



# CPLAN

Communities of Practice  
Leaders Action Networks

**CPLAN is a series of decentralised youth work networks under the umbrella of the community youth sector peak body, Youth Affairs Network Qld (YANQ).**

**CPLAN aims to create an ongoing and sustainable structure across ten regions in Queensland to support a consistent focus on policy issues relevant to young people and workforce development strategies for the youth sector.**

The establishment of the ten CPLANs falls under the existing structure of YANQ and will utilise and lever off the comprehensive network of youth inter-agencies and networks across the state.

CPLANs engage in Participatory Action Research processes that support inquiry into issues (this will be supported by Queensland University of Technology).

## How does CPLAN work?

In each region, CPLANs include representatives from the youth sector. They are resourced by a regional CPLAN facilitator who is employed by YANQ for one day 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 to provide support to the Facilitator and build knowledge of CPLAN in the region.

The structure of a CPLAN in each region depends on their youth sector structures. For example, in one region, CPLAN exists as a standalone entity, whereas in other regions, CPLAN is a subcommittee of an interagency.

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

Their inquiry is supported by Participatory Action Research, assisted by Queensland University of Technology. Dr Phil Crane has visited or made contact the Facilitators to

## Your CPLAN Region

discuss PAR in their region and has attended all the CPLAN forums to undertake PAR training.

**CPLAN Facilitator Forums** are held three times per annum, providing CPLAN Facilitators and Co Facilitators the opportunity to discuss progress of their work, YANQ priorities and key issues; as well as undertake training.

Information collected at these forums is utilised by YANQ in a number of ways, including; informing its policy development process; forwarding information to relevant government agencies; and feeding information back to the youth sector across Queensland.

YANQ will work with CPLANs in each region to develop Regional Workforce Plans which will inform the Queensland Youth Sector Workforce Plan.

A **State CPLAN Group** has also been established as a reference group for YANQ. It is made up of representatives of organisations who focus on state wide issues. This group will consider findings and recommendations of the regional CPLANs. Another aim of this group is that they coordinate their support to the youth sector.

Three State CPLAN Forums have been held since November 2011 to:

- induct CPLAN Facilitators and Representatives on CPLAN initiative,
- provide a briefing on YANQ policy framework process and activities,
- introduce the Youth Sector Development Plan,
- provide training on Participatory Action Research,
- assess training needs of Facilitators and Representatives to inform training program for 2012,
- introduce participants to State Wide organisations and services,
- undertake training,
- share information about regional activities and discuss emerging issues,
- commence development of regional workforce plans,
- articulate a process for identifying policy priorities for each of the regions and across the State.

The CPLAN structure is an integral part of YANQ as facilitators are employees of YANQ. Their work will continue across the state as part of YANQ's strategy to decentralise its operations.

**YANQ has been funded under the National Workforce Development Fund to bring CPLAN Facilitators and Co Facilitators together twice in 2013 to continue workforce training.**

Find out more at [www.yanq.org.au](http://www.yanq.org.au) or call  
YANQ on 07 3844 7713



youth affairs network qld