

NETWORK NOISE

Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

Quarterly Newsletter **December 2008**

TURN YOUR INTERAGENCY TALK-FEST INTO DEMOCRATIC ACTION



In a democracy, talk is always valuable. In a democracy, the conversations we have are the tools we can use to bring about social justice for young people. The trick is to take those conversations beyond our own networks.

Gandhi widened the conversation about freedom by walking down a road and talking to people about salt (<http://tinyurl.com/f5hy2>). YANQ would like to invite all our members to widen our conversations about social justice for young people by sharing our discussions via the Youth Consultative Network (YCN – www.yanq.org.au/speakout). We're not asking you to march 390km, just have a conversation and fill out a form.

Throughout 2008 we know that many of you have been attending interagencies around Queensland and having conversations about

the challenges facing marginalised young people, as well as the difficulties that youth services experience. By sharing part of these discussions your interagency increases the chances of finding solutions by:

1. connecting with others in different parts of the state facing similar challenges;
2. drawing the attention of policy makers and advocates (like YANQ) to your issues.

Throughout your conversations in interagencies, you will no doubt have talked about the challenges facing young people and services. Every 6 months, YANQ invites interagencies to share these conversations and let us know:

- their views on the 3 highest priority issues facing young people;

- their views on the 3 highest priority issues facing youth services;
- training needs identified in the area; and
- any new announcements regarding new projects.

To share this information all you need to do is fill out a simple form (www.yanq.org.au/ycnform) and submit it to YANQ. We will then collate all the information and share it broadly throughout the youth sector, and (if at least **10 interagencies participate**) with decision makers in Government.

As you will see, you can submit the form online, or if you would prefer (or if your interagency is not registered with YANQ) you can download a PDF form to print out and fax or post back.

The talk you have at your interagency doesn't have to be 'cheap'. Make it count and widen the conversation by using YANQ's youth consultative network – www.yanq.org.au/speakout.

Submissions to the YCN for the 2nd Semester of 2009 can be made up until January 31, 2009.

For more information visit www.yanq.org.au/speakout or phone David on **07 3844 7713 / 1800 177 899**.

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YANQ Believes that the Primary Culture of Australia is Aboriginal

We recognise that Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Islander people are 3 separate cultures.

We recognise Aboriginal people as the permanent custodians of mainland Australia and Torres Strait Islanders as permanent custodians of the Torres Strait Islands that are an integral part of Australia, including those areas of land and sea whose owners have been wiped out as a result of racist politics and acts.

We use the term custodianship in the context of protection and care

for the land. YANQ is committed to respecting individuals, Murri and Islander communities.

We seek to understand their responses to policies and issues affecting them. We are committed to learning about their understandings of the impact of decisions on them.

YANQ apologises for the past and present social mistreatments of Murri and Islander people created by colonisation, and is committed to supporting the healing process.



NETWORK NOISE

Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

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Contributions Welcome

Ring, write, email or fax your latest news on...

- Workshops & events
- Youth programs
- Training events
- Projects
- Change of address
- Latest resources
- Research news
- Innovations



youth affairs network qld

The views and opinions contained in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of YANQ.

YANQ also does not necessarily endorse training and resources advertised in this publication.

Copy Deadline February copy deadline is **Mid January**

Thanks!

to all the contacts of the Interagency Networks

Firstly, we at YANQ wish to thank all the contacts of the Interagency Networks for promptly responding to emails updating meeting information of the networks – this certainly helps us to provide up-to-date details both on YANQ's website and in this newsletter.

Most of you would have noticed that the August edition of Network Noise was rather late being distributed early October and we hope you will accept our apologies for the late publication/distribution due to staff absence.



Young People Speak out on Re-engagement

The Moreton Bay Re-engagement Forum and Expo

According to young people consulted at the Moreton Bay Re-engagement Forum and Expo “fear of violence, being picked on, pressure, disappointment and pointlessness” are some of the major concerns relating to attending or returning to school.

The Re-engagement Forum and Expo, held on the 11th of November at the Morayfield Community Centre, provided a unique opportunity for young people to come together and discuss the issue of disengagement and how the mainstream education process can be improved.

Diahn Gavine, Rebecca Boys, Jasmine King and Riahnon Johnson from Deception Bay Community Youth Program (DBCYP) led the the Peer 2 Peer consultation session, asking a dozen of their fellow peers gathered from schools and youth programmes within the Moreton Bay region for their views on education and the traditional schooling process.

The group cited education and socialisation as the two key reasons for young people’s attendance at school. Although they could be working and earning money, attending school was said to be important to ensure later tertiary acceptance and greater responsibility within the community.

Becoming effective and respected role models was found to be centrally linked with young people’s commitment to their own education. This strong leadership focus coupled with group’s mature and imaginative participation in the session demonstrated young people’s commitment to making a positive social contribution. Engagement in both mainstream and alternative education processes was held to represent the vital link in achieving such results.

The threat of homelessness resulting from trouble at home was also uncovered as a central concern relating to young people’s participation in education.

As Rebecca Boys later reported in the day’s closing session, fears about school directly impacted young people’s readiness to leave school. She also stressed the group’s belief that insufficient staff and teaching support, an overly structured, boring approach to education and learning had a significant impact on drop out rates.

Racism, bullying by both students and teaching staff and substance abuse were factors said to similarly challenge young people’s willingness to stay in school.

The consulted group’s response to how school staff should support students offered real food for thought for educators and advocates gathered on the day. “Listening and not assuming, not taking sides, having greater empathy, individual support for different learning styles and appreciating young people’s needs and what interests them” were suggested as ways for school staff to be more supportive of young people experiencing the stresses of education.

Greater flexibility was suggested as a means to improve engagement. The group suggested that educators and institutions consider the possibility of learning from home and variations to strict timetabling arrangements. The ability to balance study and working commitments was also recommended for consideration.

The DBCYP facilitators received a variety of responses in relation to what changes need to happen for young people to want to stay or return to school. Smaller classes,

more practical subjects, greater diversity in the method and subject of learning were some of the key recommendations produced by the group. It was suggested that a greater number of mainstream education programmes incorporate flexible learning opportunities.

YANQ is currently researching alternative education as part of the broader Re-engagement Project. The responses gathered from the Peer 2 Peer session will provide YANQ and its research partners with insight into young people’s current perceptions of mainstream education. The information will be similarly considered in relation to how alternative education strategies may be best shaped to ensure all student needs are met.

Outcomes from the Expo and Forum, will be released by YANQ in the near future and presented to all levels of Government to improve current methods of engagement and to enhance the educational opportunities available to all young people.

Photos and a video of the day will be loaded to YANQ’s website shortly.

A formal report and ‘How-To’ Forum Guide will be published in the early new year.

Employment Screening Cards

How do They Affect You?

Is employment screening all it is cracked up to be? The system developed to protect the most vulnerable members of our society, our children, people with disability, and those receiving aged care, appears to be inherently flawed. Implementation of new legislation has seen Employment Screening become compulsory in the areas of child care, aged care and disability services; it therefore affects young people in two of the three areas: child care and young people with disabilities.

A report by UnitingCare's Centre for Social Justice, titled, 'Employment Screening Cards: Safety or Injustice in Human Services?' has identified a number of issues regarding the practicality, administration, and possible discrimination and injustices of the employment screening process. This report also suggests areas for further research and provides recommendations on how to improve the current screening systems.

One of the major issues for consideration is the massive financial and practical costs to the organisations obliged to enforce the criminal history screenings as well as to ensure they are renewed and maintained. The estimated ongoing cost to BlueCare is as high as \$600,000 per year. There have also been issues in relation to the waiting time for positive notices, leaving a person unfit to work for a period of time until they are cleared.

Practicality issues have been raised, with not everybody who may be a danger to the vulnerable members of our community having a criminal history. Some may not have been caught yet. This creates a false sense of security amongst community members. Alburn (2005) suggests that only 3% of sexual predators are ever caught.

There is also the very high possibility that skilled workers are deterred from applying for positions within human services because of the criminal history checks. This cuts down the number of available skilled workers putting more pressure on an already stretched industry. It affects volunteers too - Steve Muggleton, Executive Director of Blue Care speaks about the loss of valuable volunteers who have been offended at being asked for a criminal history check.

For young people who receive a recorded conviction, they are stuck with the stigma of that conviction for life and are considered unfit to work in human services. This is why it is important for pressure to be put on the courts to use their discretion and consider the seriousness of the offence and the child's likelihood of re-offending when deciding on a sentence and whether a record will be kept.

Indigenous staff are the most difficult to find for employment in human services due to their over-representation within the criminal justice system. The high rates of unemployment often lead to re-offending which in turn completes this vicious cycle. This may in fact amount to indirect discrimination by the employment screening systems based on the social conditions in Indigenous communities. Is it possible that these factors could be considered when assessing an individual's application or letters of recommendation could be allowed?

It is also recommended that more information be made publicly available about the application procedures and what levels of discretion are present within the screening process. There are also practical

recommendations such as amalgamating some of the tests that overlap or finding a different agency that may be better equipped for processing applications more efficiently. The report goes on to identify further recommendations and areas for research to improve the employment screening system and ensure those members of our society who are most vulnerable are protected as much as possible.

At this stage UnitingCare's Centre for Social Justice is raising awareness of the issues identified by the report 'Employment Screening Cards: Safety or Injustice in Human Services?'

.....
: If you are interested in assisting :
: with the raising of these issues or :
: otherwise engaging please contact the :
: Centre at :
: **uc.socialjustice@ucareqld.com.au** :
: or on **(07) 3025 2013.** :
:

Emma Stallan

Generation 'Whine' and Other Self-Harm* Myths

by Jenny Lloyd

Perhaps you already care about self-harm. You wrote your worries on your body one night, too empty to feel much as you sought to tell others what you couldn't explain to yourself. You covered up more than wounds with bandages and wore winter clothing on summer days as a talisman against shame.

You tried it once because you wanted to feel alive, and when you tried to stop, your mind declared otherwise. You replaced one kind of pain with another, which felt a lot like self-help, and the logic of your universe came undone.

Or perhaps you've never cared about self-harm, maybe you just read about it, and became interested in the lore of "cutting culture" - how it is a fad promoted by the "emo" subculture, how it is all about attention-seeking, all about suicidal intent, all about manipulation, how it drove some kid in America to shoot his classmates. Perhaps you don't care about self-harm at all.

Well, now would be a good time to start.

Young people who self-harm* provoke plenty of vilification, but not enough care. <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10500> \t "_blank"

Figures published recently by The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) show that hospitalisation for self-harm among people aged 12 to 24 has risen by 43 per cent in 10 years.

But while the jump is disturbing, so too is the hidden number of young people who self-harm but don't seek help, silent casualties of moral panic and mental health stigma. Ignorance has allowed self-harm to become something ridiculed and taboo, something to talk about in whispers, with cynical sneers. Much is said about self-harm; very little of that is true.

So let's clear up a few misconceptions. Self-harm is not a fashion statement. It is not about exploiting the goodwill of others in order to be noticed. It does not "cause" homicidal behaviour, unless you are a darkly imaginative journalist with a penchant for attention-grabbing sensationalism. Self-harm's tenuous link to emo (short for "emotional") comes

from the music genre's lyrics - intimate, confessional - and though they're certainly an acquired taste, it's naïve to believe that counterculture is the poison in the well of mainstream society.

Rather, self-harm is a coping mechanism. It is a way of controlling, diverting or communicating overwhelming feelings. (The relationship between self-harm and suicide is complex; in most cases it is not intended to be fatal.)

Knowing what they're up against - the stereotypes, the prejudice - you start to understand why some young people who self-harm claim "accidental injury" in hospital emergency rooms. And you start to understand why they might find false solace in the "safety" of secrecy, too.

Self-harm is not a "psychotic" act - any more than responding to stress by drowning one's sorrows in a pot or two of beer is. But the mythology of self-harm denotes otherwise, spurred on by negative spin from a media industry indifferent to empowering young people equally. Vulnerable young people are too often demonised; those in need of help most.

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Generation 'Whine' and Other Self-Harm Myths cont.

Many people describe self-harm as a way of surviving emotional pain. Its false reputation for being just another phase to grow out of, much like pushing boundaries, keeps young people in need of support trapped in a cycle of mute dysfunction. It may not always indicate an underlying mental illness, but no matter how moderate - or not - the self-inflicted injuries are, it is a symptom of something more complicated than growing pains or coming-of-age.

Too often, self-harm is hidden behind bright smiles, active social lives, and good grades - places where it is easily overlooked - but as the mythology has grown, concern has been lost to compassion fatigue, a "whatever" shrug about the fragility of life.

Society values a stiff upper lip and self-harm - with its regulated emotion

and psychic pain turned inside out - is a by-product of it, a controlled, externally focused, emotionally avoidant form of self-expression, traits often rewarded in our competitive culture.

Instead of vilifying young people who self-harm we need to empower them. We need to start tearing down the myths that surround the act, so that young people who self-harm can seek support without fear of being labelled negatively.

We need to start teaching young people how to express strong emotions in healthy ways before they reach crisis point - even when that comes with the risk that they'll dye their hair black or sing loudly to fractured, cathartic rock songs.

Until we start sharing the facts about self-harm - and start treating young people who self-harm with compassion - ignorance and discrimination will prevent too many young people from achieving the hope and healing they deserve.

***Self-harm is not limited to young people, but the scope of this article is.**

For help or information call Kids Help Line on **1800 55 1800** or Lifeline on **131 114**.

Jenny Lloyd is a Melbourne based writer and editor.

TELSTRA \$5 PHONE CARDS

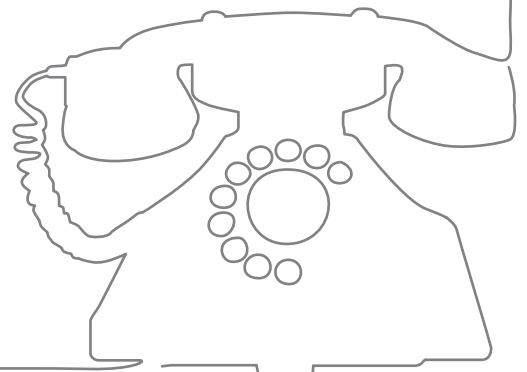
ORDER NOW!

Does your service work with low income young people who rely on public pay phones for their communication? If so, YANQ still has approx 2700 five dollar (\$5.00) Telstra Phone Cards (for use in public payphones) to give to YANQ's member/subscriber services to distribute to young people.

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

To order cards for your service, please fax the enclosed order form to **07 3844 7731** or email to **admin@yanq.org.au**.

Please note distribution will be based on a first-come-first-served basis.



Unnatural Selection

by Tim Wise, January 22, 2004

For those who speak out against racism, learning to deal with people who disagree with you is a time-consuming process, and a talent that must be cultivated. This was made painfully clear this past week when I received an email claiming that people like me should give up the battle against racism, not because racism was good, but simply because it's a part of that oft-conjured thing we like to call "human nature."

To my e-communicant, racism should be accepted since people instinctively choose to associate with those most like themselves. Anti-racists are, to this way of thinking, tilting at windmills, wasting our time, even battling against hard-wired biological impulses that tend towards racial separatism.

Worse in some ways than overt bigots whose hatred can be ascribed to emotional problems beyond the scope of my expertise, the calm reassurances of the "racism is natural" folks always get to me, probably because such arguments tend to be mere rationalizations for the biases already held by the persons making the claim. See, they seem to be saying, "I may be racist, but that's a natural human instinct, so you can't judge me harshly for it."

As white nationalist Jared Taylor put it during our debate at Vanderbilt University last year, "Preferring members of one's own race is no different than having a preference for one's own children as

opposed to those of one's neighbour."

Oddly, I've even had ostensible progressives and leftists assure me that racism is to some extent natural, usually as a way to shift discussion to topics with which they are more comfortable and to which they think our activist attentions should be shifted.

But while it's true that internalizing racist views in a racist culture is to be expected, given how such views are inculcated through media, schools, and other institutions, it is not the case that personal racism, separatism, or fear of racial others are normal. Instead, such things stem from the history of racial domination and subordination to which people have been subjected.

That racial separation and enmity are unnatural and learned conditions is proven most clearly not by sociologists but rather by children.

Put two-year olds of different "races" in a room with an assortment of toys and you'll see what I mean. Although certain kids will get along better with some of the rest of the group than others, their emerging affiliations will rarely if ever break down along racial lines, even if the children have never been around "other" race kids before.

Although children that age can discern differences in skin colour, they are too young to have typically ascribed value to

such a thing; as such they don't naturally fear those who look different, or cleave to those who look similar.

Children encountering other children (at least if they do so before being exposed to too much media imagery or other negative conditioning) naturally gravitate to a common and recognizable humanity. They realize instinctively what grown-ups too readily forget, or have been taught to ignore: namely, that in biological and genetic terms, there is no meaningful difference between so-called racial groups.

That racism and racial bonding are socially conditioned responses should be obvious from history. Had it been natural for people to "stick with their own kind," in the racial sense, there would have been no need for segregation laws to compel separation or ban so-called "race-mixing." It was precisely because separation was not natural enough for quite a few (beginning with slave masters), that states felt the need to limit contact between whites and people of colour.

Furthermore, throughout American history there have been many examples where people of different "races" overlooked those differences to make common cause.

In the 1600s, it was fairly common for black slaves and poor Europeans (especially indentured servants) to join forces in rebellion against the colonial elite. Recognizing their common economic

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interest, they fomented insurgencies that prompted the gentry to develop more intense forms of racial division so as to foster separation where it had not existed before.

For example, only in the wake of cross-racial uprisings like Bacon's Rebellion did elites begin to develop the concept of "the white race." Previously, lower-class Europeans had hardly been seen as part of a common family with the aristocracy. But in order to unite the masses behind the economic engine of slavery and solidify their position at the top of the nation's hierarchy, elites began to speak of "white people" united by a common culture, all of whom should be granted certain rights and privileges above all non-whites.

By granting the right to participate in white supremacy to persons at the bottom of the caste structure (via such mechanisms as slave patrols), the ruling class offered a stake in the system to those without a pot to piss in. It wasn't much, but it was enough to divide and conquer those who previously had worked together for common interests.

And it wasn't only for rebellion that blacks and whites commingled. Indeed, the residential proximity of Italians to blacks, and the comity that prevailed between the two groups in places like New Orleans, often led white elites to viciously repress the Italian community, so as to punish them for their transgressions against white bonding.

Likewise, though Irish immigrants were implored by their leaders at home to join the anti-slavery cause and ally themselves with blacks, political circumstance and the desire to enter the circle of privilege caused most to abandon solidarity and cast their lot with the white establishment.

Simple logic also compels a rejection of the "racism is natural" school of thought. Though people may feel more comfortable with those who are like themselves, this fact fails to establish that racial separation, let alone racism, is a natural condition. After all, there are many categories that the human mind could choose to prioritize as it goes about the business of deciding who is "like" and who is "unlike" oneself.

One could make weight, height, or some other attribute the primary dividing line of who is "in" and who is "out" when it comes to the circle of the accepted. Skin colour (the attribute traditionally used to mark "race") is not any more natural as a dividing line than any of these other points of demarcation. As such, the two related decisions--first to place race above all other things, and then to delineate races by such outward appearance differences as skin colour--are indeed decisions, not instinctual responses.

And when it comes to feeling more comfortable with those like oneself, how can any white American suggest they have more in common with a refugee from Central Europe (perhaps a Serb or Croat) than with those African Americans whose

families have been in this country for generations and who share many elements of a common culture?

Far from natural, racial bias stems from propaganda. If people are told repeatedly that certain folks make bad neighbours, drive down property values, or bring crime to a neighbourhood, they will likely come to believe these things, with or without first-hand evidence for such beliefs.

Even those who think their experiences justify their prejudice can only say such a thing because of selective memory: the decision to discount experiences that run counter to stereotype, and recall only those that confirm what they have been encouraged to believe. This is why whites can continue to fear blacks even though most of us have been victimized far more often by other whites, whether it is as violent attackers, shifty landlords, or pushy bosses.

Interestingly, those who claim racism and racial separation are natural often say other things that undercut their position. For example, I'm often told by these types that the reason they dislike or fear people of colour is because of bad experiences with such persons in the past.

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Unnatural Selection cont.

Putting aside the obvious irrationality of judging a group based on the actions of an unrepresentative sample of its members, there is a more important issue as regards the question of racism's "naturalness." Namely, if experience led us to feel the way we do about certain groups, then our feelings are not natural at all; they did not exist prior to the experiences we claim animate our current fear, dislike, or discomfort; and the fact that they exist now only attests to the experiential and environmental influences that engender feelings of racial amity or enmity.

Furthermore, if racial bonding were as natural as some claim, one would expect the process to play out roughly the same in all "racial" groups, though it doesn't. Blacks, for example, express significantly greater desire than whites to live in racially mixed neighbourhoods, with the most commonly desired mix being about 50-50 black and non-black.

Most whites, on the other hand, say they prefer no more than 10 percent people of colour in their neighbourhoods. Likewise, when asked by pollsters, whites are 45 percent more likely than blacks to say that it's best for people to "stick with their own kind" in the racial sense.

Asian Pacific Islanders and Latinos too have high rates of intermarriage with whites, and rarely seek to avoid whites the way whites seek to avoid being around "too many" people of colour.

On college campuses, where students of colour are often criticized for "sticking together" and ostensibly self-segregating, the fact is that it is whites who are most likely to racially separate themselves. Black students are 2.5 times more likely than white students to dine or study with persons of a different race; Asians are three times more likely to do so; and Latinos are nearly four times more likely than whites to dine or study across racial lines.

Indeed, it was in part the openness of African and indigenous American cultures, and their relative lack of racial "consciousness" that rendered them vulnerable to conquest, enslavement and colonization. In other words, some folks appear more likely to engage in racial "othering," and those most susceptible (at least in the U.S.) are white.

Even the notion that preferring members of one's own racial group is no different than preferring one's own children to the children of others is absurd. After all, since when have "whites" thought of ourselves as one family? We certainly didn't think that way in Europe, when the English were slaughtering the Irish; or when the Normans set out to vanquish the Saxons.

The notion of a white family is a concept with a very short pedigree, concocted for the purpose of defending the oppression of non-Europeans, and for no other reason.

That some choose to exclude others from their circle of family or friends on the basis of race, or prefer to live amongst only those of their own race, is not, in other words, a benign and natural process. It is not akin to looking over a menu at your favourite restaurant, and then choosing the pasta dish over the filet mignon; and those who proclaim it is are guilty of the crassest rationalization for prejudice ever devised: the notion that they just can't help it.

To whatever extent we experience our racially-exclusionary "choices" as natural; we must yet come to realize the ways in which our choices have been circumscribed by material forces set in place long before we were born. Those forces are not our fault, but learning to confront and overcome them is our responsibility.

If there are some who prefer to maintain the divisions established long ago by others, so be it, but they should at least have the decency not to insult the rest of us by calling their own pathology normal.

Tim Wise is an antiracist essayist, activist and father. He can be reached at timjwise@msn.com. Hate mail, though not appreciated, will nonetheless be graded for originality, form and grammar. Extra credit will be awarded for the most creative death threat, most colourful use of the phrase "race traitor" and / or "Dirty Jew," and most inventive suggestion as to what the author can do to himself.

Welcome to YANQ's New Multicultural Development Officer

Daniel Walker

On Tuesday the 2nd of December Daniel Walker began work with YANQ in the position of Multicultural Development Officer (MDO). As many readers will be aware, the MDO position has been vacant since Kirsten McGavin left in August.

This has been due to the uncertainty surrounding ongoing funding of Coordinated Advocacy in the Multicultural Sector (CAMS) program, administered by Multicultural Affairs Queensland. At this point in time, funding for the CAMS program has been extended through to June 2009.

During the time that the MDO position has been vacant staff and management committee at YANQ have been very conscious of the fact that issues for young

people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds haven't been getting the attention from YANQ that they deserve. However, we would like to thank many readers and members of the Multicultural Youth Network Queensland (MYNQ) for keeping the issues on the agenda and helping to keep YANQ and our members informed while we sought to appoint a new MDO.

Given that the future the CAMS program past June 2009 is uncertain, Daniel's role over the next 6 months will be very focused.

Daniel will be working to re-establish MYNQ on a firmer footing and to work on the Eracism! (erase racism) project. For the Eracism! project, Daniel will be

aiming to organise at least 1 forum in QLD exploring racism and strategies for combating it.

You can contact Daniel at the YANQ office (Monday to Wednesday) on **07 3844 7713 / 1800 177 899** or email to **cald@yanq.org.au**.

Hello from Daniel

Hello, I'm the new Multicultural Development Officer at the Youth Affairs Network Qld.

I have come from a research and education background at the University of Queensland where I have been lecturing and tutoring in Studies in Religion. I am completing a PhD in the field of comparative religious studies through social ethnography, and also a Masters focussing on community engagement, public education programs, and multicultural inclusiveness.

I am a West End local, and am very happy to be joining the YANQ team. I look forward to meeting and working with you all.

We have funding until June 2009 for this position, so I'll be working hard to achieve as much as possible in that timeframe.

Please feel free to contact me any time at **cald@yanq.org.au** or by calling the YANQ office.

You can also reach me on Skype at "**yanq.cald**".

I look forward to meeting with you soon, and in the meantime, have a great holiday season!

Cheers,
Daniel Walker

Access to Social Security for Young New Zealanders

If you or your youth service has recently assisted independent young people from New Zealand (arrived after February 26, 2001) to access social security payments then YANQ and the Welfare Rights Centre QLD would like to hear from you.

It has come to our attention that young people who have arrived in Australia from New Zealand (after 26.2.2001) with their parents/carers and subsequently become separated can have difficulties accessing social security.

Young people in this situation are then being denied opportunities to secure a

place to live, find work, study, participate in community activities and so on.

If your service is seeking assistance (or has recently sought assistance) for young people in this situation (i.e. originally from New Zealand, independent and seeking social security) then please call David at YANQ.

David can assist you to prepare information that will help the Welfare Rights Centre to advocate for the young person (should the young person agree to seek their assistance).

Phone YANQ on
07 3844 7713 or 1800 177 899
(free call outside Brisbane metro area).

You can find more information at the following links:

Department of Immigration:
<http://tinyurl.com/5rosdh>

Welfare Rights Centre
(MSWord Document):
<http://tinyurl.com/5agt8e>

BudgetLink....Discount Available for YANQ Members!!

BudgetLink has been developed by Jeff Stephenson at Accounting Addons specifically for the community sector.

It links with MYOB using the Standard Chart of Accounts (SCOA) and does all the budget analysis reports for each program (or job code), as well as the acquittals for HACC, DSQ, Dept of Communities with others in the pipeline.

This means that once the data has been entered into MYOB you just bring that into BudgetLink and go from there.

Imagine having the reports, acquittals etc at the push of a button!

Anything that reduces the amount of time spent producing reports is a good thing.

If you want to have a chat to see how it will work for your organisation, feel free to contact Kathryn Harrison B Com (Acct) Financial Consultant for the Community Sector on **0403 199 351** or send your questions to jeff@accountingaddons.com.au.

Jeff is keen to see BudgetLink be accessible to YANQ members and is appreciative of the smaller agencies financial constraints.



**Discount
for YANQ
Members!**

Regional Queensland

Bundaberg and District Youth Forum

Contact: Bundaberg Community Development Inc
PO Box 2252, Bundaberg Q 4670
Ph: 07 4153 3066 Fax 4151 1813
Email: info@bcd.org.au

Meets the second Tuesday bi-monthly (first meeting for the year is February) from 9.30-11.30am at Impact Make Your Mark, 106-108 Bargara Road Bundaberg.

Cairns Youth Service Network

Contact: Tanya Brooks-Cooper, Youth Development Officer
PO Box 359, Cairns Q 4870
Ph: 07 4044 3016 Fax: 07 4044 3830
Email: T.Brooks@cairns.qld.gov.au

Meets last Thursday of every 2nd month at Cairns City Library, Abbott Street, Cairns.

Contact Tanya for times for meetings as they alternate.

Cairns Drug & Alcohol Interagency Network

Convenor: Margaret Renfrey
Contact: Sue Feleleai, Addiction Help Agency Cairns Inc
211 Lyons Street, Westcourt Q 4870
Ph: 07 4051 6262 Fax: 07 4051 6890
Email: admin@addictionhelpagency.org.au

Contact Sue for meeting times and venue.

Central and North Burnett Community Services Network

Contact (1): Lauren Pattie, Community Development Officer,
Monto Neighbourhood Centre
Ph: 07 4166 1733 Fax: 07 4166 1061
Email: cdomonto@bigpond.com

Contact (2): John Sharp
Mundubera Community Development
Ph: 07 4165 4690 Fax: 07 4165 3143
Email: mcda@burnett.net.au

Meets first Wednesday of the month at different venues through the Central and North Burnett.

Central West Youth Network

Contact: Peter Clark
Anglicare Central Qld Barcaldine, PO Box 47, Barcaldine Q 4725
Ph: 07 4651 2161 Fax: 07 4651 2352 Mobile: 0409 053 304
Email: pclark@anglicarecq.org.au

Contact Peter for further details.

Charleville Youth Interagency

Contact: Sally Vetter, South West Healthy Communities Program
PO Box 689, Charleville Q 4470
Ph: 07 4654 3055 Fax: 07 4654 3022
Email: ahpo@swhcp.org

Meets 10.30am the third Thursday of each month at Charleville Neighbourhood Centre.

Emerald Shire Youth Rep

Contact: Pamela White, Youth Development Officer
Emerald Shire Council PO Box 21, Emerald Q 4720
Ph / Fax: 07 4982 8393 Mobile 0427 820 540
Email: youthofficer@emerald.qld.gov.au

Contact Pamela for details of local youth networks.

Gladstone Youth Interagency

Contact: Andrea Hughes, Gladstone Regional Council
PO Box 29, Gladstone Q 4680
Ph: 07 4976 6300 Fax: 07 4972 6557
Email: andrea.h@gcc.qld.gov.au

Meets first Wednesday of the month (excepting school holidays) 12 noon at the Community Advisory Service, 142 Goondoo Street, Gladstone.

Hervey Bay Youth Sector Workers Network

Contact: Sue Lawler, Fraser Coast Regional Council
PO Box 5045, Hervey Bay Q 4655
Ph: 07 4197 4330 Fax: 07 4197 4303
Email: sue.lawler@frasercoast.qld.gov.au

Meets last Tuesday of each month 10.30 am.
Contact Sue for venue.

Innisfail Community Sector Network

Contact: Kath Barnett, Community Development Officer
Ph: 07 4030 2255 Fax: 07 4061 6005
Email: cdo@ccrc.qld.gov.au

Meets fourth Thursday of every second month 1pm at Parish Centre, Rankin Street, Innisfail.

Mackay Youth Connections Network Inc

Contact: Nikki Hughes, Secretary
Ph: (07) 4961 9436 Mobile: 0437 031 879
Email: ydo@mackay.qld.gov.au

Meets third Tuesday of the month 10.30am Mackay PCYC.

Maryborough Interagency Network

Contact: Debra Moore
Fraser Coast Regional Council
Ph: 07 4190 5822
Email: debra.moore@frasercoast.qld.gov.au

Meets last Thursday of the month from 9am at the Maryborough Neighbourhood Centre.

MICAT (Mt Isa Combined Action Team)

Contact: Sheryle Burns, Secretary – MICAT
YSC isaSKILLS Youth Services
Ph: 07 4747 3100 Fax 07 4743 1756
Email: ysc@isaskills.org

Meets twice per school term. Contact Sheryle for meeting details.

Rockhampton Youth Interagency Network

Contact: Sara McCartney (Chairperson)
Mobile 0403 028 986
Email: tfdservices@gmail.com

Meets third Friday of the month 9.00-10.30 am at CQ Youth Justice Service Centre 155 Alma Street, Rockhampton.

Roma Community Services Interagency

Contact: Roma Neighbourhood Centre
PO Box 1028, Roma
Ph: 07 4620 1000 Fax: 07 4622 1448
Email: rmcReception@romaregionalcouncil.qld.gov.au

Meets every six weeks on a Monday from 11.30am. Contact the Neighbourhood Centre for details.

Sarina Interagency Meeting

Contact: Margie Ward, Sarina Youth Centre
PO Box 219, Sarina Q 4737
Ph: 07 4943 2962 Fax: 07 4956 1508
Email: youthcentre@mcs.net.au

Meets first Wednesday of every second month. For additional information, please contact Margie on the above details.

South Burnett Community Network

Contact: South Burnett Community Development Worker
PO Box 300, Kingaroy Q 4610
Ph: 07 4162 5711 Fax: 07 4162 5121
Email: sbcdp@bigpond.net.au

Meets first Tuesday of the month 10am-12 noon Wondai Council Supper Room.

South West Youth Network

Contact: Ingrid Reichelt, Community Capacity & Service Quality,
Department of Communities
PO Box 2427, Toowoomba Q 4350
Ph: 07 4699 4222
Email: ingrid.reichelt@communities.qld.gov.au

The group meets quarterly and covers the Darling Downs and South West Qld Region from Toowoomba south to the NSW border, west to the Northern Territory border and north to Taroom and Crow's Nest. It is made up of youth workers from non-governmental organisations, local councils and a small number of government departments. Meetings are held at a different location each time. Contact Ingrid for details.

The Youth Network NQ Inc

Contact: Clea Alcorn
Ph: 07 4728 1702
Email: clea.alcorn@thesmithfamily.com.au

Meets third Thursday of the month. There will be one last meeting before the end of the year. Contact Clea for details of time and venue.

Toowoomba Youth Organisations Network (TYON)

Contact: Ed Bradbury
Education Qld PO Box 38, Toowoomba Q 4350
Ph: 07 4616 9105 Fax: 07 4616 9100
Email: Edward.Bradbury@deta.qld.gov.au

Meets occasionally. Main activity through email discussion ro TYON@discussions.eq.edu.au.
Contact Ed Bradbury to join discussion list or for details.

Warwick Youth Network

Contact: Pam Burley, Community Youth Worker
PO Box 26, Warwick Q 4370
Ph / Fax: 07 4661 7166
Email: pburley@warwick.qld.gov.au

Meets quarterly. Contact Warwick Youth Service for meeting details as dates & venue vary.

Whitsunday Youth Focus Network

Contact: Wendy Olsen, Youth Services Officer
Whitsunday Regional Council
Ph: 07 4945 0216 Fax 07 4945 0222
Email: wendy.olsen@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au

Meets bi-monthly. Contact Wendy for Network details.

South-East Queensland

Beaudesert District Youth Network

Contact: Youth Support & Development Officer,
BeauCare, 44 Tina Street, Beaudesert
Ph: 07 5541 4391 Mobile 0439 787 723 Fax: 07 5541 3654
Email: youth@beaucare.org.au

Contact Youth Development Officer for meeting details as venue, days & times vary.

Brisbane Inner Urban Youth Interagency

Contact: Ryan Foster
Ph: 07 3403 0136
Email: ryan.foster@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Meets 10-12 noon first Wednesday of the month. Contact Ryan for details.

Brisbane South Youth Interagency

Contact: Suzanne Perry
Brisbane South Youth Justice Service, 306 Ipswich Road, Buranda
Ph: 07 3406 2801
Email: Suzanne.Perry@communities.qld.gov.au

Meets quarterly, contact Suzanne for details.

Brisbane Southside Indigenous Youth Interagency

Contact: Suzanne Perry or Robert Cooper
Brisbane South Youth Justice Service
Ph: 07 3406 2802
Email: Suzanne.Perry@communities.qld.gov.au or Robert.Cooper@communities.qld.gov.au

Contact Suzanne or Robert for meeting times and venue details.

Caloundra City Youth Services Network AND Sunshine Coast Youth Partnership

Contact: Jody Tunnicliffe
Sunshine Coast Youth Partnerships,
6/131 Sugar Road, Alexandra Headland
Ph: 07 5479 0070 Fax 07 5479 2575 Mobile 0435 101 687
Email: info@sunshinecoastyouth.com

Contact Jody for meeting times and venues.

Youth Caboolture Area Network (YCAN)

Contact: Francis Mills, Youth Planner
Moreton Bay Regional Council – Caboolture District
Ph: 07 5420 0225 Fax: 07 5420 0350
Email: Francis.Mills@moretonbay.qld.gov.au

Meets third Wednesday of every month 12.30-2.30pm at Level 3, 33 King Street, Caboolture.

Gold Coast Youth Network

Contact: Sylvia Roylance
Gold Coast Youth Services, PO Box 740, Burleigh Heads Q 4220
Ph: 07 5572 0400 Fax: 07 5575 2607
Email: gcyouth@bigpond.net.au

Meets last Wednesday of the month 10.30am-12.30pm at Dept. of Communities Youth Justice Service Centre at Mermaid Beach.

Goodna Youth Interagency

Contact: Byron Mulligan, Project Coordinator
Ipswich Community Youth Service, PO Box 1034, Ipswich Q 4305
Ph 07 3812 1050 Fax: 07 3812 2971 Mobile 0438 549 942
Email: projects@icys.net

Meets third Tuesday of the month from 1.30pm at the Goodna Neighbourhood House, 33 Queen Street Goodna. All youth & community service providers welcome.

Inala Youth Interagency (LARGEFLY)

Contact: John Rigsby-Jones
Inala Youth Service PO Box 141, Inala Q 4077
Ph: 07 3372 2655 Fax: 07 3372 2710
Email: largefly@iys.org.au or admin@iys.org.au

Meets 12 noon second Thursday of the month at Inala community House Hall, Sittella Street, Inala.

Ipswich Youth Interagency Group

Contact: Nicole Turner, Youth Community Development Officer
Ipswich City Council PO Box 191, Ipswich Q 4305
Ph: 07 3810 6658 Fax: 07 3810 6741
Email: NTurner@ipswich.qld.gov.au

Meets first Tuesday of the month 12.30pm at alternate venues throughout Ipswich region.

Lockyer Service Providers Interagency

Contact (1): Neil Williamson, Laidley Community / Youth Development Worker
Laidley Shire Community Care Assoc. Inc
Ph: 07 5465 1889
Email: neil@lscsa.org.au
Contact (2): Anne James, CDW/Coordinator
Lockyer Information & Neighbourhood Centre Inc (LINC)
Ph 07 5462 3355 Fax: 07 5462 4437
Email: lincgaton@bigpond.com

All meetings commence at 1.00pm.

Laidley meetings held 27 May, 19 August and 11 November at Laidley Community Centre, 13 Mary Street (opp The Bus Stop).
Gatton meetings held 8 July, 30 September at Gatton Baptist Church, 12 William Street (opp Police Station).

Logan Youth Networks

Contact: Courtney Gillot (Youth Planner)
Logan City Council PO Box 3226, Logan City DC 4114
Ph: 07 3412 5029 Fax: 07 3412 3444
Email: courtneygillot@logan.qld.gov.au

There are quarterly Youth Manager Meetings and quarterly Youth Info Exchange Meetings - Contact Courtney for details.

Maroochydore Youth Interagency Meeting

Contact: Jody Tunncliffe
Sunshine Coast Youth Partnerships, 6/131 Sugar Road, Alexandra Headland
Ph: 07 5479 0070 Fax 07 5479 2575 Mobile 0435 101 687
Email: info@sunshinecoastyouth.com

Contact Jody for meeting times and venues.

Nambour Youth Interagency

Contact: Lyn Harris, Youth Support Coordinator
United Synergies
Ph: 07 5442 4277
Email: nambouryouthinteragency@yahoo.com.au

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

Northern Sunshine Coast Interagency Network

Contact: Carol Gollschewsky
United Synergies
Ph: 07 5442 4277
Email: cgollschewsky@unitedsynergies.com.au

Meets once per term in Noosa Shire.

Northern Gold Coast Interagency

Contact: Veronica Cox (Studio Village)
Ph: 07 5529 8253
Email: svcc@cirruscomms.com.au

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

Pine Rivers Youth Service Providers Network

Contact: Jodie Hampson, Community Development Officer,
Moreton Bay Regional Council, Pine Rivers District
Ph: 07 3480 6469 Fax: 07 3480 6755
Email: jodie.hampson@moretonbay.qld.gov.au

Meets second Monday bi-monthly 1-4pm (lunch provided) at Unit 4A, 199 Gympie Road, Strathpine. (Moreton Bay Regional Council, Pine Rivers District, Community Development office)

Redcliffe Youth Service Providers Network

Contact: Jacqui Pedersen
Moreton Bay Regional Council - Redcliffe District
Ph: 07 3283 0285 Fax: 3883 1723
Email: jacqueline.pedersen@moretonbay.qld.gov.au

Meets second Wednesday of every second month 3pm at Redcliffe Area Youth Space.

Redlands Youth Network

Contact: Kara Mansley or Janet Camilleri
Redland City Council
Ph: 07 3829 8233 or 07 3829 8489 Fax: 07 3829 8891
Email: kara.mansley@redland.qld.gov.au or Janet.Camilleri@redland.qld.gov.au

Meets third Monday of the month 3-4.30pm at Redland Community Centre, Loraine Street, Capalaba. Venue to be advised for April, July and October meetings.
Contact Janet for meeting calendar.

Service Providers Action Group for Youth (SPAGY)

Contact: Jillian Warren, Youth Information and Referrals Officer
Picabeen Community Assn Inc, 22 Hoben Street, Mitchelton
Ph: 07 3354 2555 Fax: 07 3355 4222 Mobile 0408 001 299
Email: yiro@picabeen.org.au

Meet last Monday of each month from 2.00-4.00 pm at Picabeen but venue does rotate occasionally.
Contact Jillian for meeting details.

The Hinterland Youth Services Network

Contact: Anna Heriot, Community development Coordinator
Hinterland Community Development Assn of Caloundra
PO Box 1213, Maleny Mobile 0418 720 515
Email: hcdaworker.anna@gmail.com

Contact Anna for meeting times and venues.

Tweed Shire Youth Network

Contact: Margaret Strong
Ph: 02 6670 2262
Email: MStrong@tweed.nsw.gov.au

Meets bi-monthly on 2nd Wednesday of the month 10am-2pm. Venue rotated throughout shire. Contact Margaret for details.

North East Youth Organisations Network (NEYON)

Contact: Kelly Nelson, Acting Coordinator
Visible Ink Zillmere Youth Team Brisbane City Council
Ph: 07 3407 8102 Fax: 07 3407 8100
Email: Kelly.Nelson@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Contact Kelly for meeting details. Issue Based Networks.

Issue Based Networks

Youth Justice Coalition (YJC)

Contact: Siyavash Doostkhan, Director
Youth Affairs Network QLD
Ph: 07 3844 7713 Fax: 07 3844 7731
Email: director@yanq.org.au

The Youth Justice Coalition meets quarterly to discuss and take action on youth justice matters and in the hour prior to the State Government's Youth Justice Reference Group.
Contact Siyavash for details.

Multicultural Youth Network Queensland

Contact: Multicultural Development Officer
Youth Affairs Network QLD
Ph: 07 3844 7713 Fax: 07 3844 7731
Email: cald@yanq.org.au

MYNQ is a community driven state-wide network which identifies and develops actions on issues and policy affecting CALD young people.

The network is composed of organisations, services and service providers committed to multiculturalism and improving the opportunities and outcomes for CALD young people in Queensland.

Contact the MDO for meeting dates and sign up to the MYNQ mailing list at <http://lists.yanq.org.au/mailman/listinfo/mynq>.

WAYWARD – Women Alongside Young Women for Action Research and Development

Contact: Jill McKay
Othila's Young Women's Housing & Support Service
Ph: 07 3847 9633
Email: manager@othilas.org.au

The Purpose of WAYWARD is to: build greater relationships within the women's/youth sector; strengthen the sector's response to the needs of young women; create social action, influence policy and advocate on behalf of young women; and collectively organize and participate in professional development and training that will support our work with young women.

For meeting details contact Jill.

SAYF – Supporters and Advocates of Young Families

Contact: Kate Ellis
Young Mothers for Young Women, Micah Projects Inc
Ph: 07 3013 6000
Email: kate.ellis@merivale.org.au

SAYF has a strong focus on young parents and families – women, men and children. The network will allow for: sharing project information, resources and building collaborative relationships; and advocating for Young Parents and examining best practice.
For meeting details contact Kate.

Membership / Subscription Application Form



30 Thomas Street, West End QLD 4101 Ph **07 3844 7713** Regional **1800 177 899**
 Fax **07 3844 7731** Email **admin@yanq.org.au** Web: **www.yanq.org.au**

y o u t h a f f a i r s n e t w o r k q l d

TAX INVOICE (on payment)

ABN 28 205 281 339 All fees are 10% GST inclusive. No income or funding—contact YANQ for special consideration.

Title _____ First Name _____ Last Name _____

Organisation / Department _____ Position Title _____

Postal Address _____ Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Mobile/s _____

Email _____ Additional Email address/s for YANQ Email Bulletin _____

Additional Email address/s for Multicultural Youth Network of Qld (MYNQ) _____

Do you identify as being from / Does the organisation work with — ATSI, Anglo-Celtic or other Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background.

Please specify. _____

MEMBERSHIP	Individuals
	(Year of Birth _____)
	Receive Centrelink..... \$5.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Young Person (aged 12-25)..... \$10.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Income <\$25,000..... \$15.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Income \$26,000—\$50,000..... \$40.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Income >\$51,000..... \$50.00 <input type="checkbox"/>

MEMBERSHIP	Organisation
	Community Not-for-profit
	Funding <\$100,000..... \$55.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Funding \$101,000-\$250,000..... \$80.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Funding \$251,000-\$400,000... \$120.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Funding >\$401,000..... \$150.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Organisation For Profit..... \$165.00 <input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Individual (Year of Birth _____)..... \$ 60.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Not for Profit..... \$160.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Organisation For Profit..... \$200.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Government Department / Service (Federal State or Local)..... \$185.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Reciprocal (Peak Body)..... NIL <input type="checkbox"/>

I _____ have read and support the objectives and values summary of Youth Affairs Network Qld Inc and hereby request to become a member of the Network.

Signature _____ Date _____

If for some reason you are unable to sign the Values and Vision Statement of YANQ you are entitled to become a subscriber after submitting the relevant fee.

I enclose \$ _____ the prescribed Membership / Subscription fee (please delete whichever is not applicable).

Payment Methods

Cheque payable to Youth Affairs Network of Qld and mail to 30 Thomas Street, West End Qld 4101

Electronic funds transfer Deposit to **BSB 633-000 Account # 123043259 Youth Affairs Network of Qld** and email remittance advice to **finance@yanq.org.au** or fax to 07 3844 7731

Credit Card Master Card Visa (please indicate)
 Card No _____ Amount \$ _____ Expiry Date _____
 Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Do you require a receipt Yes / No

Do you attend / are you a member of a youth interagency? If yes, advise Interagency Name _____

OFFICE USE ONLY: MEMBERSHIP ID _____	RECEIPT NO _____	WEB USER ID _____	WEB PASSWORD _____
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Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

Who are we?

The Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ) Inc is the peak community youth affairs organisation in Queensland. Representing individuals and organisations from Queensland's youth sector, we promote the interests and well-being of young people across the state by:

- disseminating information to members, the youth sector, and the broader community
- undertaking campaigns and lobbying
- making representations to government and other influential bodies
- resourcing regional and issues-based networks
- consulting and liaising with members and the field
- linking with key state and national bodies
- initiating projects
- hosting forums and conferences.

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

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

Your membership and support is vital in providing a voice for young people's issues in Queensland.

Who can join?

Full Membership

Membership of the network may be granted to youth organisations, Youth Workers and young people in the non-government youth sector who have agreed to support the objects and values summary of the network and paid the prescribed fee and completed the relevant application form.

Subscriber

Any other individual or organisation interested in the work of the network is entitled to become a subscriber after submitting the relevant fee.

Become a member... and make a difference!

Keep up to date

- Free newsletter quarterly, Network Noise
- Free In fact sheets distributed regularly
- Discount on other YANQ publications, such as new Transitions
- Information on-line at our website
- Access to library resources
- Free-call 1-800 line for regional members.

Make valuable contacts

- Participate in youth policy development
- Join YANQ's working parties

- Receive support and information for your regional and issues-based networks
- Contribute to our newsletter.

Access professional development

- Discounts at YANQ forums and training events
- Discount at YANQ's Biennial State
- Youth Affairs Conference

YANQ Aims

Working together to improve the quality of life of young people in Queensland and thereby improve the quality of life of society.

YANQ Objectives

- To promote the interests of the youth sector particularly the interests of disadvantaged and marginalised young people, throughout Queensland.
- To enable the participation of young people, particularly disadvantaged and marginalised young people, in the Network and wider community.
- To advocate with and for young people, particularly disadvantaged and marginalised young people.
- To lobby to achieve long term social change in the interests of young people particularly disadvantaged and marginalised young people.
- To support and encourage the development of new means of meeting the rights and needs of young people, particularly disadvantaged and marginalised young people.
- To contribute to the development of the youth sector through networking, research and information provision.
- To develop policies on issues affecting the youth sector.
- To ensure that the Network has adequate resources to properly address issues affecting the youth sector.
- To function in a manner consistent with the Values and Vision of the Network.

Join today!

Simply fill out the application form, detach and return



y o u t h a f f a i r s n e t w o r k q l d

it to YANQ with your membership / subscription fee payment.

For more information please call us on:

(07) 3844 7713 or 1800 177 899

(available for regional Queensland)

or email admin@yanq.org.au

or check out our website at www.yanq.org.au

Summary of our Values

At YANQ, we believe that everyone is unique. At the same time, human beings share a lot in common, and are essentially social. We envisage a society where everyone lives in harmony. For this to happen, society must both value every individual and seek the best outcome for the community as a whole. There is the same diversity amongst young people as the rest of the community; like everyone else, young people need to feel respected and valued. When young women and young men are treated as important, the rest of society will gain from their insights and experiences.

We aim to contribute to developing a society that genuinely includes all its members. That's why we are committed to promoting multiculturalism (in its widest sense), and supporting and respecting the wide range of cultures that are part of Australian society. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people always have been, and always will be, the first people of this land. Because of their special relationship with the land, indigenous culture will always have a particular significance in Australian society. Focussing on reconciliation with indigenous people is an important starting point toward creating a more inclusive society. It also provides a model for other areas of action, including strategies toward improving the situation of young people.

We believe that the most effective way to achieve constructive social change is for people to work together. Economic, social and political change is happening all the time, and it is critical that we constantly assess and reassess our strategies if we are to influence change. Both the process and outcomes of change must be fair if sustained, constructive social change is to occur.

We believe that everybody is entitled to have their basic emotional and material rights met. The central role of governments is to ensure that this occurs. Unfortunately, at the moment, governments in Australia focus on supporting global economic interests. Whilst we believe that everyone is fundamentally equal, some sections of our society do not have access to their fair share of society's resources. This includes young people, whose basic human rights are currently not being met. YANQ is committed to encouraging positive discrimination on behalf of those groups which miss out in society so that this type of social injustice will be overcome. It is only when everyone's fundamental rights are fulfilled, and each has the means to fully participate, that it will become relevant to talk about "mutual obligation" between society and its members.

We believe that a range of strategies is required to achieve constructive social change. Governments in Australia appear committed to stopping the voice of those who challenge their misplaced priorities. YANQ is responsible for being a strong public voice which lobbies and advocates on behalf of those young people who particularly miss out in society and of young people as a whole. To undertake this role effectively, it is crucial that we draw on the expertise of those working most closely with issues affecting particular groups of young people—

young women and young men themselves, youth workers and youth organisations. That's why networking is another important social change strategy; it enables the youth sector to participate in collective action.

Ultimately, YANQ's credibility is maintained by practicing what we preach. Our whole structure is designed to ensure that our values and vision permeate the organisation.

We are committed to maintaining an open, flexible, accountable, consistent, inclusive, valuing approach in all our dealings— within YANQ, and in our relations with our members and the wider community. We are committed to applying our values in everything we say, and everything we do.