigating the welfare changes made by the last federal budget – with specific focus on cuts to 21 year old unemployed people and single teenage mothers. YANQ assisted AYAC through its membership to make contact with young people who will be affected by these changes that will see their payments reduced or cut. We believe that these changes are simply taking punitive action against the young and vulnerable and will do little to improve outcomes for these young people.

Working with other State Peaks

YANQ maintained a close working relationship with youth sector peak bodies from other Australian states and territories. YANQ participated in regular teleconferences and met with State Youth peak bodies from all states and territories during a face to face meeting.

Futures Forum

YANQ Director was elected as the Co-chair of the Futures Forum in 2011-12. The Queensland Community Services Futures Forum (Futures Forum) is an independent coalition of over 50 state-wide human services, peak organisations, service providers and networks in Queensland that serves as a vehicle to identify state-wide strategic issues of concern for the sector and to explore collaborative action to address these issues. YANQ also participated in the meetings of a subcommittee of Futures Forum, coordinating the community sector's state election strategy.

Abortion Law Reform

As a member of the host committee for *The Courage to Make History - Transforming the Law on Abortion in Australia*, YANQ helped organise a forum at Parliament House on 13th October 2011. We estimate approximately 140 people were in attendance which, given the storm in Brisbane that night, was impressive. During this event, Family Planning Qld launched a post card campaign. The pre-printed post cards addressed to Attorney-General Lucas, Premier Anna Bligh, and Campbell Newman, Leader of the LNP.

The postcards stated that '4 out of 5 Queenslanders support a woman's right to choose abortion'. However, Queensland doctors and women still risk prosecution under Queensland's Criminal Code of 1899 if they perform or procure a termination of pregnancy.

Queensland's laws are unclear and out of step with other Australian states and with majority public opinion that supports the legal right of women to make decisions in pregnancy. The uncertainty around abortion law limits doctors' ability to deliver the best quality care in response to women's health care needs.

Multicultural and Murri Connections

YANQ has been working closely with the Multicultural Development Association (MDA) and Access Inc in regards to CALD youth policy issues, Multicultural youth Network and Youth Settlement Network.

YANQ also hosted a number of meetings of State-wide Murri Reference Group.

Working with Others

YANQ has been working closely with the State Coordinators of Partnership Brokers and Youth Connections programs. Both programs are contributing to YANQ's Education Re-engagement research project.

YANQ hosted a network meeting of statewide youth services in Queensland. The meeting focused on joint planning of events over the next 12 months.

YANQ also worked closely with the Youth Development Officer from Local Government Association of Queensland.

YANQ joined and attended a number of meetings of the Community Health Services Network. We also met on a quarterly basis with Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian.

Multicultural Development

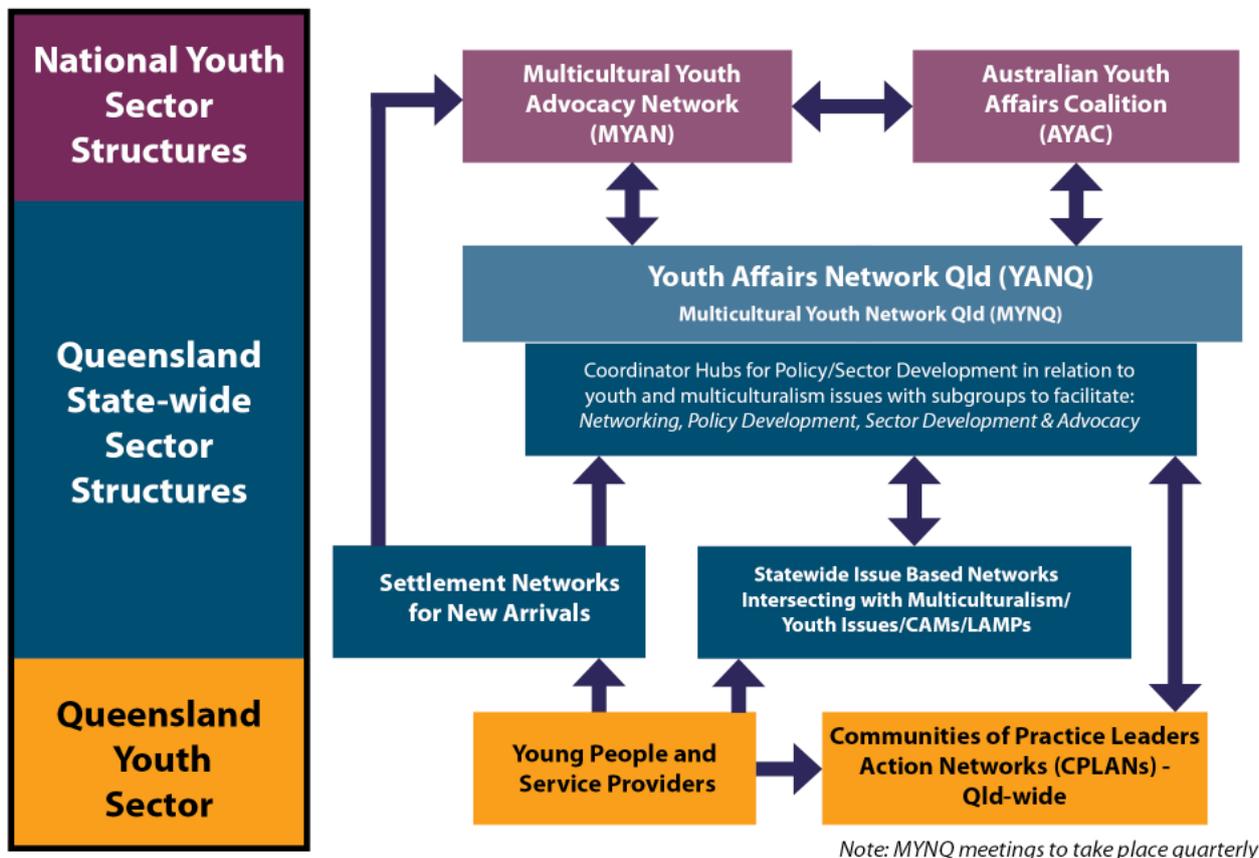
Since July 2010, Queensland no longer has a multicultural worker at the peak body for the youth sector because of defunding. Unfortunately, this has significantly diminished YANQ's capacity to work with the multicultural youth sector.

However, YANQ continues to work on a number of specific initiatives including our work in developing Multicultural Youth Affairs Network (MYAN) model at a state level.

In 2012, YANQ sought the views of the Queensland youth sector, State Government Departments and national peak bodies in relation to updating and refreshing its approach to advocating advancement of multiculturalism. The consultation process sought to capture and be informed by sector views, requirements for support and to develop an approach for coordinating advocacy with other key stakeholders at state and national levels.

The framework should be seeking to achieve outcomes both for newly arrived settlement service migrants and economic migrants; as well as those that have always lived in Australia and/or subsequently settled to make this land one that we all share in harmony and where opportunity is there for the taking of all who aspire for it. Below is a visual representation of how the outcomes framework seeks to contribute to that vision in view of the feedback received from this consultation process.

The final report, *Making Multiculturalism About Benefiting & Working for Everyone*, in Australia is available on the YANQ website at <http://www.yanq.org.au/our-work/4021-multiculturalism-in-qlds-youth-sector-where-to-next>



Treasurer's Report

I have pleasure in presenting the independent auditor's report for the year ending 30 June 2012.

Strict fiscal restraint has ensured YANQ remains in a healthy financial position. YANQ has continued to be a strong voice for the rights of young people in Queensland and the development of Queensland youth sector. In order for the sector to respond appropriately to challenges faced by young people and communities, we require a healthy youth sector. That's why YANQ's investment in the sector development area is paramount to creation of a vibrant youth sector in Queensland.

During the year, YANQ had to undergo financial restructuring to reflect the new regional CPLAN structure and employment of 10 CPLAN Facilitators.

YANQ's research into young people and reengagement with education has been supported by a number of organisations that have been contributing both cash and in-kind support for this project.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members and subscribers for their financial contribution to YANQ. I also would like to thank our funding bodies and donors for their contribution.

If you require any further information in regards to the audit report please contact our office.

Matilda Alexander
Treasurer
Youth Affairs Network of Qld



Images: YANQ's 2011 State Youth Affairs Conference



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS NETWORK OF QUEENSLAND INC

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc (the association), which comprises the management committee's report, the balance sheet as at 30 June 2012, the income statement and statement of cashflows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) 1981* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc as at 30 June 2012 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the *Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) 1981*

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) 1981*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Hayes Knight Audit (Qld) Pty. Ltd.

Hayes Knight Audit (Qld) Pty Ltd

Robertson.

AM Robertson

Director

Level 19, 127 Creek Street,
Brisbane, QLD, 4000

Date: 11 October 2012



youth affairs network qld

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