



**youth** affairs network qld



**ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018**



**Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc.  
Annual Report 2017- 2018**

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**YANQ acknowledges support from:**

Individual and organisational member as well as other NGO's that have assisted us financially and supported our work in so many ways. YANQ would also like to thank networks and communities that invited, hosted or worked with YANQ in various capacity during the past twelve months.

YANQ acknowledges funding support from Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women .

## Acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

We believe that the primary culture of Australia is Aboriginal. We recognise that Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Islander peoples are 3 separate cultures. We recognise Aboriginal people as the permanent custodians of mainland Australia, including those areas of land whose owners have been wiped out as a result of racist 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.

## A Summary of YANQ's 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 practising 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.

### **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.

## **The YANQ Team from July 2017 to June 2018**

### **Committee Members**

Jude Saldanha (President)  
 Kuot Elijah Buol (Vice-President and Treasurer)  
 Witt Church (Secretary)  
 Matilda Alexander  
 Gavin Tyson  
 Margaret Hornagold  
 Tanya Genito  
 Amanda Wright  
 Deb Kilroy ex officio  
 Siyavash Doostkhah ex officio

### **Staff**

Siyavash Doostkhah	Sue McComber
<b>Director</b>	<b>Finance Officer</b>

### **Consultants**

Prof. Martin Mills, University of Queensland  
 Dr Glenda McGregory, Griffith University  
 Karen Mitchell (Accountant)  
 Cherie McGregor  
 Suzi Quixley

### **Education Reference Group members**

Dr Peter Westoby from QUT, Professor Jo Lampert from the La Trobe University, Dr Marnee Shay from UQ, Dr Cheryl Livock, Dr Sandra Taylor, Father Wally Dethlefs, Dale Murry, Tanya Genito, Anita Smith, Debra Mainwaring and Linda Llewellyn.

## **President's report**

2017-2018 has been another challenging year for YANQ and the youth sector across Queensland. Despite receiving a small one-off funding from the Department of Communities to maintain our current level of connection to the sector and to continue seeking funding, YANQ's resources were exhausted dealing with the wide range of issues faced by young people and the youth sector.

Despite our funding limitations YANQ has been involved in many important projects in the past 12 months. A plethora of work in advocacy, lobbying, research and policy development has been undertaken by YANQ. The following report outlines, briefly, YANQ's core activities. Please contact our Director 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.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a special thanks to all our members for your ongoing support of YANQ's work. Without its members YANQ will cease to exist. YANQ's membership now exceeds 580 members. This is the strongest membership YANQ has ever had in its 30 years of operation. Your financial support, as well as your engagement with policy development and collective advocacy strategies has made us a strong force that, even with minimum or no funding, can achieve positive outcomes for young people and the youth sector.

I also would like to thank the rest of YANQ's management committee who have supported me in my role as the President of YANQ in the past 12 months. I would also like to thank our staff and volunteers who are doing a great job under very difficult circumstances.

Finally, I hope that in the coming year we can continue to build on our strengths in partnership with the sector across Queensland and build YANQ's capacity to become a stronger voice for young people and youth sector in Queensland.

Jude Saldanha  
President  
Youth Affairs Network Queensland

## **Why the government should reinstate YANQ's funding and stop the silencing of young people**

In January 2013, the LNP Government ceased funding the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ). This has excluded young people, youth workers and youth organisations from most policy debates on youth issues. Despite this, YANQ has continued to maintain some key functions on a shoestring budget.

YANQ is widely engaged with the youth sector throughout Qld. Our membership includes over 580 young people, youth workers and NGO's. We have a proud history as the lead youth sector peak in Qld for over 30 years.

YANQ is a lean, highly networked organisation which can respond rapidly to critical issues affecting young people, particularly marginalised young people (e.g. DFV, LGBTQIA, Ice, Child Protection). We offer a rich source of intelligence for government on the changing experiences and needs of young people in rural, remote and urban Queensland.

YANQ promotes the interests and wellbeing of young people in Queensland through:

- Information to the youth sector
- Government committees and working groups
- Policy advice and submissions
- Campaigns and lobbying
- Regional and issues-based networks
- Research and consultation
- Forums and conferences
- Youth sector development and training.

YANQ is distinguished from many other peaks by our innovative, decentralised model – CPLAN. Our highly regional structure enables all Queensland young people and youth workers to play an active role in identifying youth worker needs; engaging in customised locally-relevant training; undertaking local research and consultation; and actively contributing to state-level policy development.

An investment in YANQ is the most cost-effective means of ensuring government access to sophisticated, evidence-based, solution-focused, practical advice on issues affecting young people across portfolios. Adequately resourced, YANQ could, once again, be a critical conduit of information on all issues affecting young people throughout Queensland.

## YANQ At a Glance

Govt invests in YANQ – the Qld peak body for youth issues and the youth sector.



YANQ helps create a vibrant, genuinely state-wide, youth sector which attracts and retains competent youth workers.

Varied groups of youth workers and young people become informed and comfortable engaging in policy processes.



YANQ partners with universities to undertake research on issues affecting young people.

YANQ analyses available research and conducts consultations to provide informed and succinct briefings to government stakeholders.

YANQ leads strategies to strengthen the capacity of the youth sector workforce.



Government youth policies strategies and programs are better able to make informed decisions in the interests of young people from throughout Qld.



Positive outcomes for young people



## Key activities of the year

### Funding for YANQ

We came very close to resolving our funding issue but in late 2017 state elections were called, the government went into caretaker mode and everything went on hold. Due to changes to the machinery of the Department and appointment of a new Minister for Youth, we had to restart all our negotiations. Despite positive meetings and encouraging signs, another State Budget was handed down and unfortunately it did not translate to funding for YANQ or the youth sector more broadly. This is despite YANQ outlining the urgent need for investment in our annual pre-budget submission to the Treasury. YANQ did however receive a one-off grant of \$50,000 for the 2018 calendar year. This interim funding was provided to YANQ in order for us to maintain the same level of connection with the youth sector and continue seeking recurrent peak body funding. YANQ has spent a considerable amount of time in the past twelve months lobbying the government and other key stakeholders about the need for the Queensland government to reinstate YANQ's funding.

### State Election

This was another state election which saw young people being used for political gains. During the election campaign YANQ had a lot of media coverage in particular around Youth Justice issues. We also used our social media platform to reach many people and challenge the negative campaign which was rolled out by the LNP. YANQ was particularly appalled by the LNP announcement of their intention to build two additional prisons in Queensland and to mix children with older prisoners in those facilities.

YANQ put LNP on notice that if they were to become the next government of Queensland, the peak body representing the youth sector and youth issues will ask the United Nations (UN) to intervene to protect Queensland's children.

### Youth Sector Survey 2017, overview of findings

As we continued to negotiate the reinstatement of YANQ's core funding to fully operate as the peak body for the youth sector in Queensland, we decided to utilise a survey to hear directly from sector workers and organisations what they identify as:

1. The key issues impacting the lives of young people; and the youth workers and agencies that support them; and
2. The support youth workers and organisations require from a peak body.

Survey Monkey was used to create an online anonymous survey that was circulated electronically through the YANQ newsletter, website and social media to youth workers and organisations across Queensland. YANQ engaged the services of an independent/external consultant to analyse the survey responses and to produce the following report.

## *Challenges facing young people*

The survey asked youth workers to identify the top five issues impacting the lives of the young people they support. Youth workers consistently talked about the complex, interrelated needs of young people who are engaged with youth services. There was a similar emphasis between the broad areas social wellbeing (38% of all comments); economic wellbeing (34%); and mental and emotional wellbeing (28%).

Sub-themes captured within each broad area detailed the specific challenges faced by young people accessing support from youth services across Queensland. Mental health issues emerged as the most frequently commented on sub-theme (15%), followed by access to appropriate

accommodation (11%); alcohol and other drugs (9%); and relationships and connection (9%).

### **YOUTH SECTOR LEADERSHIP**

**ENABLING YOUTH WORKERS AND SERVICES  
TO SUPPORT QUEENSLAND'S YOUNG PEOPLE**



**Findings of Queensland Youth Sector Survey**

**2017**

Other specific issues impacting young people's social wellbeing included experiences of trauma & violence; and problems with the service system expected to support young people. Young people's economic wellbeing was also impacted by financial hardship; difficulties accessing appropriate employment; and educational challenges. Comments about mental and emotional wellbeing challenges also included suicidality and self-harming, although these did not emerge as dominant themes.

### *Challenges facing the youth sector*

Youth services support young people with complex needs, most of who require support over time to achieve sustainable change in their lives. This demands

highly skilled workers who can build and maintain ongoing support relationships that respond to each individual young person's unique circumstances.

Responses to the 2017 *Queensland Youth Sector Survey* paint a picture of a sector in crisis. Overwhelmingly, when describing the top five issues impacting youth workers and youth organisations, survey respondents talked extensively about the impact of funding constraints on their capacity to provide quality services to young people, effectively identifying funding policy and models as the key challenge facing the sector.

Survey responses repeatedly identified that services are under-funded and under-resourced to meet the level of service demand (both in terms of intensity of service provision and numerical demand). Funding agreements are overly prescriptive and restrictive, dictating short-term,

output-focused service delivery models. As such, services are hamstrung from achieving their full potential to be innovative and respond effectively to the real needs of young people within the context of their individual circumstances.

The combination of funding criteria and competition-based tendering, were seen as creating a sector culture that encourages 'siloed' service delivery. Organisations become inward focused and are increasingly operating independently of other services. Service delivery becomes focused on narrow, specified outcomes at the expense of addressing the inter-related needs affecting young people's long-term outcomes. Funding criteria also effectively preference funding to large NGO's at the expense of experienced, specialist local agencies that typically have a more sophisticated and nuanced understanding of local community and youth needs.

Respondents also described the constant change imposed by the lack of funding security inherent in short-term contracts and defunding of programs. This impacts support relationships with young people and inhibits services' capacity to offer ongoing support over time for young people with multiple complex needs. It also fosters a sector culture plagued with uncertainty that makes it difficult for organisations to undertake long term agency-level planning and offer job security to staff.

Queensland youth workers function within a demanding complex, high-pressure and unpredictable professional environment. Yet unpredictable and inadequate funding generates workforce conditions characterised by low wages, a lack of job security, limited access to professional development, and a lack of recognition for the complexity and value of the work. Workers consistently identified feeling devalued and unsupported as a workforce, and at risk of burnout. Consequently, services struggle to attract and retain skilled staff.

Demand for sector leadership:

*"YANQ did fantastic work when fully funded; I have noticed the gap without [YANQ's] presence over the last few years. The voice of young people has been lost and the strength of the youth sector weakened."*

The priority peak body roles identified by youth workers, coordinators and managers were

- Advocacy and lobbying;
- Genuine representation;
- Networking and actively engaging the sector; and
- Information dissemination.

Almost one third of survey respondents identified that, prior to receiving the survey they'd been unaware of YANQ's activities as sector peak. A small number of respondents had some concerns about YANQ being out of touch with the sector, especially in rural and regional areas. This is indicative of the significant impact that operating without any consistent funding for the past five years has had on YANQ's capacity to engage with, support, and effectively represent the Queensland youth sector.

Overwhelmingly, responses to the survey depict a sector hungry for strong sector leadership and representation. Comments emphasised proactive engagement as central to supporting the sector to collectively identify systemic issues (from local service delivery experience) to inform advocacy that genuinely represents the interests of all young people and services across the state. Youth

workers, coordinators and managers repeatedly emphasised the need for YANQ to proactively engage directly with diverse young people, workers, services and networks across Queensland (not just in the South East corner).

There were significant commentary cross multiple survey questions identifying the need for a structured system enabling frontline workers and services to escalate issues to inform government policies and agendas impacting young people and the services that support them. Rural respondents particularly advocated for YANQ to have greater presence at a local level.

Here is the link to the full [Youth Sector Report](#)

### **YANQ launched a major report *Engaging Students in Engaging Schools: Lessons from Queensland's Alternative Education Sector* at Parliament House on 11th October 2017**

We commenced our work on this issue in 2003 with the publication of a discussion paper entitled *What Are Schools For?*. In that report, YANQ welcomed the Beattie Government's plans to fund community organisations to employ youth workers in schools around Queensland. The Youth



Support Coordinator program was a fantastic program that helped to bridge the gap between schools and the broader community.

In the same report, however, we also called for greater support for young people who were

marginalised from education and not attending schools (and therefore unable to benefit from the support of youth workers in schools).

Since that report, YANQ has continued to agitate for greater support for young people who are disengaged from schooling through a range of publications and research projects, such as the following:

- In 2004 we released a paper titled: *Let's Invite Everyone*, to encourage discussion and debate about the ETRF process.
- In 2005-2006 we made submissions to the State Government's review of Education Laws in Queensland.
- *A Snapshot of Queensland's Re-Engagement Services*, was a small research project undertaken in 2008 to assess the level and nature of support that was available for young people (12 to 18) who were disengaged from education and work. This project highlighted the



inconsistent (and in some cases non-existent) levels of support for young people who had become disengaged from education and were rarely, if ever, attending school.

- In 2010 a pilot study was undertaken by YANQ in collaboration with the University of Queensland and Griffith University collected data from a small, diverse group of alternative schools in South-East Queensland. The research identified some of the practices that have engaged marginalised young people facing very difficult life circumstances and resulted in a YANQ publication: *Re-engaging Students in Education: Success Factors in Alternative Schools*.

Based on the interest of our members in our previous work, YANQ made the decision to commit significant time and energy into improving our advocacy for young people marginalised from education – and so the Re-engagement Project was born. Together with our partners, University



of Queensland and Griffith University we were successful in attracting a grant from the Australian Research Council to build on the 2010 research data and to add a regional Queensland perspective.

The Dusseldorp Forum also provided us with a grant to strengthen the project by giving young people a direct voice, which we delivered through a video production process. The complete series of

videos are available on our [Vimeo Channel](#) with specific videos for young people to share with their friends, for youth workers and teachers to use as a learning resource, and finally for informing policy makers and legislators.

In 2016 Queensland had some 67,000-short-term suspensions and about 3000 exclusions and/or enrollment cancellations. Clearly, we are facing a crisis and we need to respond to this crisis in a genuine way, change is needed and significant resources must be allocated to deal appropriately with this issue. We welcome the recent release by Education Queensland of their *“Everybody’s Business – Reengaging young Queenslanders in Education”*. This document outlines a number of recent initiatives and strategies which has reportedly been successful in reengaging 4000 young people. This is clearly a good start but it is paramount that both sides of politics commit to supporting and expanding on these initiatives. The report launched by YANQ should be used to inform the change processes necessary, this report is the evidence that we can have a schooling system that leaves no young person behind. Our young people not only deserve this, they have a right to this, education is a human right and as such is non-negotiable.

One of the key issues which this report has highlighted is that Youth Work plays a key role in supporting young people in various contexts including educational settings. It is really unfortunate that successive governments in recent years have reduced funding to youth services and almost crippled them with demands for outcome reporting.

YANQ would like to thank our project partners who either supported us financially or in-kind: The University of Queensland, Griffith University, Youth +, Bond University, Community Action Inc Gympie, Brisbane Catholic Education And unfortunately a number of defunded projects: Youth Connections: Brisbane North and West Consortium, Queensland Youth Connections Network, Queensland Partnership Broker Network, and the Department of Communities who up till 6 years ago funded YANQ. A special thanks also to Human Ventures for facilitating and producing the videos with young people.

Last but not least, the school communities, staff and young people, who kindly welcomed us in their community and shared with us, so generously, the real-life stories that informed this report. We salute you for your courage and commitment for facing difficult times, difficult issues, for standing up for justice and for not giving up on any young person no matter what.

## **Youth Justice issues**

### *Children to no longer be locked up in adult prisons*

YANQ continued its advocacy work as a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Group which was established to help with planning and implementing the changes necessary for the transfer of children out of adult prisons and into the youth justice system. As a member of this advisory group, YANQ has been working with other advocates and with the Attorney General's office to ensure this transfer does not result in implementation of other policies which could have negative impacts on young people. In particular YANQ has been advocating for the government to deal with the high number of young people who are spending time in youth detention centres whilst on remand. We have also been advocating for the age of criminal responsibility to be raised. The combination of these two strategies would ensure there is no need for building any additional youth detention centres or expanding the number of beds in existing facilities.

### *The use of the title 'Youth Worker' by prison guards*

YANQ wrote letters to the Attorney General prior to state election and to the Youth Minister after the state election asking for them to direct their department not to use the title 'Youth Worker' by staff at Youth Justice. We outlined our concerns and referred to the work that was done in Queensland to define what 'Youth Work' is.

### *Youth Detention Centre report*

The Attorney General released additional sections of the Youth Detention Centre report which was previously redacted. Not surprisingly the report was very disturbing. YANQ responded to this issue by undertaking a number of interviews with media outlets and also wrote to the Attorney General asking for a wide inquiry into systemic abuse of children in Youth Detention Centres.

## Premier's Anti bullying Roundtable

YANQ attended the Premier's roundtable and provided a submission to the Premier supporting the issue to be placed on the agenda of COAG. YANQ supported the various points raised at the round table meeting, however we believe there are two specific issues which require careful consideration.

- In our society we have an urgent need to look at privilege and marginalisation. Our responses should be based on humanity and the notion of equality it encompasses. Our discriminatory responses which, in themselves are a form of violence, need to cease. Our responses need to be equitable and support cultural continuity, self-determination and local leadership.
- Unless we are proposing top down changes to all our social institutions, social norms and their inherent violent cultures which include bullying, we need to work out how to support young people to safely reject violent societal norms. That is, how do we support young people to confront violence at home, school, the workplace, in relationships etc. when the perpetrators of the violence are in positions of power and are rewarded socially and financially.

## Queensland Young Achievers

YANQ was once again invited to be an Executive Judge for the Queensland Young Achievers Award. The awards have highlighted positive contribution young people are making to our community and have included a number of young people from low socioeconomic backgrounds rising to the challenges they faced and becoming a role model for other struggling young people.

## Media Coverage

YANQ was highly successful in using print and digital media to reach a wide audience and raise key issues relating to young people. YANQ also used social media to connect to various supporters in progressing various campaigns.



## Other key activities:

- Attended Cabinet's end of the year function;
- Held YANQ's 2017 AGM, three new members have joined YANQ's committee;
- Gave a presentation about YANQ and key policy/advocacy issues at the Inner Urban Youth Interagency;
- Attended budget lockdown and released budget analyses;
- Attended the Annual Youth Justice Forum hosted by Griffith University and Restorative practices;
- Responded to the Queensland Youth Strategy;
- Applied for membership of Youth Reference Group;
- Attend the AGM of Qld Youth Housing Coalition (QYHC) and was glad to hear the Housing Minister is seriously looking at reinstating the organisation's funding. Considering the housing crisis faced by young people it would be really good to see QYHC returning to full operations;
- YANQ had a visit by Nicole Allen-Ankins, the new Manager of Office For Youth;
- YANQ attended a Roundtable held by new Youth Minister. We raised a number of key issues requiring urgent attention including the need to increase youth sector funding, sexual health issues and use of various medications on children in care;
- YANQ participated in an interview with Dr Tamara Walsh from University of Queensland in regards to her latest research '*The Criminalisation of young people in out of home care: a multi-jurisdiction analyses*';
- Attended an information session on Federal Government's Test, Try and Learn funding initiative;
- YANQ supported the Queensland Young Achievers Awards again this year. As an executive judge we went through 80 nominations for various categories of the award and choose all category winners and the overall young Achiever of the year;
- YANQ visited the Music Industry College which is a very successful and interesting form of alternative education. The school contacted YANQ after they had heard about our research into reengagement;
- YANQ attended the annual State Budget lockdown and held discussion with the Youth Minister;
- YANQ met with Maria Leebeek, CEO of Queensland Youth Housing Coalition after their funding was reinstated;
- YANQ attended an event at QPAST to mark the past survivors of torture and trauma;
- Held discussions with senior advisor to the Attorney General in regards to Youth Justice issues;
- Worked with Gladstone and Rockhampton Youth Interagencies trying to get the Central Qld CPLAN up again;
- Gave a presentation to the Rockhampton Interagency;
- Attended the launch of Wally Deathlefs's book '*Just Compassion*'. Wally has been instrumental in establishing many youth services in Brisbane over the past 40 years;
- YANQ presented key issues faced by marginalised young people and the youth sector at the Youth/Youth Justice Roundtable hosted by the Minister For Youth.



## YANQ's communication

YANQ's membership has increased to over 580. A quarter of these are organisations and the rest are individual youth workers and young people. The majority of our members are from outside of South-East Queensland.

YANQ continued to have a significant presence in print and digital media. YANQ is highly respected by various media outlets and is the number one organisation for media to approach on most youth issues.

YANQ's [Facebook page](#) Likes have increased from 920 to 980 this year. Our posts reach thousands of people in a very short period of time. YANQ also manages two other FB sites for specific campaigns. One is called '[Celebrate Don't Medicate](#)' and the other is '[Keep Qld's Kids out of Adult Prisons](#)' a campaign.

During the year, YANQ established a new Facebook page to assist with our campaign to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility. The Facebook page is called '[Prison not Suitable for Children](#)'

YANQ's web page continues to be classed as Tier One which is the category for sites with the highest traffic and is equivalent to the websites of large national organisations. Our website has high traffic of between 30,000 - 40,000 unique visitors per year (approximately 278,000 page views).

YANQ also continues to send out periodic email bulletins to over 800 recipients.



## Treasurer's Report 2018

It is with great pleasure that I present our Accountant's Report for the year ending 30th June 2018.

Our financial records show that the association has book keeping processes in place to adequately record the association's income and expenditure and dealings with its assets and liabilities.

In 2017 we signed a contract with the Department of Communities which has meant there is minimum income for the organisation in 2017-2018. This funding is just interim and nowhere enough for YANQ to resume all its peak body activities. We hope that the Queensland Government will reinstate YANQ's core funding in the near future. Operating for the past several years has had a detrimental effect on YANQ's work and more broadly on the work of the youth sector.

However, despite the funding situation YANQ continues to be a strong voice for the rights of young people in Queensland and has led many important campaigns which are outlined earlier in this Annual Report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all YANQ members and subscribers for their financial contribution to YANQ. Our current membership stands at over 580. I would also like to thank everyone who has contributed to the work of YANQ. Your support has helped maintain an independent voice for the youth sector in Queensland.

If you would like further any information, please contact our office.

Elijah Buol  
Treasurer



Karen Mitchell FCA

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REVIEWER'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION  
UNDER SECTION 60-40 OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMISSION ACT 2012

To the members of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2018 there have been:

- (i) No contraventions of the reviewer's independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the review; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in respect of the review

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Karen Mitchell'.

Karen Mitchell FCA

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT

To the members of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc.

### Report on the Financial Report

I have reviewed the accompanying financial report of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc., which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, the income statement and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the management committee.

#### *Management Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The Management Committee of the association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and has determined that the basis for preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) 1981* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012*. The management committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the management committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### *Auditor's Responsibility*

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on my review. I conducted my review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2415 *Review of a Financial Report; Company Limited by Guarantee or an Entity Reporting under the ACNC Act or Other Applicable Legislation or Regulation*, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, I have become aware of any matter that makes me believe that the financial report is not in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012* including: giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2018 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and complying with the Australian Accounting Standards. ASRE 2415 requires that I comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the review of the financial report.

A review of the financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable me to obtain assurance that I would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. According, I do not express an audit opinion.

#### *Independence*

In conducting my review, I have complied with the independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012*.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT...continued

To the members of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc.

### Conclusion

Based on my review, which is not an audit, I have not become aware of any matter that makes me believe that the financial report of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc. is not in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012* including:

- (a) Giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2018 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) Complying with Australia Accounting Standards.



Karen Mitchell FCA

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018

# Beware



the non-profit  
industrial complex.