



youth affairs network qld



ANNUAL REPORT 2021 – 2022



**Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc.
Annual Report 2021- 2022**

© Youth Affairs Network Queensland Inc.

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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 will also like to acknowledge that the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs for funding our Community of Practice pilot project.

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.

Committee Members

Mr Jude Saldanha (President)
 Mr (Kuot) Elijah Buol (Vice-President)
 Ms Leticia Batista (Treasurer)
 Ms Neta-Rie Mabo (Secretary)
 Mr Jonathan Tapau
 Mr Gavin Tyson
 Mrs Carmen Auer
 Ms Amanda Margerison
 Ms Deb Kilroy (Ex officio)
 Mr Siyavash Doostkhah (Ex officio)

Staff

Siyavash Doostkhah
Director

Lulu Wren
Bookkeeper

Consultants

Karen Mitchell (Accountant)

President's report

2021-2022 has been another challenging year for YANQ, the youth sector and more importantly young people across the State. As we emerged out of the COVID-19 pandemic, the new normal looks very much like the old normal and that is to neglect young people, their families and communities and then to blame and criminalise them.

The State's abdication of responsibility for supporting the youth sector continues to have a negative impact on the youth sector and the quality/scope of services available to young people. We have major workforce issues and have raised this with the State Government but unfortunately, we cannot find a partner in Government to work with us towards resolving what increasingly looks like a workforce crisis.

Failure of the Palaszczuk Labor government to reinstate YANQ's core funding for the past 9 years has impacted strongly on the wellbeing of the youth sector across Queensland and the provision of quality of advice to the government.

Despite all the 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 has exceeded 700. This is one of the strongest levels of NGO membership across the country.

Your financial support, as well as your engagement with policy development and collective advocacy strategies has made us a strong force that, even with no funding, we can achieve positive outcomes for young people and the youth sector.

I would like to thank my colleagues on 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 the 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 Queensland. Our membership includes over 700 young people, youth workers and NGO's. We have a proud history as the lead youth sector peak in Queensland 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. those impacted by DFV, LGBTI, ice, child protection, terrorism). 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

The year at a glance



Youth Work Community of Practice (Pilot Project)

During the 2022 calendar year, YANQ operated a Community of Practice (CoP) made up of workers from residential care and youth justice services. For a long time, we have had a problem of many young people in residential care being criminalised and ending up in the Youth Justice system and youth prisons.

If workers are to intervene in the lives of highly marginalised young people, build trusting relationships and provide the necessary information and support for young people to make choices that are of benefit to their wellbeing as well as to the wellbeing and harmony in our communities, they need to possess the necessary skills and the confidence in their application in day-to-day work.

The importance of this work cannot be underestimated. All young people have a right to feel safe and supported. Young people have a right to voluntarily engage with a youth worker/youth service and to access relevant information and support required to engage positively in the community and to constructively contribute to our society.

With an increasing number of young people being placed in residential care and youth justice services and the phenomenal cost of operating these services, an alternative approach which can break the current cycle is well over due. It is a matter of time before Queensland will raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility and it is of paramount importance that we have the support services, not just in name and funding allocation, but in demonstrated ability, to engage and support this specific cohort of young people who for all intents and purposes have been neglected by our society.

The youth sector can play a key role in reducing demand for the expansion of high expenditure and counterproductive facilities such as youth prisons. Youth work can support young people and enhance our community safety. However, the level of experience within the youth services sector

is critical and requires sustainability; that depth of skills and knowledge remain within the sector to ensure the quality of services provided to young people.

YANQ's previous research into the youth sector workforce issues has identified that: *"Over 51% of workers have been in the youth services sector for 2 years or less, with half of these showing that they have been in the sector for approximately 1 year indicating that there is considerable inexperience specifically in relation to the youth services sector. The small number of workers who have been in the sector for more than two years was notable."*



Without concerted effort to ensure skills/knowledge transfer from experienced youth workers to new workers in the field, not only will youth workers feel isolated, unsupported and less likely to remain in the youth sector, but also the quality of their work and the young people who they can successfully engage with suffers as well.

Most of the highly marginalised young people are currently lost in a service delivery chasm. We cannot continue turn the other way and brand these young people as "too hard to work with". The cost to the young people as well as more broadly to our society is far too great to be ignored. Highly skilled youth workers can bridge this gap and YANQ's piloting of the CoP this year is a significant step in building a necessary support structure to enhance the capacity of the sector and achieving this goal.

The CoP was made up of key stakeholders with theoretical and practice-based knowledge alongside youth workers who are currently in positions which bring them into contact with vulnerable young people.

CoPs are groups of peers who share a concern or passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly. The 12-month action research process guided the work of this group who endeavour to answer one key question: 'What will it take to work ethically and effectively with young people in Child Protection and Youth Justice systems?'.

Learnings from the implementation of the 12-month strategy is being documented with the intention for the strategy to be scaled up in subsequent years, operating across the State.

The CoP ensures that youth workers participating in the process are equipped with the necessary theoretical knowledge and experiential skill set to utilise in their daily work. The CoP also acts as a support structure for the members of the group so they can ask questions, share practice wisdom and to turn their newly acquired knowledge and experience into concrete learning.

We hope that in 2023 YANQ can utilise learnings from this year's pilot CoP and provide a state-wide CoP for the youth sector.

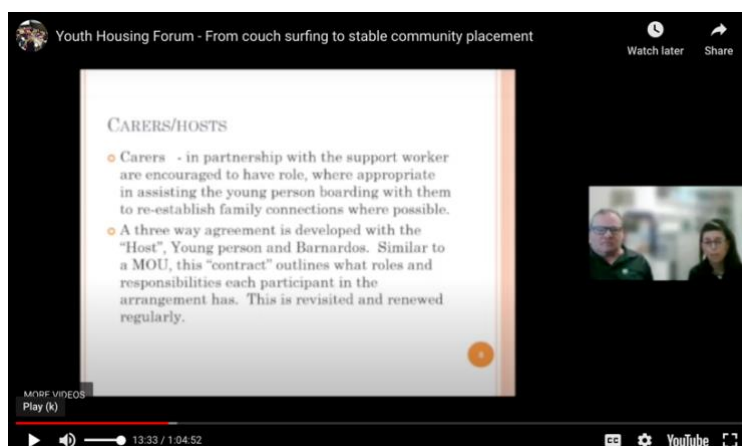
Online Forums

Continuing from the COVID era of online engagement with the sector, in November 2021 Youth YANQ in partnership with Queensland Youth Housing Coalition hosted an online forum titled 'From couch surfing to stable community placement'.

Housing was a priority issue identified by the sector in our research for choosing topics that the sector believes are priorities for sector discussion.

This was a timely conversation given the growing housing crisis faced by young people. Siobhan Cosgrave, Manager of Barnardos Youth Homelessness Programs (ACT), and Peter Schwarz their Youth Support Case Manager gave presentations on a range of housing support initiatives they operate in ACT. These programs accommodate around 100 young people at any one time across the three programs, 'Youth Identified Accommodation and Support Program', 'Our Place' and the 'Friendly Landlord Service'.

Of particular interest to us was a service Barnardos operate in ACT which identifies young people who are couch surfing at friends places. Barnardos make contact with the host family and organise a range of support services for the young person and the host family to turn the short-term couch surfing experience into a more stable accommodation option for young people. They have had great success with this project, and they shared some of their learnings with us at this forum. We hope to see similar initiative getting off the ground here in Queensland.



You can watch this forum on YANQ's YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uvwAZ4Sw6Y>

Youth Justice

The State Government's strategy to neglect the youth sector and instead pour money and other resources into youth prisons and the so-called Youth Justice system is highly questionable. The Government is well aware that the 'tough on crime' rhetoric does nothing to reduce crime and make our communities safer. They knowingly adopt this 'we are tougher than the other side of politics' approach as a strategy to win conservative votes. They see their actions as pragmatic for holding on to power but this strategy of appeasing the Murdoch press readers will no doubt backfire. We saw that in the federal election earlier this year and we also saw it when Labor under Anna Bligh tried to be more conservative than the conservatives.



Queensland is now looking at wasting more money by building another youth prison in north Queensland. This will cost hundreds of millions to build and hundreds of millions to manage. And the real tragedy is that all it will achieve is the destruction of more young lives and reduce the safety of our communities.

YANQ has repeatedly approached the Government and highlighted the key role that the youth sector can play in the prevention area. The Youth Justice strategy developed by Bob Atkinson who is a previous police commissioner, lacks an understanding of primary crime prevention and although it uses the language of prevention in some parts, it only focuses on early intervention.

Despite a growing chorus of advocacy organisations demanding the Queensland government raises the minimum age of criminal responsibility, the state government has failed to implement this well overdue reform which can free up resources currently wasted and divert it toward prevention.

Reinstatement of YANQ's core funding and Pre-budget Submission

In July 2021 YANQ representatives met with the Minister for Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Director General of the department also attended the meeting. We discussed YANQ's pre-budget submission and funding proposal. There was a clear "NO" response from the Minister and her DG for them to support YANQ's proposal. This is the 9th year since the LNP government cut YANQ's funding and Labor, despite promises they made when in opposition and after providing a number of years of interim funding, are now outright refusing to reinstate YANQ's funding and the youth sector remains without a funded peak body.

Since the last State election, we have seen an expansion of the policy vacuum in Queensland government when it comes to youth issues. YANQ has written to the Department of Environment, Science and Youth Affairs and the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs about machinery of the government changes after the State election which has resulted in the loss of a whole of government youth policy. Both departments have told us that they are having discussions about this issue but so far, we haven't heard back from either of them.

YANQ sent a letter to the Premier's Department requesting assistance to clarify which department has the responsibility for youth policy. We also reached out to the new Director of Office for Youth requesting a meeting to explore how we could work together. Consistent with their responses since the last election, we were referred to the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs.

We wrote back to Office for Youth asking if the office is still in charge of implementation and monitoring of the Youth Strategy. The strategy has been in a bit of limbo as it would require the Office for Youth to act in a broad Youth Policy leadership role across the whole of government, which they have failed to do since last election. The strategy also needs to be updated and again requires a whole of government youth policy responsibility by Office for Youth.

As a result of this correspondence, we had a meeting with the Manager of Office for Youth and one of their policy managers. They showed interested in both what YANQ had to say about various issues as well as what we could offer them as a funded peak body. They committed to briefing up and finding out about their departments budget process. We discussed the following topics:

- YANQ's pre-budget submission
- Queensland Youth Strategy
- Youth engagement and participation training
- Youth primary crime prevention program
- Youth Sector development issues
- Ongoing youth policy development process

As mentioned above, during our meeting with the manager of Office for Youth, we raised a number of issues including the need for the development of a new Youth Strategy. We also offered our assistance in developing a framework and undertaking the consultations with the sector to inform the strategy. On 8th March 2022, the Department of Environment and Science released a tender document for development of the next Youth Strategy. The timeframe to lodge proposals was only two weeks and there were many concerning issues about the tender specifications.

YANQ and the Queensland Youth Housing Coalition who also shared our concerns, wrote a joint letter to the Minister for Youth and outlined our concerns and offered to assist in finding a way forward. In response we received a letter from the Deputy Director General (DDG) of Department of Environment and Science. They declined our offer to meet and discuss how we can support them in order to ensure equitable participation by the young people that our members work with.

We also received another letter from the DDG of Department of Environment and Science about YANQ's Pre-Budget Submission. They rejected our funding request stating that our budget submission is not aligned with the Department's priorities.

We wrote another letter and once again outlined the role of a peak body and why the youth sector peak body should have its funding reinstated. In response to this letter the DDG of Department of Environment and Science and the Director, Office for Youth met with YANQ representatives and stressed that they are not interested in having any relationship with us other than including us as they would with the rest of the service delivery organisations in consultations from time-to-time. They also kept insisting that YANQ should not seek funding from them as their department had other priorities. The DDG also made an outrageous statement that YANQ was not the youth sector peak body and that the Office for Youth is the peak body! It's highly concerning that the Department of Environment and Science has no one with an understanding of youth sector and more broadly the community sector.

We have written back to the DDG and to Office for Youth and have provided them with comprehensive documentation about what a peak body is.

Make Renting Fair Campaign

YANQ continued to work with the Make Renting Fair Queensland coalition. One of the actions the coalition took this year was to write a joint letter to the Housing Minister in relation to the second stage of Queensland rental reforms and the issues which the coalition would like to see included in the reforms. These priorities we outlined are:

1. Limiting rent increases - one increase annually, plus any increases over 20% above CPI must be argued by the lessor
2. Making bond returns fairer
3. Ensuring tenancy contract terms are fair
4. Allowing renting households to undertake minor modifications
5. Protecting the privacy of renters
6. Ensuring renters are treated fairly



Key Meetings

YANQ met with the newly appointed Executive Officer of Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC). We discussed Queensland priorities and AYAC's strategy to operate until next year's Federal budget. A comprehensive election package has been developed and we have started promoting it to the sector. AYAC has secured around \$150K over 5 years from the Myer Foundation and the Fairfax Family Trust. You can find out more about the election campaign here <https://www.ayac.org.au/election>

YANQ continued to participate in network meetings with other state's youth peak bodies. Western Australia youth peak body, met with the new Federal youth Minister (Anne Aly) on behalf of all state youth peaks. The new Minister expressed interest in our focus on marginalised young people and committed to working closely with state youth peak bodies.

YANQ attended Clarence Street's open day and had discussion with various staff in regard to detox and rehabilitation issues of young people across the state.

YANQ met with other state's youth peaks about potential collaboration on fee for service initiatives in each state.

YANQ attended the QCOSS State Budget Breakfast.

YANQ met with Qld project officer for Justice Reform Initiatives. We discussed how we can work together to influence various governments to instigate progressive reforms.

YANQ continued to participate on Queensland Peaks Network.

YANQ continued to attend Peaks meeting hosted by Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs.

Other Activities

YANQ hosted a joint forum with Queensland Youth Housing Coalition on youth workers' obligation to report sexual offences against children based on new provisions of the Queensland *Criminal Code Act 1899* that relates to fail to report (section 229BC). The forum explored the impact of the new legislation on youth workers. The new mandatory reporting legislation came into effect on 5th July 2021 requiring every adult in Queensland to report information relating to child sexual offences committed in relation to a child under 16 years of age to the Queensland Police Service. The impact on youth workers is huge and there were concerns about how youth workers and police are going to implement this legislation.

After 20 years of having an office in Thomas Street-West End, due to lack of support from the State Government we had to move out. We currently don't have a physical office and carry out our work online and in short-term rental meeting rooms.

YANQ was asked to speak to members of Queensland Youth Parliament about YANQ's work. We participated via Zoom and had a good discussion with the young members who were generally very interested in YANQ's advocacy work.

YANQ participated in a Zoom meeting providing feedback to The Anti-Discrimination Commission on the review of the Act.

YANQ participated in a consultation interview with KPMG. They were commissioned by the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy to help them develop *Communities 2032*, a long-term plan for Queensland communities. We're not sure if this is a genuine effort or strategy to hide disadvantage during the Olympics. We provided them with comprehensive feedback on the draft documents they sent and now are awaiting to see the final plan.

YANQ had an online meeting with the [Young Mayors Lead](#). Young Mayors project [Young Mayors program](#) is an initiative of Foundation for Young Australians. Inspired by successful programs overseas (mainly UK), the Young Mayors will support young people to get elected to local councils across the country. They are looking at piloting the project in Townsville and Mackay.

YANQ gave a three-hour lecture to final year Social Work students at QUT. We do this on an annual basis and receive positive feedback from both the students and the academics managing the course. The focus of these talks is on big picture policy and advocacy issues and their correlation with day-to-day youth work.

YANQ's Communication

YANQ's membership has increased to over 700. The majority of our members are from outside of South-East Queensland.

YANQ continued to have a 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. Topics we work with the various media outlets included 'over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the Youth Justice system' and 'chroming'.

YANQ's [Facebook page](#) Likes have increased from 1309 to 1379 and has 1600 followers this year. YANQ also manages two other Facebook pages for specific campaigns. They are '[Celebrate Don't Medicate](#)' and '[Prison Not Suitable for Children](#)'. We also have a Facebook Group [Youth Work Qld](#) which has provided a platform for the youth sector to have direct communication on various youth issues. The group so far has over 300 members.

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. During the year YANQ's website had approximately 17,000 page views by over 8,000 unique visitors.

YANQ also continues to send out periodic email bulletins to over 1000 recipients.

Links to YANQ's website, three Facebook pages, the new Facebook Group and Twitter feed:

- www.yanq.org.au
- <https://www.facebook.com/youthaffairsqld/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/youthworkqld>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Celebrate-dont-Medicate-1770560583170393/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Prison-not-suitable-for-children-1728727917243786/>
- https://twitter.com/news_yanq?lang=en

Treasurer's Report 2022

It is with great pleasure that I present our Accountant's Report for the year ending 30th June 2022.

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.

Unfortunately, the State Government has not reinstated YANQ's core funding yet. Operating without core funding or any funding at all for the past nine years has had a detrimental effect on YANQ's work and more broadly on the work of the youth sector.

In 2022, we mainly operated based on income from one project which was for delivery of youth work training to workers in residential care and youth justice services. 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 700. 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.

Leticia Batista
Treasurer



Statement by Members of the Management Committee

For the year ended 30 June 2022

In the opinion of the committee members:

Non-Reporting Entity

The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements and is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporations Act (Qld) 1981* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

True & Fair View

The accompanying financial report presents a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and its performance for the financial year ended on that date.

Going Concern

The association is primarily dependent upon core funding from the State Government to fund the association's operation and activities. In late 2021 the association secured additional State Government funding for the year ending 31 December 2022. The association has continued to submit proposals and liaise with the State Government in respect of securing renewed funding from January 2023. The Management Committee prepares an annual budget, regularly reviews the financial position of the association, and continues to seek additional funding and income in order to maintain the solvent operation of the association. As a result, at the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.


Signed in accordance with a subsection 60-15(2) of the the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*:



Signed



Print Name



Date

Karen Mitchell FCA

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Sunrise Beach Q 4567

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AUDITORS'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 2022 there have been:

- (i) No contraventions of the auditor'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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen Mitchell'.

Karen Mitchell FCA

23 November 2022

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc.

Report on the Financial Report

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc., which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, 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.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc. is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis of Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of my report.

I am independent of the registered entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ACNC Act and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the registered entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Emphasis of Matter – Government Funding

I draw attention to the Statement by the Management Committee disclosing the dependence of the association on state government funding for its ongoing operation. During the year the association secured additional government funding for the year ending 31 December 2022.

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*.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT...continued

To the members of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc.

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.

In preparing the financial report, the members of the management committee are responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management committee either intend to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibility

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 registered entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible entities use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the association to express an opinion on the financial report. I am responsible for the direction supervision and performance of the association audit. I remain solely responsible for my audit opinion.

I communicate with the association regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Karen Mitchell FCA

23 November 2022

Beware



the non-profit
industrial complex.