

NETWORK NOISE

Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc



Quarterly Newsletter
November 2010



After too long a break the youth sector can come together again at the... **Queensland Youth Affairs Conference 2011** **Brisbane 20th and 21st July 2011**



photo: YPanel discussion at the 2005 State Youth Affairs Conference(Left), One of the recommendations of the conference delegates at the 2005 State Youth Affairs Conference(Right)

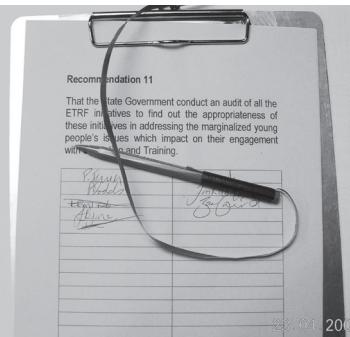


photo: Australian Human Rights
Commissioner at State Youth Affairs
Conference dinner

YANQ is delighted to announce the return of its biennial State Youth Affairs Conference to be held in Brisbane on Wednesday and Thursday 20th & 21st July 2011 in conjunction with YANQ's State Policy Forum.

Some youth sector members would remember YANQ Conferences, which were held across the state on a biennial basis since the early 1990's. These conferences provided the only state-wide opportunity for the youth sector as a whole to come together and delivered a number of functions including networking, professional

development, skills exchange and a platform for collective advocacy and lobbying.

YANQ last hosted a State Youth Affairs Conference in 2005 with the theme "What works & What could work" and here is what a few conference delegates said:

"The YANQ Conference in the past has been a place where as a youth worker I have been impressed by the challenges, I am pleased to see this has happened again. The keynote speakers evoke thought and detail on many levels."

"I found this conference very informative, stimulating, and challenging—even confronting. The conference looked beyond the 'control' agenda of reducing crime as a symptom, to some of the big picture human rights and citizenship issues underlying crime. Having worked in this field for five years—and achieved some good successes—have I even begun to understand the myriad of personal, community, and social factors which interplay in the lead-up to crime, never mind challenge nor change them?"

"I thoroughly enjoyed the conference, being from a remote area the information I received over the past three days has been mind boggling and of great value. Looking forward to the next one."

"Great conference - lots of fun and great discussion"

So make sure you book these dates in your diary early and keep checking YANQ's website for conference updates.

Contents

Queensland Youth Affairs Conference 2011	01
Indigenous Acknowledgment	02
Message to our Supporters.....	02
Mental Health of School Children	03
Notice of AGM	03
Mental Health of School Children	04
Student Placement – Suhee Kang	05
MYNQ Update	05
Volunteering: Opening up opportunities for	

migrants and refugees	06
Is 'ADHD' a Fraud?	07
Can Youth Work be Values-Free?	09
Youth Sector Development Plan	10
Time for a different approach to supporting same sex attracted young people.....	11
Interagency Meetings.....	13 - 14
Membership/Subscription Application Form	15
About YANQ.....	16

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.



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Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

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Message to Our Supporters

This edition of Network Noise will be the last edition for 2010 and takes the place of both the August and November editions. The next edition to be published / distributed will be February, 2011.

so.... staff and management take this opportunity to extend SEASON'S GREETINGS to all our supporters and look forward to catching up with you in 2011. Have an enjoyable time and stay safe.

Thanks!

Staff and management of YANQ thank everybody for their patience and understanding during September when

the office was closed for very much needed refurbishment. We are still unpacking and will be back in shape before the end of the year.

We, at YANQ, sincerely thank all the

contacts for the Interagency Networks for promptly responding to our email updates for meeting information of the networks. This helps us to provide current details both on YANQ's website and in this newsletter.

Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc (YANQ), newsletter published every 3 months.

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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

Copy Deadline February copy deadline is
Mid January



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.

Feelgood Factor Overkill

by Dr Jon Jureidini

There is increasing interest in the mental health of school children.

We are told that more than 20 per cent of school-aged children suffer mental disorders.

This estimate can be confusing, because these survey figures refer to anybody who is experiencing significant symptoms of distress or unhappiness. Many of these young people would not think of themselves, or be thought of by those around them, as having a mental disorder.

Only a fraction of 20 per cent of young people receive help from mental health services for emotional problems. Many health professionals think the discrepancy between those who are identified in surveys, and those who seek specific help, is a major health problem, arguing that we should do a better job of recognising these mental disorders. My view is different.

Our culture builds expectations in young people that they should feel good all or most of the time. But it is more important for our mental health and resilience to be good at feelings.

Young people can be very distressed without that being a mental problem.

Bereavement, disappointment in achievements or relationships, family problems or worries about the state of the world can all cause severe and disruptive emotional pain.

There is no evidence that conceptualising such distress as a medical problem improves its outcome.

But, increasingly, schools are being expected to alert young people and their families to the possibility of mental disorder. Programs aim to increase mental health literacy in schools and the broader community.

I argue that enthusiasm for this approach is misplaced. We lack tools that reliably identify those young people in need of mental health intervention. And we have little evidence that referral to specialist services offers significantly better outcomes for any but those with very severe impairment.

We should not be asking schools to help identify mental disorder; this is not part of their role.

However, schools can have a major role in enhancing the mental health and wellbeing of our community; the kind of curriculum that is good for children's cognitive development will also enhance their emotional development.

For example, the same basic skills in comprehending, creating and telling stories will enhance children's capacity to make sense of and deal with the frustrations and disappointments of ordinary life.

Hearing, reading and writing fictional and non-fictional accounts of people's emotional experiences enriches children's own emotional experience and their capacity to make sense of, deal with and tolerate strong feelings.

The cut-and-thrust of peer relationships, if appropriately scaffolded by competent adults, is preparation for the intimate relationships that provide the basis for our

young people to be the kind of parents that we want them, in their turn, to be.

The same basic skills that are required to make sense of algebra, help children make sense of the complexities of our emotional and interpersonal environment.

Children do not need to develop mental health literacy. The language that they do need to learn is that of relationships and emotions - the capacity to comprehend, tolerate and deal with ordinary, strong, scary feelings of sorrow, anger and fear.

And outside the family, the best place to learn that language is school. It is sad that society does not appreciate the importance of teachers, as evidenced by the relative lack of competition to enter the profession, and the low status that teachers are often accorded.

If we wish to enhance the mental and emotional well-being of our community, our best investment will be in strengthening and supporting teachers and schools.

Dr Jon Jureidini is a child psychiatrist and Head of the Department of Psychological Medicine at the Women's and Children's Hospital.

This article, first published in The Advertiser, South Australia on 14/09/2010 is reproduced with permission of the author.

NOTICE OF AGM

YANQ's 2009/2010 Annual General Meeting will be held at our newly refurbished premises at 30 Thomas

Street, West End on Thursday 2 December at 10.00 am and you are all invited. If you'd like to come along, for catering

purposes, please rsvp admin@yanq.org.au or telephone us on 07 3844 7713 (rural/regional Qld 1800 177 899).

Student Placement – Suhee Kang

by Daniel Walker, Policy and Communications Coordinator

YANQ has been pleased to have Suhee Kang with us for the last few months. Suhee is a student in the Master of Social Work program at Queensland University of Technology (QUT). During her three month placement here, Suhee has been doing extensive research of existing literature, and speaking with service

providers throughout the greater Brisbane area, to put together a position paper on refugee young people in Queensland. The paper will highlight a number of issues, including racism and discrimination, health, and education, and propose related recommendations. It will be available on the website as a pdf download for

everyone to access and use as a reference and advocacy tool.

Suhee finishes up at YANQ at the end of October, and we wish her all the best. We're sure we'll be seeing her working in the sector very soon.

MYNQ Update – Some changes to our Network

The second half of 2010 has been a period of planning and redevelopment for the Multicultural Youth Network Qld (MYNQ). After consultative forums with workers and managers in May and June, a need was identified for a flexible structure with capacity to support different projects. Workers appreciated having the network as an information-sharing forum, but were concerned about what happens with the issues after each meeting. Managers were concerned that multicultural youth issues are not prioritised in Queensland, and stressed that MYNQ should have the infrastructure to support advocacy and community development on various issues.

As a result, two things have happened. Firstly, MYNQ will be strengthening its connection with a national network, the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (Australia), or MYAN. The MYAN (formerly the National Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network or NMYAN) is auspiced by the Centre for Multicultural Youth in Melbourne, and has a representative from each State. YANQ represents Queensland on this network. The MYAN holds monthly teleconferences, and meets face to face once or twice a year, to work on State and Federal policy platforms for multicultural young people. Keeping an eye on what is happening in different States is a great tool for developing an agenda in Queensland. Some of the other State representatives have decided to brand their own networks with the MYAN, and we have decided to

do the same. For that reason, MYNQ will now be known as MYAN Qld. This is not a big difference, but will give us much more support at a Federal level, and open doors to connections throughout the country.

Secondly, MYAN Qld has adapted its format to take a more flexible approach. As YANQ no longer has committed funding for a Multicultural Development Officer who would normally convene the network, we have had to scale back our role. YANQ will still perform secretariat duties, but will work with others (currently Multicultural Development Association (MDA) and Access Services Inc) as part of a Reference Group who will act as convenors and co-chairs. Without wanting to turn into an issue-specific network, MYAN Qld will now act as an "umbrella" network for a number of sub-groups and committees. The Reference Group will host three or four meetings/forums a year for members of MYAN Qld, from which partnerships and projects can emerge. These may include projects already being covered by small organisations that need broader support, or they may be new projects driven by the passion of individual members of the network. These sub-groups can then rely on the infrastructure of MYAN Qld to promote and support the smaller projects. An example might be a PI youth housing advocacy project, or an indigenous youth justice committee. YANQ will be leading the way with a sub-group that will work in line with our Workforce Development

project, and will focus on youth workers who work with refugee and immigrant young people.

MYAN Qld will still perform the role of an information-sharing network, and this will happen in two ways. Firstly, there will still be general news updates at each meeting/forum, although this is not their primary purpose. Secondly, the secretariat (YANQ) will ask for regular updates from members which will then be placed into a newsletter and distributed fortnightly or monthly (in the same way that YANQ's email bulletin is done). This would reduce emails and cross-postings and streamline the information sharing process. Alternately, there are free online systems in place that could be utilised, if preferred by the network members.

Ultimately, MYAN Qld will continue to be an avenue for youth workers, refugee settlement officers, advocacy workers and individuals and organisations with an interest in protecting and promoting the rights of young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. We will operate under a new name, and with a new structure, but our passions and goals remain the same.

If you have a particular sub-group you would like to get started, or have an interest in being involved as a chair or Reference Group member, please contact Daniel by email policy@yanq.org.au.

Volunteering: Opening Up Opportunities for Migrants and Refugees



photo: *Community Services Minister, Karen Struthers, presents framed poster to ACCES Executive Director, Daniel Zingifuboro*

The Minister for Community Services and Housing, Karen Struthers MP, has launched a new campaign encouraging migrants and refugees to consider volunteering to help learn about their community and make connections as they settle into their new homes.

Minister Struthers said volunteering could open up a range of opportunities for those who have recently arrived in Australia.

"Volunteering can be a great way for migrants and refugees to make new friends share their skills and help people in need," Ms Struthers said.

"It can also help recent settlers develop knowledge of their new communities, gain work experience and meet local referees.

Volunteering opportunities are available for everyone whatever their situation whether they possess limited English

skills or are working full-time, seeking employment or studying.

Whether it is volunteering at your local sports club, doing bushcare activities, helping elderly people or volunteering online, the opportunities are endless," she said.

Ms Struthers said organisations could also benefit significantly by involving migrants and refugees as volunteers.

"Migrants and refugees can contribute greatly to organisations by bringing knowledge of specific cultures, connecting organisations with cultural groups in the community, bringing new perspectives and increasing the cultural sensitivity of services," she said.

Ms Struthers said the Queensland Government was committed to increasing volunteering.

"As part of the Toward Q2 targets, the Queensland Government is aiming to increase the proportion of Queenslanders involved in their communities as volunteers by 50 per cent by the year 2020," she said.

"This includes increasing volunteering across all sections of the community."

The Department of Communities has produced a brochure and poster for migrants and refugees outlining the benefits of volunteering.

Fact sheets have also been produced for organisations that work with migrants and refugees, and for volunteer involving organisations.

To view the volunteering materials or for more information visit
<http://www.volunteering.qld.gov.au>

New book

Speed Up and Sit Still

exposes the truth about ADHD child drugging

Member of the Western Australian State Parliament Martin Whitely MLA, a former teacher, outlines the controversies surrounding ADHD diagnosis and treatment in Australia, in his book Speed Up and Sit Still published by University of Western Australia Publishing.

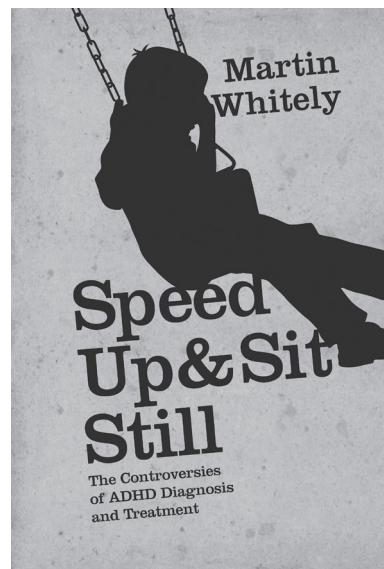
Mr Whitely became concerned about ADHD in the 1990's when he was alarmed at the number of boys in his class who were medicated with amphetamines and were unnaturally quiet and compliant.

While other books have been written about ADHD this is the first to outline the science, marketing and politics of ADHD, written by a politician. Speed Up and Sit Still follows the money trail and outlines the influence of the American Psychiatric Association and the pharmaceutical companies on Australian psychiatric practice.

Speed Up and Sit Still examines the reasons for the massive increase in Australian ADHD drug use. "Prescribing rates have exploded because it is in the interests of many stakeholders to accept, without proof, the hypothesis that ADHD is caused by a biochemical imbalance. Drug companies profit, busy clinicians get a quick, easy, lucrative diagnosis and treatment, struggling teachers get a compliant child, governments get a cheap way of appearing to meet child mental health demands and parents are fooled into an illusory belief that they have helped their child with a quick and apparently effective intervention. The real losers in the ADHD debate are children who are completely powerless to prevent themselves being 'medicated'."

Mr Whitely is scathing in his assessment of his fellow politicians claiming most leave the controversial issue in the "too hard basket" or do as the Rudd and Howard Governments did, "delegate the solution to the problem of reckless prescribing to those who had created it in the first place."

Speed Up and Sit Still, covers complex material in a easy-to-read format aimed at parents, teachers, medical professionals, policy setters and the community at large.



Speed Up and Sit Still is available for \$24.95 plus \$7.00 postage and handling from <http://speedupsitstill.com/shop>

Excerpts of the book can be viewed at <http://speedupsitstill.com/>

All authors payments from Speed Up and Sit Still are donated to Drug Free Attention Difficulties Support inc.

<http://www.dfas.org.au/home/index.php>

TELSTRA \$5 PHONE CARDS

YANQ has remaining approx 1400 five dollar (\$5.00) Telstra Phonecards (for use in public payphones) to give to services that are financial members/subscribers of YANQ to distribute to young people on low income and who rely on public pay phones for their communication.

Details on eligibility criteria and how to order the phonecards to distribute to young people are set out in the (inserted) Telstra \$5 Phone Cards order form.

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

Distribution will be based on a first-come-first-served basis.



Invitation

The Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc invite you to a Forum:

Is 'ADHD' a Fraud?

Concerns are often raised about the misdiagnosis and over-prescription of amphetamines and other powerful psychotropic drugs for 'Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder' (ADHD).

The Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ) invites you to consider a more fundamental question: Is 'ADHD' a legitimate medical condition or a fraud?

YANQ is inviting professionals and stakeholders who have expressed concern about the explosion in 'ADHD' diagnosing and prescribing to address this fundamental question in:

Brisbane (Mon + Tues) 7-8 February 2011.

Whether you share YANQ's view that 'ADHD' is a fraud; or are concerned about misdiagnosis and over-prescription, this is an opportunity to share information, network and develop nationwide strategies to reduce the use of 'ADHD' drugs by children.

YANQ and the other organisers contend:

- The diagnosis of 'ADHD' is devoid of legitimate science. The diagnostic criteria, losing toys, forgetting, fidgeting, butting in, disliking homework, and playing loudly etc are part of the range of normal childhood behaviours.
- There is nothing 'ADHD' specific about the effects of drugs. Although responses vary, most people become temporarily more narrowly focussed and compliant on low dose amphetamines.
- 'ADHD' drugs do nothing to address the many and varied causes of behavioural problems and on occasions mask the symptoms of serious conditions (such as abuse or trauma).
- 'ADHD' drugs have well established significant short term risks including severe cardiovascular and psychiatric problems and are frequently diverted for illicit use..
- The limited data that exists indicates the long term use of 'ADHD' drugs provide no long term benefits but pose significant risks of amphetamine addiction, growth retardation, educational failure and permanent cardiovascular damage.
- 'ADHD' is an economic, social and political construct with no validity as a medical condition.

In summary YANQ and the organisers contend unnecessarily administering powerful psychotropic drugs to children is a violation of their rights and often results in serious short and long term harm.

To find out more or to register your interest in participating in this event please email one of the organising committee members listed below.

1. Martin Whately MLA Member of the Legislative Assembly of WA
email: martin.whately@mp.wa.gov.au | web: www.adhspeedupsitstill.com
2. Dr Jon Jureidini University of Adelaide
email: Jon.Jureidini@health.sa.gov.au
3. Siyavash Doostkhah Youth Affairs Network of Queensland
email: director@yanq.org.au | web: <http://www.yanq.org.au/celebrate>

Can Youth Work be Values-Free?

An Opinion Piece by Suzi Quixley

This is the first of a series of articles in *Network Noise* designed to stimulate thinking and discussion about values in youth work. These are part of a wider focus on values, arising from the Youth Sector Development Project (YSDP). During the next stage of the YSDP (amongst other things) YANQ will:

1. Engage the sector across Queensland to define youth work, including distinguishing youth work from other work with young people.
2. Enable values training throughout the state, beginning with developing a pool of regional trainers who can deliver this training at a local level.

What motivates you to work with young people?

Simply saying that you want to *help* young people is not enough. Why do you want to help young people? How will you help young people? Why have you chosen this approach?

Every youth worker I've ever met has different answers to these questions. We are each driven to do youth work by our personal motivations, values and beliefs. There's no such thing as *altruism* ... we all work, to some extent, out of self interest.

Most of us are paid for our work. We live off the needs of young people. In my view, this means we have a particular moral responsibility, beyond that of other citizens, to be clear about what we're doing, and why.

You might have had a difficult time as a young person yourself. You see your role as resourcing young people to become more competent; enabling them to achieve independence; *empowering* them to make good life decisions. You might want to protect young people from the problems you experienced or enable them to have a happier life than yours.

Maybe you see a problem with the way society treats young people. You believe that communities should change to accommodate the interests of all their

members. You see young people as one of many social groups which miss out socially, economically and culturally. Advocacy with or for young people is central to your practice. You are committed to developing young people's values, knowledge and skills. You hope they will become active citizens who continue to advocate for the rights of marginalised community members.

Or, perhaps you believe that fitting in with community norms is the measure of *adulthood*. You see young people as less capable than older people. You may see youth workers as responsible for *setting a good example* to young people. Your practice is driven by strong beliefs about individual moral and economic responsibility. You see your primary role as assisting individual young people to learn how to meet social expectations; teaching them to distinguish *right* from *wrong*.

Many youth workers claim to take a *values-free* approach to practice. However, I believe that so-called *non-judgmental* or *non-directive* service provision reflects values, both directly and by default. Like all of us, young people have knowledge and skills, based in their life experiences. Most have absorbed dominant social values and beliefs – in particular, ideas about the social worth of young people and other marginalised groups. When we decide to be *non-judgmental* we are

choosing not to challenge these ideas. Under the guise of *empowerment*, *non-judgmental* practice limits young people's options to their existing frame of reference.

I challenge the idea that it's even possible to be *non-judgmental*. The majority of our communication is non-verbal – body language, tone of voice, context. Using non-judgmental words will never truly disguise our beliefs and values. Young people will pick up on incongruence between our words and actions. *Non-judgmental* practice is more likely to generate mistrust amongst young people, than to enable them to make considered decisions, based on all the available evidence.

Similarly, it is impossible to be *objective*. So-called *objectivity* is often presented as taking a *commonsense* approach – that is, the most widely-held (common) views on what is *normal*. *Commonsense* is driven by dominant social values and beliefs. Working within these parameters is, by definition, working in a conservative manner. This legitimises and reinforces these views about the social role of young people. It is as much about taking a particular values stance as, for example, political activism to try to achieve social change.

... Continued to page 9

Can Youth Work be Values-Free? Cont.

An Opinion Piece by Suzi Qvixley

So, if you can't be *non-judgmental* or *objective* which values should drive your practice?

It is impossible to force youth workers to hold particular values:

Before I can live with others, I've got to be able to live with myself. There is one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule and that's a person's conscience.

(Harper Lee, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist)

You might appear to be following prescribed values such as your organisational framework or funding requirements. But, in practice, we each make split-second decisions many times each day. These immediate reactions are inevitably driven by our personal beliefs or values.

Our actions are driven by these motivators, whether we are conscious of these or not. If you haven't thought about values much at all, your responses to young people probably reflect different personal values or assumptions at different times. They may reflect your preferences – what you find easiest or most convenient – which are indicators of your values. This is why it is so important that youth workers are clear about their personal values.

In reality, it is very difficult to achieve congruent practice ... to achieve absolute consistency within and between our personal values and behaviour. Every decision made when interacting with, or for, young people is affected by different personal, interpersonal, organisational, social, political and environmental factors. The attempt to achieve consistency in our individual youth work practice is an ongoing process of exploration, challenge and change.

And ... there's a multiplier effect on this complexity, as soon as any group of people try to agree on shared youth work values. Most individual workers are also group members – members of teams,

organisations, networks, committees or working groups. These groups commonly seek to identify or develop a meeting point - some shared values, principles or approach. Each group will find different common ground. Congruence is even more difficult to achieve across a group of people – a team, a whole organisation, or the youth sector more widely.

We all must balance competing values interests every day in our work – our personal values; the values of our co-workers; the values of our organisation; the values of funding bodies; the values of influential community members; the values of other youth workers; the values of the young people with whom we work.

Youth work practice cannot be *apolitical*. Youth work can never be a neutral activity. Most agree that young people are vulnerable, and that youth workers have power over young people. This level of influence means that we have the potential to do both good and harm to young people.

Have you thought about why most of the available funding, is to work with those young people who are seen as a *problem* by the wider community? Funding bodies are not *values free*. The really big money is in social control.

Funding prescriptions (as distinct from *guidelines*!) increasingly require youth work practices which strip away the autonomy of young people. Services are increasingly conditional on young people's willingness to conform to authority. Every youth worker, and service, must decide whether they are willing to participate in programs which require them to report non-conforming young people to government income support or child protection authorities.

Into the future - Will we participate in emerging Australian Government plans to preclude young people from sporting activities if they fail to attend school? Will we contribute to the roll-out of income management with young people? Are we willing to effectively provide sub-contracted services driven by government priorities and values?

We cannot answer these questions, unless we are clear about our individual and shared values. It is time for us to identify and reclaim the central place of values in youth work practice.

My personal bias? This is best encapsulated in another couple of quotes:

I hold it that a little rebellion, now and then, is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical.

(Thomas Jefferson, Letter to James Madison, 30 January 1787)

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

(Margaret Mead, Anthropologist)

Will you be one of these *thoughtful citizens*?

Suzi is a freelance writer and consultant whose practice is driven by social justice values. She has a long standing interest in the ethics, values and politics of community services work, and has written widely on the subject. Further articles and practical handouts are available at: http://www.suziqconsulting.com.au/free_articles.htm

Youth Sector Development Plan

Background

In early 2009, Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ) received funding support from the Office for Youth, Department of Communities and the Department of Education and Training (DET) to undertake a Youth Services Workforce Skills and Training Project.

YANQ has been advocating for a systematic approach to the development and maintenance of the youth sector workforce to ensure quality services for young people for some time. The project has paved the way towards this goal through the development of a Youth Sector Development Plan, creating a platform to support a vibrant and sustainable youth sector workforce that protects and promotes young people's rights.

The *Youth Sector in Queensland* report provides a summary of the data gathered during the project, key themes that emerged and recommendations that can be used to inform skilling and workforce development initiatives. (http://www.yanq.org.au/images/stories/Documents/youth_sector_report_2010.pdf)

To assist in the considerations and prioritisation of workforce development projects and activities YANQ established two groups:

1. Industry Reference Group

- The Industry Reference Group (IRG) is made up of key stakeholders who inform and influence the direction of the project and the future of the youth services workforce in Queensland.

- The IRG brings together key stakeholders such as employers, industry associations, government agencies, training and education providers, businesses and youth workers to develop a deeper understanding of workforce development through strategic alliances that will assist in identifying the real causes of skills shortages and barriers to workforce development, and contribute to the development of solutions.
- Further, the IRG provides YANQ and the Youth Sector Leadership Group (YSLG) with strategic advice about leveraging from other projects underway, key policy and program information relevant to the implementation of this project and to explore opportunities for collaboration where possible. The advice received from the IRG was tabled to form part of the deliberations at the YSLG meetings before finalisation and implementation of the project plan.

2. Youth Sector Leadership Group

- The Youth Sector Leadership Group (YSLG) is made up of youth sector managers who have previously worked with YANQ on youth sector issues.
- The YSLG prioritised the work of the Youth Sector Development Project with input and advice from the IRG through critical and strategic conversations.

With advice and guidance from the IRG and the YSLG, YANQ has developed a detailed action plan and implementation has already commenced.

This is a very exciting development for YANQ and the youth sector and would not have been possible without the excellent work of the youth sector members, IRG and the YSLG.

The following three priorities broadly describe the implementation stage over the next 12 months. In recent times YANQ has gone through an organisational restructure in order to align its ongoing activities with the development of the youth sector as described below.

Priority Area 1: Communities of Practice Leaders Group

This project aims to create an ongoing and sustainable structure across the seven DET regions in Queensland to support a consistent focus on the workforce development needs of the youth sector from a local, regional and state perspective. The establishment of seven Communities of Practice Leadership Groups falls under the existing structure of the IRG and the YSLG and will utilise and lever off the comprehensive network of youth inter-agencies and networks across the state.

Priority Area 2: Youth Work Partnership Project

This project aims to engage a broad spectrum of stakeholders in a dialogue on creating a working definition of what youth work is and who the youth sector represents. Universities, TAFE's and the youth sector will be engaged to clearly articulate what the youth sector is, how it is defined and identify core and unique characteristics aimed to generate discussion papers and journal articles to promote the sector. As discussed in the *Youth Sector in Queensland* report, youth work is being diluted and merging into other professions, lacking clear articulation and professional boundaries. The discussion paper is the first step in addressing this finding.

... Continued to page 11

Cont.

Priority Area 3: Sector Support Strategies

Throughout discussions with both the IRG and the YSLG, specific sector support strategies were discussed and priorities identified for the next 12 months. These areas were highlighted in the *Youth Sector*

in Queensland report and viewed as fundamental in supporting youth service organisations in successfully addressing workforce development issues. Further, these activities are able to be implemented in a relatively short time-frames providing valuable momentum to the Youth Sector Development Project.

If you want further information about Youth Sector Development project please contact YANQ Director Siyavash Doostkhan director@yanq.org.au or project Consultant John Flanagan how_now@iprimus.com.au

Time for A Different Approach to Supporting Same Sex Attracted Young People

Barbara Lemon, Jen Sainsbury & Lucas Walsh
The Foundation for Young Australians

In May of this year, the State Government of Victoria announced a \$3.6 million initiative to assist in the prevention of youth suicide among at-risk groups including same sex attracted young people. Several weeks later the same government pledged \$80,000 to develop a program tackling homophobia in schools under the auspices of Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria (GLHV). While the suicide prevention initiative received wide media coverage, the second piece of funding was announced on the gay and lesbian community radio station Joy FM but was not reported upon by mainstream media.

The difference in coverage may reflect a deeper reticence around the subject of same sex attraction in schools. Funding to assist young people at risk of suicide – those already dealing with psychological trauma – may be deemed less controversial than an in-classroom program designed to prevent this tragic outcome by educating students about sexual diversity. Two years ago, the Victorian Government released an information package for teachers around sexual diversity in schools, but support

structures remain woefully inadequate given that an estimated 10% of school students experience same sex attraction (DEECD, 2008), and tens of thousands more have lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) family or friends. Our particular cultural climate, it seems, is inhibiting the efficacy and stifling the publicity of much-needed government policy.

Recent research into strategies to improve the wellbeing and educational success of same sex attracted young Australians has been undertaken in the United Kingdom, United States and the Netherlands by Jen Sainsbury from The Foundation for Young Australians (FYA), with the support of a Churchill Fellowship (Sainsbury, 2010). Sainsbury's report highlights four points of connection between international best practice and the challenges currently faced in Australia around homophobia. Its central finding is the efficacy of school programs as a vehicle for challenging homophobia. Change must be driven by the education sector to both complement and alleviate the currently disproportionate reliance on the health sector and local government in funding initiatives for the health and wellbeing of young LGBT people. The importance of involving young people in generating social change is

paramount. In addition, the report finds that leadership from mainstream not-for-profit organisations is essential to shift the conceptualisation of homophobia in Australian schools as a minority issue. Funding for the support of same sex attracted young people must be secure and ongoing, and advocacy work is needed to lift the proportion of support coming to this area from the third sector. Funding from philanthropic organisations, for example, currently sits at less than 1%.

To date, some of the most effective support programs for same sex attracted young people have been set up by young people themselves. Several examples are profiled in a series of reports into youth-led organisations released by FYA entitled *What Works: Stories from around Australia*. In the Moreland district of Melbourne, the Y-GLAM Performing Arts Project provides a hub for same sex attracted young people aged between 14 and 25 years to socialise, network and explore creative ideas, staging annual theatre productions and lobbying campaigns.

The group evolved from a support group operating at the Moreland Community Health Service. Joy FM, also based in Melbourne, provides an avenue for

... Continued to page 12

Time for A Different Approach to Supporting Same Sex Attracted Young People

Cont.

expression with its Generation Next program specifically for same sex attracted young people. Each year the program trains young people between the ages of 16 and 25, equipping them with practical broadcasting skills as well as an opportunity to engage with a range of issues relating to sexuality and youth health. It aims to redress the under-representation and misrepresentation of same sex attracted young people in the media (Kimberley, 2010; Taylor, 2010).

While local groups like these can have a positive impact at the grass-roots level, a more significant cultural shift is required to maximise the impact of policy initiatives in this area. In over a decade of operation, Y-GLAM has had to stretch a modest budget to stage a dozen theatre performances, design an anti-homophobia postcard campaign and produce audio-visual educational materials. Demand for the Generation Next training course far exceeds supply with just 12 applicants chosen out of 60 or more each year.

More funding and support could boost the capacity and leverage the impact of existing initiatives with a broad reach such as the OUTthere Rural Victorian Youth Council for Sexual Diversity. The Council began as a sub-project of WayOut, a partnership between Cobaw Community Health Service and Gay & Lesbian Health Victoria (GLHV). Though WayOut received a one-off payment of \$100,000 as part of this year's suicide prevention initiative, the OUTthere Council requires secure, ongoing funding. Its member groups are uniquely placed to voice the concerns of young people in their local communities, and the Council is the only LGBT advocacy group to attempt a major survey of school teachers on issues facing same sex attracted young people (Sainsbury, 2010).

Some of the six OUTthere groups across Victoria have attempted to engage with political change through channels such

as submissions to government inquiries into violence, youth suicide and human rights, but others have experienced alienation from the political process. Each of the groups have been engaged in lobbying FReeZA – a Victorian government sponsored program that hosts drug-free and alcohol-free events in regional communities – to promote its recreational events as discrimination-free, with varied degrees of success. All advocate for the extension of safe sex education programs in schools to cover same sex attracted young people. Some offer their time to talk to school students about sexual diversity, but the receptivity of local schools is very much dependent upon the attitude of the presiding principal. Speaking earlier this year, a participant from the Macedon area noted that her group had seen "mixed responses... the first thing that comes to mind is 'oh, it would be a bit funny having gay people come to speak at our school, what will the parents think?'. It always just goes back to the issue of 'why do you want to come and talk about sexuality?'" (cited in Walsh & Black, in press).

Any improvement in school retention rates or reduction in suicide risk for same sex attracted young people requires an enabling environment that allows government and non-profit organisations to work effectively in partnership at the local level. An important step has been the creation of a Safe Schools Coalition under the leadership of the Rainbow Network, which has seen supporting organisations in Victoria collaborate in the mode of the successful Safe Schools Alliance in the United States. The Coalition will generate constructive, professional dialogue around same sex attracted young people, engaging community partners from a range of sectors to help challenge homophobia in schools. This has the potential to evolve into the kind of tailored model seen in the Netherlands, where consultancy group Empowerment Lifestyle

Services advises schools around the teaching of social safety and citizenship in their particular communities, including an explicit focus on the prevention of negative approaches to sexual diversity. It is through the energy, cooperation and goodwill of existing organisations and policy initiatives, and through engagement with mainstream audiences in debate and dialogue, that the health, wellbeing and educational success of same sex attracted young Australians can be improved in a significant way.

Sources:

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (2008). *Supporting Sexual Diversity in Schools*. Information booklet developed in consultation with the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Gay and Lesbian Health, Department of Human Services; the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University; and the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission.

Kimberley, M. (2010). *What Works Australia: Inclusive Approaches with Young People*. Melbourne: The Foundation for Young Australians and the Australian Youth Research Centre

Sainsbury, J. (2010). *Talking Straight: Finding new ways to challenge homophobia in Australian schools*. Report to the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust of Australia Melbourne: The Foundation for Young Australians

Taylor, F. (ed.) (2010). *What Works Australia: Young People Active in Communities*. Melbourne: The Foundation for Young Australians and the Australian Youth Research Centre

Walsh, L. & Black, R. (in press). *In Their Own Hands: How young people can change Australia*. Melbourne: ACER Press

Regional Queensland**Bundaberg and District Youth Forum**

Contact: Andrea Bax, Youth Development Officer
Bundaberg Regional Council, PO Box 2252, Bundaberg Q 4670
Ph: 07 4153 3066 | Fax: 4151 1813
Email: andrea.bax@bundaberg.qld.gov.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 and Far Northern Youth Service Network (YSN)

Contact: Glen Martin, Youth Development Officer
PO Box 359, Cairns Q 4870
Ph: 07 4044 3016 | Fax: 07 4044 3022
Email: G.Martin@cairns.qld.gov.au

Meets last Thursday of every 2nd month at Cairns City Library, Abbott Street, Cairns. Contact Glen for times of meetings for Cairns YSN, as they alternate. Contact Glen for meeting details for Far Northern YSN.

Cairns Drug & Alcohol Interagency Network

Convenor: Margaret Renfrey
Contact: Judyann Dorante, Lyons House Inc
211 Lyons Street, Westcourt Q 4870
Ph: 07 4051 6262 | Fax: 07 4051 6890
Email: admin@lyonshouse.org
Contact Judyann.

North Burnett Community Services Network

Contact: Hana Penney, Community Development Officer, Monto Community Development Centre
Ph: 07 4166 1733 | Fax: 07 4166 1061
Email: cdomonto@bigpond.com

Meets second Wednesday of every month at different venues around the 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.

Central Highlands Regional Council Areas**Emerald, Gemfields & Capella Area Youth Rep**

Contact: Sherie McDonald, Youth Development Officer
Central Highlands Regional Council PO Box 21, Emerald Q 4720
Ph/Fax: 07 4982 8393 | Mobile: 0427 820 540
Email: smcdonald@chrc.qld.gov.au
Contact Sherie for details of local youth and community service networks.

Blackwater, Bluff, Springsure, Dingo, Bauhinia, Rolleston & Comet Area Youth Rep

Contact: Joshua Clutterbuck, Youth Development Officer
Central Highlands Regional Council, Blackwater
Ph: 07 4980 5506 | Mobile: 0428 987 511
Email: jclutterbuck@chrc.qld.gov.au
Contact Joshua for details of local youth and community service networks.

Gladstone Youth Interagency

Contact: Andrea Hughes
Gladstone Regional Council PO Box 29, Gladstone Q 4680
Ph: 07 4976 6358 | Fax: 07 4972 6557
Email: andreah@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au
Meets first Wednesday of the month 12 noon at the Community Advisory Service, 142 Goondoon Street, Gladstone

Fraser Coast Youth Sector Workers Network

Contact: Sue Lawler, Youth Development Officer
Fraser Coast Regional Council
PO Box 1943, 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 last Thursday of every second month 1pm at Parish Centre, Rankin Street, Innisfail

Mackay Youth Connections Network Inc

Contact: Tanya Willis, Secretary
Ph: (07) 4965 6651 | Email: Tanya.Willis@dcs.qld.gov.au
Meets first Tuesday of the month 10.30am. Venue – Mackay TAFE J Block, Level 3, Room 3:13.

Maryborough Interagency Network

Contact: Senior Community Development Officer
Fraser Coast Regional Council
Ph: 07 4190 5822
Email: TBA
Meets first Thursday of every month 9-11am at Maryborough Neighbourhood Centre, 25 Ellena Street.

Mount Isa Youth Alliance

Contact: Alvin Hava
Mount Isa Flexible Learning Centre,
Edmund Rice Education Australia
PO Box 2691, Mt Isa Qld 4825
Ph: 07 4749 5269 | Fax: 07 4743 5262
Email: alvhava@ereflic.org.au
Contact Alvin for meeting and venue details.

Rockhampton Youth Interagency Network

Contact: Min Seto, Chair
Ph: Mobile 0418 884 096 | Email: min.seto@pcyc.org.au
Meets third Friday of the month 9-11 am at Commonwealth Respite & Carelink Centre, 57A Alexandra Street, North Rockhampton.

Roma Community Services Interagency

Contact: Roma Neighbourhood Centre
PO Box 1028, Roma
Ph: 07 4624 0800 | Fax: 07 4622 1448
Email: reception@maranoa.qld.gov.au
Meets on a Monday at Roma Neighbourhood Centre at 11.30am on 18 January, 1 March, 12 April, 24 May, 5 July, 16 August, 4 October, 15 November, 2010 and 10 January 2011.
Meetings of the Child, Youth and Families Interagency Sub-Committee are held at the Neighbourhood Centre at 10.15am on the same dates.

Sarina Interagency Meeting

Contact: Paul Taylor, Youth Development Officer
Sarina Youth Centre, PO Box 41 Mackay Qld 4740
Ph: 07 4961 9277
Email: sarinayouthcentre@mackay.qld.gov.au
Meets first Wednesday of every second month. For additional information, please contact Paul 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 twice a year 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 Tiaroom 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 different locations throughout the region each time. Contact Ingrid for details.

Southern Downs Youth Network

Contact: Bonita Tyler, Community Youth Worker
PO Box 26, Warwick Q 4370
Ph: 07 4661 7166 | Fax: 07 4661 0333
Email: bonita.tyler@southerndowns.qld.gov.au
Meets quarterly. Contact Warwick Youth Service for meeting details. 2010 Meetings – 27 January, 28 April, 28 July, 27 October

The Youth Network NQ Inc

Contact: Rachel Cook
Ph: 0408 635 998
Email: rachel.cook@theyouthnetworknq.org.au
Meets third Thursday of the month 9-11am. Contact Rachel for venue details.

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@det.qld.gov.au
Meets occasionally. Main activity through email discussion (TYON@discussions.eq.edu.au). Contact Ed Bradbury to join discussion list or for details.

Whitsunday Youth Focus Network

Contact: Amanda Jensen, Youth Services Officer
Whitsunday Regional Council
Ph: 07 4945 0216 | Fax: 07 4945 0222
Email: Amanda.Jensen@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au
Meets monthly. Contact Amanda for Network details.

. . . Continued to page 14

Interagency Meetings cont.

Current as at September 2010

South-East Queensland

Brisbane Inner Urban Youth Interagency

Contact: Ryan Foster

Ph: 07 3403 0136

Email: ryan.foster@brisbane.qld.gov.au

*This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.

Meets 10-12 noon first Thursday of the month.

Contact Ryan for details.

Brisbane South Youth Organisations Network

Contact: Emma McConnell

Brisbane South Youth Justice Service,
306 Ipswich Road, Buranda

Ph: 07 3406 2801

Email: Emma.McConnell@communities.qld.gov.au

Meets monthly every third Monday. Contact Emma for meeting times and venue details.

Caloundra City Youth Services Network and Sunshine Coast Youth Partnership

Contact: Belinda Larkin, Sunshine Coast Youth Partnerships

6/131 Sugar Road, Alexandra Headland

Ph: 07 5479 0070 | Fax: 07 5479 2575

Mobile: 0435 180 480

Email: info@sunshinecoastyouth.com

Contact Belinda for meeting times and venues.

Gold Coast Youth Network

Contact: Amanda Wright

Gold Coast Youth Service, PO Box 740, Burleigh Heads Q 4220

Ph: 07 5572 0400 | Fax: 07 5575 2607

Email: RAD5@goldcoastyouthservice.com

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, Training & Employment Coordinator
Brisbane Youth Service, PO Box 1389, Fortitude Valley Q 4006

Ph: 3252 3750 | Fax: 3252 2166

Email: bmulligan@brisyouth.org

Meets third Tuesday of the month from 1.30pm at the Goodna Community Health, 82 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 1pm second Thursday of the month at Inala Community House Hall, Sittella Street, Inala.

Ipswich Youth Interagency Group

Contact: Kathryn Cooper, Youth Development Officer

Ipswich City Council PO Box 191, Ipswich Q 4305

Ph: 07 3810 7437 | Email: Kcooper@ipswich.qld.gov.au

Meets first Tuesday of the month 12.30pm at Busy Beat Hub Brisbane Road Ipswich.

Lockyer Service Providers Interagency

Contact: Neil Williamson, Laidley Community/Youth Development Worker

Laidley Shire Community Care Assoc. Inc

Ph: 07 5465 1889 | Email: neil@lscca.org.au OR

Contact: Anne James, CDW/Coordinator

Lockyer Information & Neighbourhood Centre Inc (LINC)

Ph: 07 5462 3355 | Fax: 07 5462 4437

Email: lincgatton@bigpond.com

2 March, 25 May, 17 August, 9 November at Laidley Community Centre, 13 Mary Street (opp The Bus Stop). Gatton meetings

held 19 January, 13 April, 6 July, 28 September at Gatton Baptist Church, 12 William Street (opp Police Station)

Logan Youth Network

Contact: Courtney Gillott, Youth Development Officer

Logan City Council PO Box 3226, Logan City DC 4114

Ph: 07 3412 5029 | Fax: 07 3412 3444

Email: courtneygillott@logan.qld.gov.au

Meetings are held bi-monthly at rotating venues across Logan.

Please contact Courtney for meeting calendar.

Maroochydore Youth Interagency Meeting

Contact: Belinda Larkin

Sunshine Coast Youth Partnerships, Building 1, 131 Sugar Road, Alexandra Headland

Ph: 07 5479 0070 | Fax: 07 5479 2575

Mobile: 0435 180 480

Email: info@sunshinecoastyouth.com

Contact Belinda for meeting times and venues.

Moreton Bay Regional Youth Service Providers Network

(An amalgamation of previous networks: Youth Caboolture Area Network (YCAN), Pine Rivers Youth Service Providers Network and Redcliffe Youth Service Providers Network)

Contact: Naomi Rayward, Youth Planner, Moreton Bay Regional Council

Ph: 07 3283 0352

Email: Naomi.Rayward@moretonbay.qld.gov.au

All meetings are held Wednesdays and are 2.30-4.30 pm with afternoon tea provided and are held at Kallangur Memorial Bowls Club Function Room, Anzac Avenue, Kallangur (next door to North's League Club) on 10 February, 14 April and 9 June.

Nambour and Northern Sunshine Coast Youth Interagency Network

Contact: Lyn Harris, Youth Support Coordinator

United Synergies | Ph: 07 5442 4277 |

Email: lharris@unitedsynergies.com.au or

collschesky@unitedsynergies.com.au

Meets once each school term; dates for meetings & venues are advised prior to meetings as venues alternate; includes professional development component.

Northern Gold Coast Interagency

Contact: Veronica Cox (Studio Village)

Ph: 07 5529 8253 | Email: svcc@cirruscomms.com.au

Meets last Tuesday of every month 1-3pm at Studio Village Community Centre, 87 Village Way, Studio Village

Redlands Youth Network

Contact: Kara Mansley

Redland City Council

Ph: 07 3829 8233 or 07 3829 8489 | Fax: 07 3829 8891

Email: kara.mansley@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 Kara 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 | Mobile: 0407 906 462

Fax: 07 3355 4222 | Email: yiro@picabeen.org.au

Meets quarterly - contact Picabeen for meeting time and venue.

Tweed Shire Youth Network

Contact: Sylvia Roylance

Ph: 02 6670 2736 | Email: SRoylance@tweed.nsw.gov.au

Meets bi-monthly on 3rd Tuesday of the month 9am-12noon.

Meets on alternate bi-months for professional development workshop for service providers. Venue rotated throughout shire. Contact Sylvia for details.

North East Youth Organisations Network (NEYON)

Contact: Kelly Nelson, 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

Youth Justice Coalition (YJC)

Contact: Siyavash Doostkhah, Director

Youth Affairs Network QLD

Ph: 07 3844 7713 | Fax: 07 3844 7731 |

Email: director@yanq.org.au

The Youth Justice Coalition (YJC) is a diverse coalition of interested NGOs, CLCs, peak bodies and individuals that work together to advance the rights of young people under the age of 18 years in the youth justice area in Queensland.

The YJC works within a rights based framework, informed by the relevant international covenants and agreements including: Convention of the Rights of the Child, Beijing Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The YJC meets bi-monthly (every 2nd Thursday every 2nd month) commencing February 2010. The coalition actively encourages community members interested in youth justice issues to participate.

Multicultural Youth Network Queensland

Contact: Daniel Walker Multicultural Development Officer

Youth Affairs Network QLD

Ph: 07 3844 7713 | Fax: 07 3844 7731

Email: policy@yanq.org.au

MYAN (Qld) 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.

MYAN (Qld) connects with its partner networks in other states and its parent network, MYAN (Australia), to keep abreast of CALD youth issues around the country. Contact YANQ for meeting dates and sign up to the MYAN mailing list at <http://lists.yanq.org.au/mailman/listinfo/mynq>.

Criminal Justice Network

Contact: Via the website at <http://www.cjn.org.au>.

Email: info@cjn.org.au

The Network exists to link individuals and groups committed to pursuing the rights of people marginalised by the criminal justice system. The Criminal Justice Network is informed by the voices of people with lived experience. For more information and details on forums that the Network holds, please visit <http://www.cjn.org.au>.

Health Educators Network

Contact: Pamela at Children by Choice

Tel: 07 3357 9933 ext 3 | Email: ed@childrenbychoice.org.au

The Health Educators Network provides members with an opportunity to network with other educators, share information and work collaboratively in the area of community health education in the Brisbane and Greater Brisbane Area.

The network is open to any health educator in the region and members meet quarterly with rotating venues.

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 objects 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 _____



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 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 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.