



Network Noise

Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

Quarterly Newsletter, Dec '99

contents

Cabinet Endorses Future Direction of Community Service Strategy	2
The Youth 2K Overview	3
Family Allowance Changes	3
Generate -An Interactive Website	4
Girl Genius-	5
Fringe Benefit Tax	6
Goods & Services Tax	6
GST Update	7
The IT Puzzle	8
NESBYIN Community News Section	9
Personal Profile - Bernice Smith	12
Social & Economic Development Review	13
Child Protection	14
Are you working with a GLBT young person	15
Outlink Youth Network	16
Youth Pathways Tasforce	17
Full Service Schools	18
Youth Allowance Forum Report	19
Backflips & Broken Promises	20
Stop Press	22
Funding	23
Publications/resources	24
Conferences/training	25
Interagency meetings	26
About YANQ	28

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Welcome to the Final Network Noise of this Millennium

Welcome to the December issue of Network Noise. This year has been exciting, challenging, and demanding. The team at YANQ has been working extremely hard to support members in their ongoing quest to provide quality service delivery to young people in Queensland. At YANQ we have been constantly advocating on a variety of levels to improve young people's right to access services. The barriers that exist for young people within society are often reflected through the barriers that exist for community youth workers who are struggling to survive in a climate of under resourcing, inadequate consultation, and rhetoric.

YANQ has gained strength throughout the year and made advances in tabling members' voices through a variety of processes. We have responded to many issues and submissions, however it is difficult to see the outcome of our labour in the short term. We are continuing to table

members concerns especially with the recent government consultations on Youth Participation, Social and Economic Development and Education 2010. There is still a lot of work to be done in these areas, as initial responses are a long way off meeting the needs of disadvantaged and marginalised young people.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the hundreds of members who have put energy into feeding into YANQ throughout the year. This has occurred through attending meetings through regional visits and at YANQ's office in Brisbane (325 George Street), by telephone, Email and Faxes. Throughout the next few pages, readers will be able to gather a picture of what has been happening in recent months, and what we still need to focus on next year.

I am pleased to inform members that many policies that have been

Continued on page 2

Network Noise

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CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

Ring, write, e-mail or fax your latest news on

- workshops
- youth programs
- training events
- projects
- positions vacant
- change of address
- latest resources

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April Issue
17th March 2000

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Continued from page 1

developed over past years at YANQ are now documented a Policy Platform document that has been published for members to ratify and use as a resource for their work. This has been a major outcome for the community youth sector and gives a strong base to strengthen our ongoing policy development processes.

The team at YANQ including all staff and Management Committee members wish a Merry Christmas and New Year. Happy reading and I hope the Christmas period is a time for some members to have a break and reflect on the amazing work that has occurred in their workplace in 1999.

Bernice Smith
Director
YANQ

Cabinet Endorses Future Direction of Community Service Strategy.

Community Services Strategy (CSS) secretariat is based in the Premiers Department. YANQ now sits on the CSS Interim Advisory Board and we are working hard to represent the views of members and also to be the communication link between the Board and the Peaks Working Group. The Premiers Department recently published a discussion paper *Strategic directions: Investing in Queensland's Community Services* regarding the strategy. YANQ held an open meeting for members to input through the peak body earlier this month and will be submitting a written response. The strategy aspires to deliver radical whole of government change in many

areas of the community sector.

Three key elements of the strategy are based on the Government's election commitments. These are:

- ☐ The development of an agreed set of principles to guide relationships between Government and non Government community services.
- ☐ The development of a Community Services Industry Plan
- ☐ Particular attention is to be given to community services for rural and remote communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

It proposes a vision and set of principles to work by, a community sector industry plan, and a new system of whole of government service agreement being called the Single Service Agreement which may be linked to three year funding. There are some positives within the strategy, however there are a lot of processes that still need further consultation with the sector if the strategy is going to meet the needs of the sector and provide improved quality services. A proposed format for a draft Single Service Agreement is planned to go to Cabinet in February 2000 which will then be trialed/piloted with approximately 50 organisations throughout Queensland for 12 months. Changes will be made to the draft Single Service Agreement in response to the pilots. Therefore it is important that the Youth Sector puts forward a couple of organisations who may be interested in volunteering to be a pilot organisation. If you are interested YANQ needs to know by the next Board meeting on the 1st February 2000.

THE YOUTH 2K CONCEPT OVERVIEW

Mission and Objectives

Youth 2K – Music and Arts for the New Millennium will promote upcoming bands and artists while promoting positive messages to young people. Its aims include:

- ◇ To combine music, arts, social and community issues at one forum;
- ◇ To promote tolerance and diversity amongst young people and their communities;
- ◇ To educate about young people, youth issues and promote strategies to empower young people, and to provide a creative, coordinated and integrated approach to dealing with these issues;
- ◇ To train young people in self management of events, thus increasing social and economic participation;
- ◇ To promote self reliance and self development strategies for young people;
- ◇ To encourage participants to set and achieve goals and to benefit through hands on experience;
- ◇ To mentor young people interested in becoming involved in the music industry;
- ◇ To draw on existing local and community resources and youth networks to assist on the planning and development of the project;
- ◇ To form networks and linkages with existing organisations and work together where appropriate.

Youth 2K will bring communities together through a series of music and arts events in South East Queensland.

Under the banner of "Music and Arts for the new Millennium", the Youth 2K project aims to extend beyond current youth programs to incorporate opportunities for personal development, training, work experience, mentoring, performance and exhibition of works. It aims to provide an integrated program

which showcases young talent, increases awareness of social (particularly youth) issues, provides entertainment and reinforces positive messages.

Long-term objectives include the establishment of an infrastructure and a supportive network to empower young people to stage their own civic activities, and to establish networks and opportunities by which civic and personal development can be measured. The concept will become an ongoing series of events staged throughout Queensland on an annual basis. (End)

Family Allowance for Families With 16-24 Year Olds

- ◆ On the 1st October 1999, Family Allowance was extended to families with dependant children aged 16-20 years of age (including post-secondary students and the unemployed) and dependant full-time students aged 21-24 years of age.
- ◆ Eligible Families will now be able to receive \$50 per fortnight for dependant children between 18 and 24 years.
- ◆ Over 78,000 Australian Families who have not been able to access Family Allowance for their older children will now be able to receive the payment.
- ◆ The number of Australian families who can access Family Allowance will increase
- ◆ Some young people currently receiving Youth Allowance may be better off with their parents receiving Family Allowance
- ◆ Health Care Cards continue to be available to many of these young people with low personal income.

For more information:

A copy of the information booklet 'A Better Deal for Families and Young People' is available by calling the Family Hotline on 13 1305

Information in Languages other than English is available by calling 13 1202

Information for people who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment is available by calling 1800 810 586

Information is also available on the website www.centrelink.gov.au

Second Chance Foundation

Assisting individuals who have been through the Criminal Justice System to have the same opportunities to employment, training and further education as others in our society.

Second Chance Foundation is currently running a Young People's Employment Assistance Program, funded by the Department of Employment Training and Industrial Relations (DETIR).

This service provides intensive assistance in the following areas:

- * Developing a resume
- * Literacy Tutoring if required
- * Developing interview skills
- * Assistance with transport to interviews
- * Assistance with obtaining drivers licences
- * Post Placement support

At present we have the ability to take on more clients and if there are any service providers that know of any young people that may fit the criteria and are genuine about seeking employment, please contact Gabrielle Pickersgill to arrange an interview on, **Ph: 3852 3800, Fax: 3852 3811** or E-mail secondchance@bigpond.com.au

Transitions

Transitions Journal is planned for publication in April of 2000. Therefore the deadline for articles is the 18th of February 2000. So if you have a chance to reflect over the Christmas break about your practice during the year, see if there is a model, process, framework regarding the theme "**Grass Roots Policy Development**". that you would like to share with other members and the wider sector then write it up in the new year if possible. The guidelines for articles are: 1000-3000 word limit, Harvard System referencing, please include any photos you wish to include and information on authors. Articles should be of A4 sizing with double line spacing.

Please send your articles on a 3.5 in disk to YANQ marked Att: Robyn Grant

Youth Suicide Prevention Coordinated Training Project

The Queensland Government Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy has just awarded a contract to AISRAP (Australian Institute of Suicide Research and Prevention) to conduct a Coordinated Training Project across Government and the Community sector in the area of youth suicide prevention.

AISRAP will undertake a training needs analysis, identify and provide an integrated package of training options and flexible delivery modes for keyworkers in the area of suicide prevention. Consultations will be occurring across the state throughout November, December and January to determine previous training and explore current needs and issues. Particular attention has been given to the area of of Indigenous issues with the employment by AISRAP of an Indigenous worker to undertake specific consultations with Indigenous communities.

The consultants will then undertake the initial implementation, delivery and evaluation of priority training. The project is expected to be completed by the end of May 2000.

For further information on the training and needs analysis, including locations please contact AISRAP on 3875 3816

GENERATE

An Interactive Web Site for Young People

Young people are the target for a new web site designed to improve the way the Queensland Government communicates with young people.

The web site is interactive and provides a range of information to promote active, two-way communication between young people and government and non-government services. It also focuses on the latest information relevant to Queensland young people, providing direct links to information about a range of programs and services.

The web site features information about events planned around the state for young people, called "What's On"; links to sites that are of high interest value to young people; a news spot called "Rave"; surveys and competitions. It also has a page called "Serious Stuff" with information ranging from health, relationships and jobs to transport, education and housing. Other aspects to be explored on the web site will be bulletin boards, "Chat Rooms" and Internet Relay Chat (IRC) lines.

The web site provides an excellent opportunity to communicate with young people in rural and regional areas, geographically removed from the centres of decision making.

It also can be used to elicit feedback from young people on particular issues.

This may be a great benefit to agencies for young people who want to seek ideas and comments from young people who access the site.

There are a range of ways that departments, agencies and youth services might use or contribute to the GENERATE web site including:

- . providing information regarding local youth events for "What's On"
- . suggesting good mutual links between GENERATE and other web sites
- . making suggestions regarding information content and links
- . promoting your service, publications and campaigns
- . designing surveys for the site to elicit feedback

Departments and agencies that wish to contribute to the GENERATE web site should email generate@families.qld.government.au.



Seasons Greetings from Staff and Management at YANQ

YANQ will be closing for the Christmas Break from 2pm on the 22nd December until Tues 4th of January. Please note that during the month of January there will only be a skeleton staff on at YANQ. Bernice & Carolyn will be on 4 weeks holiday and John will be in part-time.

Girl Genius

A New Type of Body Armour to Bolster Self Image



Move over Zena, there's a new warrior princess on the block who has attitude with a capital A.

She's Girl Genius, the lead figure role model in a government attack on eating disorders.

The cool, hip and sassy character made her first appearance at the start of the Body Image and Eating Disorders Awareness Week at West End State School on 6 September.

The Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care, Anna Bligh, and the Minister for Women's Policy, Judy Spence, introduced Girl Genius to pupils from the school. The reaction confirmed the findings of design-stage consultation with students from West End State School and four other Queensland schools who were overwhelmingly enthusiastic about the concept.

"We want to give girls and young women a gutsy, new heroine for a healthy body image," said Ms Bligh.

"We want to say to you that your brains, your thoughts and who you are all go into making up what you become.

"Girl Genius is meant to give girls and

young women the confidence to be assertive when dealing with people who may make hurtful comments about body image.

"She will be a friend to girls under pressure to conform to an unattainable body shape," said Ms Bligh.

The campaign will involve posters, magazines and a postcard book featuring peppery, pert, positive put-downs to people making unthinking, unflattering comments.

The campaign was developed after research identified eating disorders as one of the prime dangers for young people, particularly girls and young women.

The figures showed that Queensland had 30,000 people suffering from bulimia and another 5000 with anorexia. Of these, 10% were under 10 and 33% were between 10 and 14.

Ms Bligh said: "It is important that we get to girls and young women and give them the information and the armour to undermine strongly held beliefs.

We intend to promote positive images of young people reflecting a diversity of body shapes and sizes.

"The objectives are to raise awareness of eating disorders with girls and young women and the wider community," said Ms Bligh.

Girl Genius has been designed to relate to girls and young women between the ages of 10 and 14 years.

The group has grown up with brands and designer labels, computers and mobile phones and is media and marketing savvy.

They are aggressive consumers of imagery and identified magazines as having an integral role in the life of the group as a source of entertainment and of information – and imagery.

The magazine *Girlfriend* will distribute the messages, a postcard book and a poster in two of its summer editions.

Girlfriend became involved after being identified as a highly valuable medium to reach the target audience of girls and young women in the 10 to 14 age group.

The magazine's own research and feedback from issues with special features already has told the publishers that it had credence with a readership concerned more with content than body image.

Girlfriend's Queensland Advertising Manager Judy Taylor said the magazine's own research supported the view of Girl Genius organisers that it was the most suitable publication to be involved in the program.

A mailout of the poster to youth agencies and relevant Community organisations has been undertaken and the response has been encouraging. A mailout to schools in the new year will coincide with a competition to develop more positive put-downs.

For more information on the campaign, contact Leanne Beikoff in the Office of Youth Affairs on 07 3224 2371.

Fringe Benefits Tax

Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) legislation is due to be tabled in parliament this month. It will be the second legislation in relation to FBT. The first legislation relating to the reporting of FBT on Group Certificates has been passed. The second legislation which aims to cap fringe benefits to \$17,000 grossed up is not yet finalised. If this legislation goes through then organisations and individual workers will be negatively effected and resources within the sector will be reduced thereby impacting on services to young people. YANQ has instigated a lobby campaign to the Federal Government and have published a report' *Reportable Fringe Benefit and the Proposed Fringe Benefit Tax: Discussion Paper on the Impact of Changes to the Fringe Benefit tax legislation on the youth sector, specifically YANQ members*'. YANQ employed two consultants; Anne Warner and Fadia Hennan, who have researched and documented the effects on the youth sector and highlighted the impact through three case studies.

Many YANQ members directly requested we take on this challenge so please read the report and support the lobby campaign. We held a meeting on the 10th of December and the next meeting will be on February 18th at 10am. Please link in by teleconference if you can not make it in person or fax/post your comments.

Photocopies of the FBT report are available from YANQ

Goods and Services Tax

Goods and Services Tax (GST) legislation is another Federal Government legislation where the community sector is fighting for our lives. There have been and are continuing to be several amendments to this legislation as the community welfare sector Australia wide has been lobbying for changes. At YANQ we have been focusing on FBT, however we are also in conversations with the State Government regarding the need for funding bodies to increase grants to cover the extra 10% GST costs. This needs to be given to organisations when they receive their grant. We will keep members informed. The Queensland Council of Social Services (QCOSS) recently received money from the GST-Start up office to deliver training to the

community sector regarding the transition and compliance needs associated with the introduction of the GST. Workshops will be run early next year throughout the state. We will keep members informed of dates, venues, etc.

Do You want/need more information regarding the GST and the Community Sector?

Some tax reforms are already here. Some reforms are on the agenda for the not too distant future. You may need to understand what the impact of these reforms are. As well as the work conducted by YANQ into the changes to the Fringe Benefits Tax on Public Benevolent Institutions (PBI's),

we are gathering information on the GST and the community sector.

We can send you information as it comes to hand eg, newsletters, updates, training and put you in touch with others who have the information and also provide you with useful websites.

Call Carolyn Grant, Policy Officer at YANQ on ph: 3236 5400 for further information.

Farwell to Margaret James, the Administration Officer. We wish her well in her future endeavours

GST Update

The New Tax System legislation passed through the Federal Parliament involves

1. Goods and Services Tax (GST)
2. Australian Business Number (ABN)
3. Pay as You Go (PAYG)
4. Business Activity Statement (BAS)

It is estimated by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) that approximately 250,000 charitable organisations will register for an ABN which identifies an organisation for the ATO, and also for the GST.

The task of successfully implementing all aspects of The New Tax System is the responsibility of

- # Australian Taxation Office
- # The Treasury
- # The GST Start-Up Assistance Office

With the assistance of

- # The New Tax System Advisory Board
- # The ATO Charities Consultative committee, and
- # GST Start-Up Assistance Office: Community Sector and Business Panels

GST implementation is 1 July 2000.

ABN registration commences 1st November 1999 through to 1 July 2000

Seminars are currently being held throughout the country to inform the different sectors of impending changes. QCOSS will also be delivering GST Start Up Training in the new year.

Info from ATO Charities Seminar

The Government's proposed tax treatment of community organisation is based not so much on who they are but on what they do – not solely on their purpose or organisational entity, but on a combination of this plus the precise activities they perform and the goods and services they supply.

This is a radical departure from the current treatment of "charities". The key changes will be:

- # The application of the GST to the "commercial" activities of charitable organisations;
- # The application of the GST to memberships of registered organisations, government contracts and many fundraising activities;

- # Changes to fringe benefits tax provisions.

So, What is a GST ?

- A tax on private consumption
- Paid by consumers rather than by organisations
- Collected by all registered organisations

What is a Charity?

An organisation that is for

- The relief of poverty, sickness or needs of the aged
- The advancement of education
- The advancement of religion or
- For other purposes beneficial to the community

It does not include organisations that are carried on for the profit of their members, or for their members' common interests. The term "charitable" currently has the same meaning for GST as it has for income tax.

There are three types of supplies that you can make

- Taxable supplies
- GST-free supplies
- Input taxed supplies

Taxable Supplies are

- Supply for consideration includes sponsorship, members fees, grants and subsidies
- Conducted in the course of enterprise
- Connected with Australia
- Not GST-free or input taxed

GST-Free Supplies

- No GST on the supply and supplier is still entitled to input tax credits for acquisitions relating to the supply

Input Taxed Supplies

- No GST on the supply and supplier is generally not entitled to input tax credits for acquisitions relating to the supply.

Grants/Subsidies

- If the entity receiving the grant/subsidy is registered
 - it must remit GST equal to 1/11 of the grant/subsidy to the ATO
 - the entity providing the grant/subsidy is entitled to an input tax credit for the GST amount – invoice required.

If entity that receives the grant/subsidy is not registered

- entity does not remit GST
- entity providing the grant/subsidy is not entitled to input tax credit

Examples of GST Free activity

1. Non-Commercial Activities of Charities

GST free if either

- the supply is for consideration that is less than 50%* of the GST-inclusive market value of the supply, or
- the supply is for consideration that is less than 50%* of the consideration that the supplier provided, or was liable to provide, for acquiring the thing
(*Percentage – legislation may be amended)

2. Donated Second Hand Goods
GST free if either

- Those goods were supplied to the entity itself as a gift or from another similar entity which itself received them as a gift and
The entity must not have dealt with the goods in such a way that they no longer have their original character

Need More Information?

- # www.taxreform.ato.gov.au
- # www.ato.gov.au
- # Tax Reform Infoline 13 24 78
- # Wholesale Sales Tax Rate Reduction Infoline 1800 634 905
- # Diesel Fuel Line 1300 657 162
- # A Fax From Tax 13 28 60
- # Writing to PO Box 9935 in your Capital City
- # Translating and Interpreting Service

The IT puzzle - Has your service solved it?

The information technology juggernaut of the last 5 years has taken the community services industry, including the youth sector, by storm. It has transformed the way we work, access information, communicate with each other, and process and record information. Yet other organisations are using IT as a training tool, lobbying mechanism, to promote community awareness, and to generate income.

In reality however, most of our organisations have stumbled into using IT out of necessity, rather than adopting it as a part of our strategic planning process. Many of us are still struggling to work out how to most effectively use IT to increase accountability and better our service delivery. If you still feel 'swamped' by the whole IT thing, here are a few beginning points and supportive words to help you make sense of the IT puzzle.

Get informed

Before making any decisions around IT in your agency, get sound objective advice from someone who understands the way your service works and your service delivery needs. Don't get talked into buying (or upgrading) software or hardware that you don't need. Decide for yourselves what you need your computers to be able to do. Once decided, find someone who speaks your language and treats you respectfully, especially if you are women. Also, stick to your original 'needs based decision' and don't get overawed by the power, speed and gadgetry of the technology that is on the market.

Get language

I recently spoke to a community worker who, when asked by a computer sales person what kind of computer she used, answered 'a cream coloured one!' Although 'techie' speak is very alienating for many of us, developing at least a cursory knowledge of the language can be very useful.

Get inclusive

Spread the IT knowledge around your service. Try not to focus it with just one person. If they are away sick or leave, the place could come to a stand still. For empowerment and equity reasons try to ensure that everyone is included, supported and encouraged to be involved in some level of training. That way everyone can feel included in the decision-making processes about using IT in your service.

Get trained

There is plenty of training available but some of it is time consuming and costly. To get the most from your training dollar, conduct an IT skills audit within your agency, prior to commencing training. Decide who has what skills, who needs what skills, and to what level

of competency. Try and link this up with people's role in the service and their areas of interest or natural talent. Encourage people to extend their skill base and take on new challenges, but be mindful of people's genuine fears around IT. Be sure to access all free, local and community sector training before spending the big dollars.

Get online

Being online, particularly email, is the standard for communicating with one another and getting information around quickly and cheaply. If your agency does not have convenient, cheap, and easy to use email access, you should probably make it a priority in your next budget and training calendar. Of course, this is harder in the regions, but times are a-changing and there are a variety of increasingly affordable options that are worth exploring. QCOSS, BRIDGIT and YSTC are good places to start to get information and reputable referrals.

Once established, the email facility needs to be managed within your service to ensure people are trained and have appropriate access to its use. Information 'hogging' can be a problem in some services.

Get together

If you ask around, you'll find that many services are facing similar problems to you. The simplest way to tackle these issues is to get people together from different services and share ideas, experiences, information and support. If you have found a good computer support person or supplier, be prepared to share the resource with other services. Set up a Computer Community Reference group to find out the information, and to whom you can refer questions. Make it a sub committee of your local interagency group or network. Combining your efforts is quicker, cheaper, and more fun than slogging it out alone.

Get pro-active

At the end of the day computers are only as good as the people who sit behind them. To get the most out of your IT, and to feel that you are in control of the computers rather than the other

way around, you need to think carefully about how you manage them in your agency. Just as we are pro-active with our service delivery, we need to be pro-active with our management of IT.

Sue is a community development and training consultant, and co-founder of commwide software australia

A NEW CONSTITUTION!

YANQ's Annual General Meeting was held on Monday the 13th of December 1999.

The new membership of the management was also accepted. We are looking forward to the coming year.

The new management committee members are as below

Rebecca Baird

Geoff Coakley

Phillip Dodds (Secretary)

Siyavash Doostkhah (Vice Chair)

James Finn

Diane Forsyth (Treasurer)

Debbie Kilroy (Chair)

Matthew Lupi

Denise Ruska

Leanne Tu'ipulotu

Karen Shoenmakckers

Bernice Smith

Policy Platform

YANQ's first ever Policy Platform document was launched at the AGM. It contains 10 policy statements that have been developed over the past 7 years at YANQ.

We have distributed the ten policies for ratification by members. Please review and let us know your views by the 12th of February 2000 if there are any changes necessary

The NESBYIN Community News Section

".....on Reflection...."

Warm greetings colleagues, friends and comrades, I hope you are all happy and healthy. Another year has overtaken us once again. "It flies by" I hear you say, well, you're not wrong. The reality is, we just all seem to be so busy most of the time! But then, as I reflect on the past year an appreciation of how much has really happened at YANQ strikes me. In contrast to a year ago, the culture at YANQ has changed significantly. Indeed, it was about this time last year that staff and management began to live the reality of engaging in genuine organisational change processes. The result of which has been the development of an Operational Charter, Values Base for the organisation, and a new constitution which amongst other things, allows us to develop policy in much more flexible ways than under the old one. I think it's fair to say that we all did much soul searching, often painful as it was for me, I now believe that we see where we are going as one.

We see that YANQ has an important role to play in the youth sector as the peak body responsible for keeping government informed of the context around which many of you practice youth work. We also need to know what's going on for young people in our communities so we are able to influence responses and policy. This currency of information gives YANQ its strength. We also recognise as one that none of this is remotely possible without the continued support of our 400 or so member's spread across the length and breadth of Queensland. We also recognise as one the important role that NESBYIN continues to play in keeping NESB youth issues on the social and political agenda. It's from these recognitions that a lasting culture of paramount importance regarding membership has evolved. As such, we have made commitments to attend all 30 or so youth interagencies across Queensland at the same time as undertaking agency visits. We also committed much of the time on regional visits to rural Queensland.

While my co-Policy Officer, Carolyn Grant, and I did not quite make all 30 youth interagencies, we came close. I think by the end of December we will

probably have 2 or 3 to do first thing next year. To date, Carolyn and I have visited Hervey Bay, Maryborough, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Redcliffe (Bernice went to this one not me), Caboolture, Mackay, Blackall, Longreach, Emerald, Cairns, Cooktown, Mareeba, Mossman, Atherton, Innisfail, Townsville, Charters Towers, Cloncurry, Mt Isa and Ipswich. Phew, it's a mouthful just thinking about it! Workers from other communities also attended many of the meetings, so we actually connected with youth workers from lots of other places as well as those listed. Our revered Director, Bernice Smith, and equally revered Admin Worker Margaret James have been pillars of support. And many thanks to each and every one of you for making us feel so welcome, we really do appreciate it.

The organisational change processes and regional visit regime we have undertaken at YANQ has also had very positive affects regarding NESB youth issues in Queensland. Initially, the organisational change processes at YANQ have resulted in all of our core work becoming more effective. Additionally, I have gained an enhanced appreciation and understanding of issues as they relate to NESB young people in many communities across Queensland. This informs my work significantly.

NESB YOUTH ISSUES NETWORK (NESBYIN) UPDATE

English as a Second Language (ESL) Program:

I've been waiting eagerly since the budget for news to filter through from the education sector regarding increases to the state government's contribution to the ESL Program. Alas however, it seems as though nothing has changed! This is very unfortunate given the time, energy and effort many of us have expended in trying to highlight the desperate need for increased funding from the state government. What is more unfortunate is the fact that for many NESB young people, they will not be given opportunities similar to their peers that enable them to reach their full scholastic potential. Indeed, to date, I've

been unable to even get through the Minister for Education's door to express collective concerns. It was probably about a year ago that I first received correspondence from the Ministers Office assuring me that a meeting would be forthcoming. Its lucky I didn't hold my breath! I also believe that the current Labor government has broken pre-election promises of increased funding for the ESL Program. In their pre-election Education Policy, Labor states that they will allocate an additional \$500,000 to supplement the ESL Program and while in government, will further review state funding for ESL. The ESL Program has not received this increase, even though in August 1998 at the launch of the Multicultural Queensland Policy, Premier Beattie reassured attendees that the increase and potentially others were on their way. The state government currently allocates \$1.7 Million to ESL per annum, while the Commonwealth contributes \$7.2 Million. In other states such as New South Wales and Victoria, the state government matches the commonwealth contribution dollar for dollar. The result of which of course, is an enhanced ESL program with much better educational outcomes for NESB young people. Shame on Queensland Labor I say! However, I am sure that YANQ and NESBYIN will be taking another close look at this issue in the near future.

INALA POLICE & YOUTH PARTNERSHIP TRIAL PROJECT

The Inala Police and Youth Partnership (PYP) Trial Project is growing from strength to strength in its efforts to initiate processes that will influence the development of better relations between young people and the police. This was highlighted recently when Senior Sergeant Lillian Bensted and I traveled to Sydney to attend the National Police Ethnic Advisory Bureau's (NPEAB) annual meeting of all the state and territory Police and Youth Partnerships. The meeting affords state and territory representatives an opportunity to share insights into their initiatives and to prioritise actions for the coming year. It is fairly clear that Queensland is leading the way. The trial

period for the project will come to an end in January/February 2000. By this time we expect to have developed a set of police and youth protocols to be implemented by the Inala Police Station. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the protocols will also be developed. Depending on the results of the evaluation of the PYP trial project in Inala, YANQ, NESBYIN, and QPS may be negotiating the implementation of a similar process in other region/s in Queensland. We will definitely be looking to implement other components of our jointly developed workplan from January 1999.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKING GROUP

The Domestic Violence Working Group (DVWG) is currently negotiating an involvement in another project. The Domestic Violence Resource Centre is looking to develop a resource manual designed to assist community workers to respond to issues of domestic violence as they relate to people from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds. The DVWG is keen to input into the development of a resource that will also assist youth workers. The process to achieve this and the end product have yet to be decided. We are holding a planning morning on December 10th 1999 to negotiate process and end product details. When complete, the resource manual should be a very valuable resource for the community youth sector in Queensland. Stay tuned for more details.

GOVERNMENT PROCESSES DISILLUSIONS YOUTH WORKERS

1999 has proved another productive year as far as YANQ, NESBYIN and NESB youth issues are concerned. YANQ's productivity has reached an all time high. This is more likely than not as a result of an enhanced teamwork approach. We have produced somewhere in the region of 12 submissions relating to government consultation processes during 1999. We have endeavored to be as inclusive as possible in all these responses by including the views of YANQ and NESBYIN members in the development of submissions. Additionally, we have had to often take a strong stand against many government decisions and processes. This has been particularly evident in the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care's

(DFYCC) Youth Participation Charter & Strategy consultation process and their Planning & Review of Social & Economic Development Services for Young People (PRSEDSYP). YANQ has objected to the processes and outcomes related to these consultations and have certainly made this well-known in bureaucracy and the Ministers Office. We believe for example, that DFYCC have damaged many communities through the PRSEDSYP process.

Many of the Rural Youth Workers, Youth Development Officers and Youth Information and Referral Services located across Queensland who have been affected by the process have been left feeling angry and disenfranchised. Clear information about the purpose of the review has not been given to them, nor have their collective voices been heard. Additionally, many communities who should have been included in this review have missed out. Consequently, government decisions relating to the future location of many of these positions and services will be made in a vacuum created by bureaucracy.

YANQ also believes that many of the views conveyed to government regarding the Youth Participation Charter and Strategy consultation process by community youth workers across Queensland have not been listened to either. Initially, YANQ raised concerns relating to the format and presentation of the consultation document 'Generate' to government on behalf of members. We then raised concerns relating to the ideas government put forward relating to their proposed Youth Participation Strategy on behalf of members. We believe that these concerns have not been taken onboard by government. We have dialogued extensively with government around the need to break down the many barriers that prevent disadvantaged and/or marginalised young people from participating in political decision-making processes, but to no avail. YANQ especially highlighted the barriers that prevent NESB young people from participating. Again, many youth workers across Queensland have been left feeling angry and disillusioned because their voices and views have gone unheard. Finally, YANQ believes that the government has let down many young people in Queensland through this tokenistic strategy, once again!

"...NESB YOUTH STRATEGY SAGA CONTINUES..."

It was not so long ago that I heard Premier Beattie on TV say that resources are useless without a strategy. The penny dropped for me when I heard this statement because it now makes sense why Queensland does not have sufficient resources to respond effectively to NESB youth issues – its because we still do not have a NESB Youth Strategy! Even though the development and implementation of a NESB Youth Strategy in DFYCC's Office of Youth Affairs has been a key priority of NESBYIN for a number of years, government have been slow to respond. The lack of a whole-of-government-strategy designed to influence coordinated responses to issues as they relate to NESB young people reflects the often ad-hoc, non-systemic and piecemeal way in which government approaches this area of concern. It seems that government still expects NESB young people to 'fit' into current responses and systems. Unfortunately, this approach continues to flirt with notions of assimilation. We need to respect the fact that cultural diversity means a diversity of responses and approaches to issues. Seemingly the development of a NESB Youth Strategy in government is so diverse they have divorced themselves from it! You can rest-assured that YANQ and NESBYIN will endeavor to make them see differently.

STOCKTAKE PROJECT

The *Transcultural Mental Health Centre* is conducting two nation wide stocktakes. One of youth programs for young people of NESB who have a parent with a mental health problem and the other of parenting programs available to adults of NESB with a mental health problem. The aim of this stocktake is to collate and document all youth and parenting programs available in two directories. If your organisation conducts programs of this nature and would be prepared to contribute to these directories, please contact Andrew on (02) 9840 3800

“...who are the Multicultural Development Association?...”

The Multicultural Development Association Inc. (MDA) was formed in May 1998. It was established to promote multiculturalism and act as a strategic mechanism for the empowerment of people from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds through a range of community development, community education and training, and service delivery activities. MDA delivers services to people based on the principles of social justice, access and equity, and inclusive service delivery strategies.

Under the Migrant Service Agency, MDA provides settlement information and referral services, community resourcing, and needs based settlement services to migrants and refugees. Through the Community Settlement Services and the Humanitarian Support Program, MDA provides case management and individual/group support to refugees and migrants. The Multicultural Advocacy Project is an advocacy and research component of MDA. The Multicultural Advocacy Worker will conduct consultations with communities and government and advocate for the improvement of migrant/refugee services and the development of appropriate policies.

The current staff team is:

- *Mr. Kelly Yip, Coordinator*
- *Ms Linda Richards, Community Project Officer*
- *Ms Elizabeth Zajac, Humanitarian Support Worker*
- *Ms Lorella Piazzetta, Multicultural Advocacy Worker*
- *Ms Linda Henniker, Community Settlement Officer*

MDA's Migrant Service Agency is located at:

2/47 Cordelia Street
South Brisbane Qld 4101
Telephone: (07) 3844 6080
Fax: (07) 3844 6694

Email: mailbox@mdabne.org.au



Legal Support

Legal support is something workers within the field need at different times. Recently we had a request from a member, so we contacted the Caxton Legal Service in New Farm. They are able to give free advice for 20 minutes in the evening sessions and there is no need for an appointment

Personal Profile

Bernice Smith



BACKGROUND

Brisbane has been the City of my childhood, youth and adulthood after spending a short time in my birthplace of Dandenong in Melbourne. I grew up in Bulimba, attending the Sate School and utilising the Brisbane River as my backyard. This was a great resource and one of my fondest memories is having swimming races with family and friends to see who could swim across the river to touch the large ships that moored on the docks near the Wool Sheds. Little did I know, at a tender young age, that Sharks happily thrived in the depths of the Brisbane River! Anyway, I survived and am glad to be here today.

After finishing an excruciating twelve years at school I escaped to New Zealand for an outrageously long holiday break and then returned to live in the Princess Alexandra Hospital as a 'resident' nurse. These were wild times due to long hours of work matched with long hours of partying.

I married young and have two wonderful children who are now young adults: Monica 20 and Chris 18. I was renting in Cannon Hill they were born and for two years

struggled without a car, phone and other 'luxuries', to secure a cooperative house loan. We purchased a house in Woodridge and I am still living there today. I've seen Woodridge change from being an outer farming suburb of Brisbane through the difficult years of development as the new City of Logan.

EMPLOYMENT INTERESTS

After nursing for a few years and being a full time parent, I entered the youth sector in 1985 at CYSS and have stayed in the sector ever since. I have been involved in a variety of roles through employment at the following agencies:

- ◆ Community Youth Support Scheme (CYSS) in Beenleigh, Woodridge and Beaudesert.
- ◆ Youth and Family Service Logan City Inc (YFS)
- ◆ Valley Youth Unit
- ◆ Youth Sector Training Program (YSTP)
- ◆ Community Youth Worker (Dukes Award)
- ◆ 'The Outlook', Boonah

I have also been keen to be involved on Committees such as Chair of YFS and committee member of YSTC.

WHEN NOT AT WORK:

I'll confess – I am a movie junkie. I think it is the escapism that attracts me, so as to give a balance to the reality of youth work.

I love travelling. The few times I have travelled, I have found that I get the 'travelling bug' really

quickly and don't want to stop. This is an area that I believe that I have not given myself the permission to do lately so, – It is my New Years resolution.

LIKES:

Meeting people and sharing stories. Learning new things every day no matter how little or how big. Having a laugh now and then with good friends.

DISLIKES:

Rhetorical talk. Wasting time. Reading fiction.

THE FUTURE:

Take every opportunity to place social issues on the agenda for people in our communities. To be positive, relaxed and challenged.

Welcome Aboard

YANQ welcomes the new part-time administration Officer

Robyn Grant

YANQ's new Constitution, Charter, Values and Vision have now been adopted by members.

This is a lead document for services in the sector to utilise. If people would like a copy, or to discuss the process involved, please contact YANQ

Social & Economic Development Planning & Review.

by Office of Youth Affairs, Department of Families Youth and Community Care

Over the last four months, the Office of Youth Affairs has been engaged in a planning and review project for Social and Economic Development Services for young people. The funding programs which have formed the core of the planning project are the Rural Youth Workers Program and the Youth Information and Referral Services. These programs, funded on a triennial basis, reach the end of their funding cycle in March 2000.

The objectives of the project were:

- ☞ To identify key outputs and outcomes (benefits) of social and economic development services for young people.
- ☞ To ensure that social and economic development resources for young people are allocated to identified areas of high need across Queensland: and
- ☞ To identify potential benchmarks for service viability
- ☞ The methodology utilised during this project included:
 - ☞ Production of a discussion paper
 - ☞ Forums, held in four locations, with funded services and other key stakeholders
 - ☞ Written feedback forms sent to all funded services
 - ☞ Consultation with peak organisations and other Government Departments
 - ☞ The development of a specific Youth Needs Index
 - ☞ Service Mapping exercise (including those funded through other sources, State and commonwealth, around the state)
 - ☞ The inclusion of non statistical, place based needs information.

The development of the Youth Needs Index was outsourced to the Office of Economic and Statistical Research within

Queensland Treasury. The index uses a single measure to summarise the level of need in particular location. It provides a significant piece of information, which can be used alongside a range of other data to assist in planning for future service locations. Many services had expressed a concern that reliance on statistical information alone would not truly capture the extent of youth needs within locations, particularly in a state as large and as diverse as Queensland.

The variables used in compiling the Youth Needs Index included:

- ☞ Index of relative Socio-economic Disadvantage
- ☞ Youth Unemployment rates
- ☞ Year 12 completion rates
- ☞ Higher qualification rates
- ☞ Indigenous youth population
- ☞ Juvenile crime rates
- ☞ Access/Remoteness
- ☞ Birth rates for young women

Several other variables were considered, but excluded on the basis that their high correlation with another variable/s meant that they were essentially measuring the same aspect. Other variables were rejected on the basis of extremely low correlations or because of the lack of adequate reliable data.

The Index followed the convention of standardising the variables to have mean zero and standard deviation one before being entered into the analysis. This gives equal importance to the variation in each of the variables. A principle components analysis was the method employed to compute the index.

The department held a number of forums with service providers, and other key stakeholders, during September 1999. These forums sought to provide services and other stakeholders both with information about the scope and context of the planning process as well as to seek their input on non statistical data, barriers and issues affecting service delivery, the needs currently being addressed by services and the activities perceived as

being really successful.

Written feedback was also encouraged and there was a high response rate.

A Feedback Report is currently being finalised and will be mailed shortly to all funded services, people who attend the forums and those who provided written responses.

The Department is utilising the range of information gleaned during the consultation forums, the information from the Youth Needs Index, input from the Departments regional offices, the service mapping exercise and other relevant information as part of the process in determining locations of high need and levels of service provision. It is intended that this stage of the project will be finalised in December 1999

YANQ Concerns to the Economic Development Planning & Review.

: Rural Youth Workers, YIRS & YDW'S

YANQ forwarded a submission response to DFYCC regarding the Social & Economic Development and Planning Review in November 1999.

This review seems to be focused on either providing less welfare services or creating less demand for welfare services. Both will only be achievable through creating a just society and until there is integrity in policy formulation that combines the macro and micro causes of disadvantaged and advantage, in both economical and social just terms, there can be little chance for the positive systematic outcomes.

New Ways Forward Young People and Child Protection Reform

The Child Protection Act 1999 will be proclaimed in early 2000 and implemented alongside the Child Protection Reform Strategy Strategic Plan. It is critical that all stakeholders continue to share information and keep updated throughout this period of change.

New Ways Forward is a collaborative project undertaken by the Department of Families Youth and Community Care and Peak Care (formerly CAFWAQ). The New Ways Forward project focuses on young people with protective needs. The first phase of the project involved a consultation process with government and community based agencies. The outcomes of this consultation process is reported in an information paper, which is now available (contact Belinda Drew at PeakCare 3368 1050). An Action Plan has been developed to determine the progress of the New Ways Forward project over the next six months.

It is important to note that New Ways Forward relates to those young people, many of whom our members are working with, who are described as 'high needs', with 'challenging behaviours'. Given the current focus on early intervention and prevention it is critical that the community sector communicates it's collective wisdom and participates in and facilitates the direction and implementation of this project.

For more information about the project or a copy of the report contact PeakCare.

National Audit of Child Abuse Prevention Programs

The National Child Protection Clearinghouse, which is based at the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS), aims to collect information on child abuse prevention programs which are either planned or currently operating in Australia, and to develop an assessment of the state of child abuse prevention activity across the nation. In order to fulfil this aim, the Clearinghouse is conducting a national audit of child abuse and neglect programs.

The Clearinghouse is interested in all programs with a child abuse prevention focus, regardless of the size of the program or whom the program targets, including family support or parent education programs, community and professional education activities or campaigns, personal safety programs and offender programs.

To obtain a questionnaire or to provide information via a telephone interview with Clearinghouse staff phone Australian Institute of Family Studies, ph: (03) 9214 7888.

Every participant will receive a copy of a report on the audit.

Kids and DV Project

A number of resources have been produced through the Kids and DV Project. The project was funded through the Partnerships Against Domestic Violence initiative in 1998 and was coordinated by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care.

The aim of the project was to research and document good practice in working with children and young people who have lived with domestic violence. The project produced a number of resources to assist service providers, from across sectors, who work with children and young people; a booklet describing different models of working with children and young people; an evaluation handbook and the Kids and DV website at www.lgcms.com.au. Resources are available by contacting Sue Coxon in the Domestic Violence Prevention Unit, ph: (07) 32244477.

CRISIS PAYMENT CENTRELINK

CRISIS PAYMENT is a one-off payment designed to assist new and existing Centrelink customers who are in financial hardship.

The payment is non-refundable and can be paid where a young person;

- ❖ is forced to leave home and establish a new home because of domestic or family violence, or because of a household fire, or
- ❖ has been released from a correctional facility

To receive crisis payment a young person will need to be eligible for a payment from Centrelink, and the amount is equal to one weeks payment of the basic social security payment.

Further information is available on www.centrelink.gov.au. Translated information is also available from the Multicultural Services page on the Centrelink website.

Special Requirements For Under 18's

Under 18? Haven't finished year 12?, and you leave or have left school after 1 July 1997, there are special requirements you need to follow to get Youth Allowance. These include:

- ❖ Undertaking full time education/training (unless exempt); or
- ❖ Agreeing to enter into a Youth Allowance Activity Agreement (usually with a component of education or training); or
- ❖ Gaining temporary exemption from these requirements.

For more information you can visit your local Centrelink office, check out the web site at www.youthallowance.centrelink.gov.au.

ARE YOU WORKING WITH LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL OR TRANSGENDER YOUNG PEOPLE?

Organisations you may need to know about

Organisation	Contact	Website
❖ Diverse Students Safe Schools	Louise 3266 5199	www.ribbon.net.au/~rcca
❖ The Rainbow Community Centre Assoc.	3891 6322	
❖ Rainbow Healers and Therapists Network Tim	3255 1029	
❖ Queensland Aids Council	1800 177 434	
❖ Safe Place Project	3891 9911	www.glwa.queer.org.au
❖ 2QT2BSTR8	Vicki 3208 8199	
❖ Gay and Lesbian Welfare Association	1800 249 377	
❖ Lesbianline	3891 7388	
❖ Gayline	3891 7377	
❖ Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gays	3844 1990	
❖ Lesbian and Gay Youth Support Group	3277 2171	
❖ Queensland Action Lesbian and Gay Rights	Shane 3892 5767	
❖ Queer Sexuality Area	Moo 3377 2214	

If you would like to access the GLBT Central-Base you will have access to over 100 organisations, services and groups. What is the GLBT Central-Base? It is a resource file which contains up-to-date listings and relevant information on over 100 organisations, services and groups which cater for the needs of GLBT people, currently Queensland wide, with the intention of becoming a Nationwide resource ultimately. To register your subscription or any expressions of interest contact the project coordinator, David Wells on 3217 6016 or 0411 081 653.

The Lord Mayor's Illicit Drug Taskforce Report 1999

The Lord Mayor's Illicit Drug Taskforce was established in July 1998. "Over the past two years, the Lord Mayors of all the capital cities in Australia have reached a consensus that existing policies and strategies in the drugs field, with their strong emphasis on prohibition and law enforcement, have failed to contain the problem of illicit drug use. They are convinced that new approaches are required."

There are a number of principles which underpin the strategies and recommendations presented in the recently released report. One of these principles echoes the above belief that there is a need to shift the balance of illicit drug policy away from law enforcement and the criminal justice system to a greater emphasis on treatment and rehabilitation. The ten principles include a call for people who use drugs to be treated with dignity and respect, recognition that no one is immune from drug use or drug problems, and an affirmation that new approaches to prevention, treatment and rehabilitation are essential.

The report highlights the Brisbane Drug Action Plan, which contains a series of strategies and initiatives relating to four key aspects identified by the Taskforce:

1. Community Awareness
2. Policy and Legislation Alternatives
3. Community Health and Safety
4. Community Partnerships

Since the release of the Report a number of public forums have been hosted by Council to hear community feedback on the Report and to discuss the Action Plan. Key issues discussed at these forums have included:

- The nature of the problem – community attitudes to illicit drug use.
- Drug policies – a 'health' or 'criminal' problem?
- The way forward – tougher laws, increased policing?? Or.....

Currently, 84% of all government spending on illicit drugs goes to law enforcement, with only 6% going to treatment and 10% to prevention and research. We need a new approach.

The Report is available and BCC is interested to hear views on the Report and Recommendations. Contact Council on 07 3403 8888.

Youth Allowance - Diary Date for 2000

A meeting has been scheduled for 8th March, 2000 in order to progress the recommendations from the Youth Allowance Forum held earlier this year. A comprehensive report is being finalised and will be forwarded to those participants who expressed interest in receiving the report. If you would like a copy give us a ring at YANQ – available February.

Anyone with an interest in Youth Allowance and the impact on young people and their families, community organisations and community is welcome to attend the meeting.

Meeting Date: Wednesday 8th
March, 2000

Time: 2.00 pm

At: YANQ – 8th Floor
317 – 325 George Street
Brisbane.

The Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission has initiated a network for young lesbian, gay and bisexual people in the rural and remote regional areas. The Outlink Project aims to bring together young lesbian, gay and bisexual rural people, and the people who work with them, so they can share their experience, skills and expertise and have a national voice.

In February 1997 the Human Rights Commissioner, Chris Sidoti, launched the Working It Out report- a needs analysis of sexual minority youth on the North West Coast of Tasmania. Not surprisingly the report found that lgbt young people experience extreme isolation, fear, discrimination and loss of opportunity. Factors which subsequent studies in Australia have shown result in much higher than average levels of drug and alcohol abuse, conflict with peers, parents and teachers, early school leaving, homelessness and ultimately, suicide.

The results of this and other studies prompted the Commission to successfully apply funds from the Australian Youth Foundation to employ a project officer, gay community advocate, Rodney Croome, to initiate a network of young rural lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people with a view to establishing better support services for these young people.

The specific aims of the first twelve months of the project are to conduct a national stocktake of existing services and support networks, establish a national network of young people and the people who work with them, draw a representative Committee of Management from the network to meet in Sydney and set priorities for government policy and the funding of support services, and to seek out extra funding from government and the corporate sector to ensure that the network can continue and at least some of the priorities set by the Committee of Management can be funded.

But of course there will be also equally

important outcomes from the first twelve months of the project. The most important of these will be the breaking down of the isolation of not only young lgbt's, but also the people who work with them. Outlink will enable all these people to share their skills, knowledge and expertise and for the first time have a national voice.

The importance of breaking down the isolation which exists, not only between same sex attracted young people, but also the people who work with them can never be over estimated.

In my travels so far I have found a far greater number and variety of existing support initiatives than I expected. But what I have also found is an almost complete lack of awareness of these projects outside the areas in which they operate, says Rodney Croome. Despite the importance of these initiatives none of them is well known beyond the regions in which they have

been developed. It is Outlinks job to publicise these projects so that other people in rural areas can learn from them and be inspired by them.

This extract has been adapted from information available at the Outlink Website.

Rodney Croome was a speaker at the Diversity: Challenging, Supporting, Celebrating, seminar.

For further information regarding Outlink Ph: 036234 3599
Fax: 036231 0773
The Outlink website is at outlink.trump.net.au

For all of the 130 participants who attended the Diversity Seminar a report has recently been completed and will be distributed in the New Year. If anyone else would like a copy of the document please contact Carolyn Grant At YANQ Ph: 3236 5400

Research with a Rural Focus

Two recent studies reveal the higher rate of risk behaviors and psychosocial stressors amongst same sex attracted youth in rural and regional areas.

Following an earlier study which found that 10% of a sample of rural 14-18 year olds report same sex attractions, a study in 1998 of a sample of rural, regional and some urban 14-18 year old same sex attracted youth by Lynne Hillier and Jenny Walsh from the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society at La Trobe University found that

- 46% reported verbal and physical abuse 70% of which occurred at school.
- 11% reported IV drug use compared to 1% of all young people. They also report higher rates of drinking and marijuana and heroin use.
- Only 5% of same sex attracted youth sought help from counsellors and 14% from teachers

Young Lesbian Drug Use Extremely High

This article originally appeared in the magazine "Lesbians on the Loose" See www.lotl.com

Recent findings from Australia's first National Report on Same – Sex Attracted Young People have indicated that young lesbians are using drugs more often than young gay men. Further analysis of the survey, commissioned by La Trobe University's Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society, has shown an 'extremely high' number of young bisexual and lesbian women have either injected drugs or used marijuana.

The study, advertised in youth lifestyle magazines and on the Internet in 1998, attracted 750 participants between 12 and 21. Of those surveyed 23 percent of young women and 19 percent of young men revealed they regularly smoked marijuana. They were almost eight times more likely to be using the drug on a weekly basis than the general school aged population.

Data showed a 'surprisingly' high number had injected drugs: 11 percent compared with less than 2 percent in the general youth population, and young women were twice as likely to have injected drugs than young men. The results came as a surprise to researchers at La Trobe as statistically young men were thought to be higher consumers of injecting drugs. "The result was so unexpected that we went back and checked our data," Dr Lynne Hillier, head of the national study told said.

According to Dr. Hillier, the lack of research into the issues surrounding young women has led to unfounded myths and assumptions defining young lesbians as a safe, low risk group. "There has been so little focus on young women and sexuality, certainly young women with same sex attraction, that we know very little about them. When you look at research that's been done on sexual minority young people you find that the focus is generally on young men. Young women who are attracted to the same sex, whether they identify as lesbian or not, are the group that has been really neglected."

Youth Pathways Action Plan Taskforce

Why a Taskforce?

The Youth Pathways Action Plan Taskforce was convened in response to a key recommendation of the Prime Minister's Taskforce on Youth Homelessness.

The Taskforce has been asked to consult and advise government on the scope and direction of a Youth Pathways Action Plan, which will include:

- Improving support for young people and families during transitions to independence.
- Strengthening pathways for young people at risk of not proceeding successfully from school to further education and training or on to full-time employment.

The Terms of Reference

1. The Taskforce will provide advice to government on the scope and direction of a youth pathways action plan aimed at: a) improving support for young people and their families during young people's transition to independence: and

b) strengthening pathways for those young people who do not, or are not likely to, go straight from school to further education and training or full employment and those who are not fully engaged with their community.

2. The Taskforce should:

- a) examine the scope and direction of a youth pathways action plan;
- b) identify best practice and major gaps or shortcomings in existing support for young people and their families; and
- c) consider possible initiatives for improving services and introducing innovative approaches to prevention, early intervention and community based initiatives.

3. The scoping report should take account of the broad objectives of a youth pathways action plan to

improve outcomes for young people by:

- a) strengthening existing pathways for young people with a particular focus on assisting those young people at risk;
 - b) improving early assistance for young people, before they reach crisis point;
 - c) reducing the duration/extremity of crisis by quickly helping young people to move out of crisis situations;
 - d) strengthening and supporting families' and communities capacity to help young people; and
 - e) finding innovative ways of expanding opportunities for young people to participate in the economic and social life of their communities.
4. The Taskforce should report to government by March 2000 with recommendations for action, including proposed mechanisms for taking these recommendations forward. This should include a draft taskforce work plan if continuation of the taskforce is recommended.

Who is on the Taskforce?

The Taskforce is chaired by Captain David Eldridge of the Salvation Army. Other members represent community organisations, academia, business and the Commonwealth and State Governments. There are also two young people on the Taskforce.

The secretariat comprises members from both the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) and the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DETYA)

For more information:-

The Youth Pathways Action Plan Taskforce Secretariat can be contacted

continued on pg 18

continued from pg 17

through:

Location 743 – DETYA
GPO Box 9880
Canberra City
ACT 2601
Telephone: 02) 6240 9471
Facsimile: 02) 6240 9145

The Taskforce will launch a web site in early December. For further information visit

www.detya.gov.au/ty/youthpathway

If you or your organisation would like to make your views known or provide a submission.

The closing date for submissions is 31st January 2000

Submissions can be emailed to youthpathways@detya.gov.au or sent to the above address.

YOUTH FORUM ONLINE

You can register at <http://www.youthforum.net> and participate in a range of YFO discussions/consultations.

YFO facilitator Julian Pocock can be contacted on ph. 03 9639 6611 (Thurs – Fri) and email: julian@dsf.org.au

Youth Forum Online Topic Four is an opportunity to participate in consultation regarding the Youth Pathways Action Plan Taskforce. The Taskforce has agreed to utilise the YFO as part of its consultations and is encouraging YFO members to provide advice, ideas and comments for the taskforce to consider.

Key issues for discussion/feedback/comment

Whilst all comments are welcomed people may wish to focus their views on:

- The major system changes which you think need to be looked at, in areas like the Common Youth Allowance, employment assistance, employment creation, reform of education, schools and training systems, public and community housing etc.
- The program changes or additions that you think are needed e.g. Jobs Pathways, Work for the Dole, Supported Accommodation Assistance Program, VET in schools etc.

FULL SERVICE SCHOOLS

Many of us have heard the terminology Full Service Schools over recent years/months. What does it mean currently.

The Full Service Schools for Students at Risk program is an initiative which addresses the Commonwealth Government's priority of reducing youth unemployment by encouraging young people under 18 to remain at or return to school to complete Year 12.

In order to receive Youth Allowance, eligible young people under 18 years who have not completed year 12 or equivalent are required to be in full-time education or training unless they are specifically exempted from this requirement.

The Full Service Schools (FSS) for Students at Risk program is part of a package of Commonwealth initiatives (\$42.61 million over three years) which provide additional funding to schools, industry and community groups to provide education and training for these young people. The other measures are the Jobs Pathway Program and the New Apprenticeship Access Program.

The Full Service Schools Program has two funding strands:

- Full Service Schools for Students at Risk – Projects in Schools, and
- Full Service Schools for Students at Risk – Strategic Projects.

Full Service Schools for Students at Risk – Projects in Schools

The Full Service Schools – Projects in Schools element provides funding of \$18 million over the period 1998 – 2000. Funding under the FSS – Projects in Schools element was made available to States and Territories based on the distribution of young people in receipt of Youth Training Allowance.

The objective of the Full Service School Program – Projects in Schools is to provide additional support to schools to develop innovative programs and services that address the specific needs of young people returning to school following changes to the Youth Allowance and for current students who are at risk of not completing year 12 or

making a successful transition from school to work.

The target group is young people under 18 years of age who have not completed year 12 and who return to school, and students who are at risk of not completing Year 12 or making a successful transition from school to further education, training or employment.

The funds are intended to be used to assist State and Territory systems and schools to meet the cost of initiatives addressing the needs of students in the target group. For example funds may be used to:

- develop and deliver special programs for the target groups;
- employ specialist teachers or counsellors;
- provide professional development for teachers and other staff;
- assist students to access other government and community support services; and
- develop and deliver pre – vocational education or pre-employment courses.

Systems/schools are expected to use Commonwealth funds to complement the use of State funds and programs for the target group.

Schools in areas with the highest need, including government and non – government schools, were encouraged to participate in the development of a Project for the area. Projects need to demonstrate collaborative partnerships between government and non – government schools and if appropriate other government and non – government organisations. To facilitate links between the government sectors and to ensure that comprehensive services are provided in any given region a State/Territory steering committee will manage the implementation of the program.

Full Service Schools for Students at Risk – Strategic Projects

Funding has also been directed to contribute to the pool of information and resources available on a national basis to address the needs of young people who are 'at risk' of not completing year 12 to a satisfactory level and making a satisfactory transition to further

continued on page 19

continued from page 18

education, training or work.

Projects under the Strategic Element will:

- identify and promote best practice
- research issues associated with young people especially those in the target group
- contribute to the range of support materials which benefit school level initiatives, and
- evaluate strategies that seem to be most effective in assisting young people make successful transitions to further education, training or work.

The FSS program is funded by Department of Education Training and Youth Affairs and administered by Education Queensland in this State. The FSS State contact in Education Queensland is Patricia Simmons, contact 07 3237 1053.

If you are coordinating or involved in a Full Service Schools Program give us a call at YANQ. We are keen to hear about the great work that is being done under this program.

The Australian Centre for Equity Through Education (ACEE) has released a series of papers – Thinking about Full Service Schools, They are designed to contribute to discussion and debate and to inform practice. Some are written for the series; others reproduced with the permission of the authors and publishers, Order forms and further information available by contacting ACEE on 02 9596 2948.

Facts on FACS

The Family and Community Services portfolio is responsible for a broad range of social policy affecting Australian society and the living standards of Australian families, communities and individuals.

The portfolio is responsible for

- income support
- housing policy
- disability services
- child care services and family issues
- family payments
- child support an
- family relationships

The portfolio consists of

- the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS), which incorporates the Child Support Agency and CRS Australia;
- Centrelink
- The Social Security Appeals Tribunal; and
- The Australian Institute of Family Studies.

The portfolio has two ministers. The minister for Family and Community Services is Senator Jocelyn Newman. The second portfolio minister, the Minister for Community Services, is the Hon Larry Anthony, MP.

The Departments Priorities

The vision of FaCs is to create a fair and cohesive Australian society by strengthening the capacity of individuals, families and communities to contribute to, and benefit from greater involvement in all aspects of life.

FACS has as its focus these key social policy outcomes.

- Stronger families
- Stronger communities
- Economic and social participation

Complementing these social policy outcomes are three strategies:

- ◆ Prevention through capacity building and early intervention
- ◆ Promoting independence, choice and self – reliance
- ◆ Maintaining a strong and sustainable social safety net

For more information contact the Department of Family and Community Services on 1300 653 227 or visit the internet site at www.facs.gov.au.

The Government's Welfare Review

On 29th September 1999 the Minister for Family and Community services announced that the Government will conduct a review of the welfare system. A reference group has been established to oversee the development of a Green Paper on Welfare Reform.

A Discussion Paper THE CHALLENGE OF WELFARE DEPENDENCY IN THE 21st CENTURY has been released by the Minister, and initial submissions have

been requested to be lodged with the Department by 17 December.

It is understood that the Green Paper will be released in February 2000 and submissions will be invited in response to the paper. A final paper will be presented to the Minister in June 2000 and will be made available to the public.

Stay tuned for further information regarding this initiative.....

YOUTH ALLOWANCE FORUM REPORT

For those of you patiently awaiting the Report from the Youth Allowance Forum earlier this year. The working party will have completed the draft report prior to the end of year. All those people who expressed an interest in receiving a copy of the report will be forwarded a copy in February. Anyone else who would like a copy please contact Carolyn at YANQ.

If you would like to be involved in furthering the recommendations of the Youth Allowance Forum Report, contact Carolyn or attend a meeting of the Youth Allowance Working Party on Wednesday 8th March 2000 at 2.00pm (One for next years diary)

DIVERSITY: CHALLENGING SUPPORTING CELEBRATING – REPORT

The report from the Diversity Seminar is completed and at the printers. All 130 participants who attended the two-day seminar will be forwarded a copy of the report. YANQ is currently updating the Mail List. Therefore, if we haven't been able to get hold of you ring us with changes to your details.

A limited number of Spare copies will be available in the New Year. If you would like a copy, get in early and ring through your details.

Backfilms & Broken Promises

Comment by Ingrid Scher, NCYLC
Graduate Law Clerk

This article first appeared in the National Children's and Youth Law Centre publication Rights Now

On the 25th August 1999, the Labor Party successfully negated six years of opposition to junior wage rates by supporting the Government's Youth Employment Bill (initially rejected by the Senate in March 1999). In a complete about face, the Labor Party has supported a Bill which in essence is the same as that which Labor voted against earlier this year. Not only does the Bill seek to permanently exempt junior wage rates from age discrimination legislation but ensures that such exemptions are further entrenched by also permanently exempting traineeships and apprenticeships from any anti-discrimination provisions. According to the Hon. Peter Reith, "Labor has done a backflip of massive proportions over junior rates. From reflecting them out of hand - from actually being 'chuffed' at their defeat only six months ago - Labor has capitulated to reality".¹

However, the reality for young people is the inevitability of a permanent relegation to low paid jobs with little redress to bargain in any realistic way with employers about their pay and conditions. Young people with little experience in the workforce are particularly vulnerable when dealing with employers. They often accept poor working conditions and put up with discriminatory practices because they do not know how to access advice about their basic entitlements. Even when they do seek advice, they are not always prepared to act because of the fear of losing their job. According to NCYLC Director, Mr. Louis Schetzer "entrenching age discrimination against young people in the workplace is a backward and regressive step, which will do little to improve the prospects of employment for young people or their economic vulnerability". It is yet another step down the path of diminishing the incentive of young people to enter the workforce, remain in the workforce, and acquire new skills whilst in the

workforce."

The deal to extend youth wage rates for 16-21 year olds beyond June 2000 is condemned by the NCYLC. The current exemption contained in the Workplace Relations Act 1996 and modified as the result of a compromise between the Hon. Peter Reith and the then leader of the Democrats Cheryl Kernot meant that junior wage rates would have to be removed from federal awards from 22 June 2000 as they could be viewed as discriminating directly on the basis of age. The full Bench of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission reported to the Minister for Industrial Relations in June 1999 pursuant to s 120B of the Workplace Relations Act on the feasibility of abolishing junior wage rates (Junior Rates Inquiry) after the Workplace Relations Legislation Amendment (More Jobs, Better Pay) Bill 1999 was passed by the House of Representatives. Notwithstanding the fact that the Full Bench acknowledged the feasibility of alternatives confirmation that the Coalition ought to support his move to entrench youth wages in all awards. Although the government has now accepted that junior rates will not be mandatory in all awards, the deal provides for an extension of junior rates to new firms and industries on a case-by-case basis with the AIRC having the final word on whether junior rates are extended into or removed from awards on a case-by-case basis.

The impact of the Bill also needs to be examined in terms of Australia's obligations as a signatory to the UN convention on the Rights of the Child (CROC) and the Convention on Economic, social and Political Rights (CESPR). Article 7 of the CESPR obliges State parties to ensure that all people are granted the right to "fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value without distinction of any kind". Junior rates of pay are particularly open to criticism in relation to this Article. Accordingly to former NCYLC Director Robert Ludbrook, age discrimination "cannot be justified in terms of justice or equity. No doubt it has persisted because children and young people are not an effective lobby group, are not unionised and hold little political power. Their lack of voting power makes

it easy for politicians to deny them equal treatment".²

The NCYLC is deeply concerned by Labor Party support for the Bill. According to NCYLC Director, Mr. Louis Schetzer, the agreement between the Opposition and the Government to permanently exempt junior wages from a general ban on aged-based discrimination constitutes a clear under valuing of the skills of young people in the workplace. "This tells young people that it doesn't matter what skills you have, it doesn't matter what training you've had, it doesn't matter how efficiently you work, you can be paid less simply because of your age". Even more disappointing is that the agreement reached does little to improve upon Reith's legislation. Rather, the agreement produces a quick and deceptively simple resolution to a complex and problematic issue.

Although the Bill represents a watered down compromise from the original position advocated by the Government, it still relies on the faulty premise that entrenching junior rates of pay signifies support for youth employment. "Payment of lower wages to young people has done nothing to alleviate the serious levels of youth unemployment over the last 20 years, we are still looking at an unemployment rate for 15-19 year olds in excess of 25%".³ While the government sees amendments to the Workplace Relations Act 1996 as part of a "sensible" and "inevitable" progression which will "secure the jobs of thousands of young Australians",⁴ it fails to recognise that discounted wage rates have been neither successful in promoting jobs for young people nor for safeguarding their fragile position in the labour market.

The deceptive simplicity of junior rate classifications has been used as a justification for their retention. Proponents of maintaining the current system rely on 'scare tactic' arguments, namely that "changes which might have the effect of significantly increasing the relative cost of teenage labour beyond its real value to an employer [would] make teenage employment even more precarious".⁵ Certainly, retention of the current system on the basis that any change would result

in unemployment is idiosyncratic. Ultimately, the idea of a 'youth' wage "disguises the fundamental fact that it is the employer who benefits the most from such arrangements, by being able to pay a wage that is less than the socially defined value of labour power for most adults".^v

The ALP/Reith 'compromise' falls a long way short from the development of a skills-based alternative to age-based junior wage rates. Indeed, one of the recommendations of the AIRC Junior Rates Inquiry in June 1999 was that the introduction of skill-based awards could be used in combination with a training agenda which would provide access for young people who wish to improve their level of skill achieved. There is adequate data available to show the parlous state of unemployment and under employment of young people and their comparative disadvantage in the workforce to be more than concerned about the Youth Employment Bill. Following a skill/competency based path can only improve the general level of worker's skills, which in turn will feed into the general economy and improve the competitiveness of Australian industry.

The 'youth wage deal' has also been criticised by the ACTU, which was shut out of the Parties' confidential decision-making process, in that it "does a grave disservice to young workers by cementing the continuation of arbitrary discrimination against them based solely on their age ... the problems facing young people will not be resolved by cutting young workers wages or by maintaining the status quo".^{vi} The NCYLC contends that there needs to be a fair and enduring reform of junior rates of pay and calls on the Labor Party to revoke their support for the government's amendments to the Workplace Relations Act regarding youth wages.

Legislation which is grounded in the exploitation of community concerns about youth unemployment and actively advocates discrimination contradicts the Government's credo of "protection of the Australian sense of a fair go" laid down in the 1996 Workplace Relations legislation.^{vii} It seems that in reaching their compromise position, both the Coalition

and the Government have forgotten that a 'fair go' for some does not equal 'a fair go for all'. Once again, the Government's pledge that the 'overall approach' to be adopted in its implementation of reforms to the current system "is to reflect the principles underpinning the 1996 Act and to ensure their more widespread application" remains at the level of unenforced rhetoric.

ⁱ Media Release, 25 August 1999 available online at www.dewrsb.gov.au/minister/reith/mediarelease/1999/pr102_99.htm.

² Discussion Paper published by the NCYLC – "Youthism: Age Discrimination and Young People."

³ Comment by NCYLC Director, Mr. Louis Schetzer.

^{iv} *Supra* at note i

^v Australian Industrial Relations Commission, Junior Rates Inquiry: Report of the Full Bench Inquiring Under Section 120B of the Workplace Relations Act 1996, 4 June 1999, xiv.

^{vi} White, "Young People, Waged Work and Exploitation", *Journal of Australian Political Economy* 40, 1997, p61 at 67.

^{vii} ACTU Media Release, 25 August 1999 – available online at www.actu.asn.au/media/media99/990825junior.htm.

^{viii} The Principal Object of the 1996 legislation was "to provide a framework for co-operative workplace relations which promotes the economic prosperity and welfare of the people of Australia [by]... respecting and valuing diversity of the workforce by helping to prevent and eliminate discrimination."



Stop Press Stop Press

The Prime Minister has announced the **TOUGH ON DRUGS DIVERSION PROGRAMME**.

“Under this programme, first time or minor drug offenders will be diverted to compulsory assessment and then referred to treatment and/or education aimed at getting them off drugs.” Says John Howard. “The diversion initiative strengthens our Tough on Drugs policy by providing a new early intervention focus.”

“The introduction of a national diversion initiative, for which the Federal government will provide over \$110 million, delivers on the commitment I made together with Premiers and Chief Ministers on 9th April. In addition, around \$110 million has also been allocated by the Commonwealth for a range of related support measures, including schools and community initiatives.”

Stay tuned.....



One Day In Peace

This message is being promoted via email. One day in peace is a concept of a 24 hour period where no guns are fired anywhere on earth, including on television.

What if: for 24 hours, whoever was at war in December 1999, agrees that for one whole day, no guns would be fired. The silence would be golden.

What if: the television programmers of the world agreed not to air any programming with a violent content?

At present, this one day in peace concept is beginning to get further circulation. Can you spread this concept so that a possibility might become a reality?

This is a ‘thought wave campaign’ - that is to say, the more people who grasp this thought, the more it comes into reality.

One day in peace, January 1st 2000. Pass it on! It is already in thought.

"Need Money for a Community Project?"

In 1998/99, the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund allocated over \$2.215 million to projects targeting young people. However many organisations may still not know about the fund and how it can assist local communities.

Who Can Apply?

Virtually all non-profit organisations can apply for a grant either in their own right if incorporated, or through a sponsor organisation.

What Can the Funds Be Used For?

The Fund was established in early 1994. It is sourced from levies on gaming machine and Keno tax collections in hotels and clubs. Its purpose is to develop and strengthen the capacity of non government organisations to provide community services and activities with grants of up to \$15,000.

Applications for innovative projects requiring grants over \$15,000 will be considered. If your group is considering an

application for a larger grant, please contact the secretariat for a copy of the criteria for grants over \$15,000.

While many funded projects are for the purchase of equipment, the development of facilities, or other minor capital works, the fund also provides money for one off events, recreation activities, and community education activities.

Examples of projects, identifying young people as their primary target group, that received funding in 1998/99 include:

- ◆ Othilia's Young Women's Housing and Support Service Inc, Brisbane, received a grant of \$7,500 to purchase a computer to assist their work with young women and children who are at risk of homelessness.

- ◆ Cooktown and District Youth Association received a grant of \$8,000 to establish a community radio station for the use and enjoyment of young people in the area.

- ◆ The Lions Club of Rainbow Beach Inc received a grant of \$10,000 to construct a skateboard area which will provide local young people with activities particularly

through the school holiday period.

- ◆ Young Mothers for Young Women, based in Brisbane, received a grant of \$12,000 to undertake a six month peer support project including advocacy and support for young mothers. The project will be evaluated and the results will inform local groups to assist in improving their responses to young women.

How to Apply

Community Organisations are invited to submit applications for future funding rounds. Funding rounds close on 31st March, 30 June, 30th September, and 31st December each year.

More information, application forms and guidelines for applicants are available from the secretariat on Freecall 1800 633 619 or on (07)3247 4284



Australia's Welfare 1999

This book can be purchased from the Government Info Shop, located at City Plaza Cnr Adelaide & George Sts Brisbane Q 4000 for approximately \$35.00

Alternatively you can purchase your copy via mail order:

- √ GPO Box 84
Canberra ACT 2600
- √ Phone Sales:
132 447 (toll free within Australia, 24hr service)
- √ Fax an Order

Counting the Homeless- Implications for Policy Development

A landmark research report released on the 2/12/99 by the Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates that on the 6th August 1996 there were 105,304 homeless people in Australia.

"The report by Dr. Chris Chamberlain, Head of Sociology at Monash University, analysed data from the 1996 census, from supported Accommodation Assistance Programs (SAAP) throughout Australia and academic research.

For more information please contact Anne Hugo, Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies on ph: 6136226 7818
or <http://www.acys.utas.edu.au>

Forde Enquiry

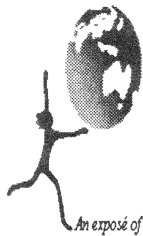
Reports are available from the
Commission at

PO Box 554
Brisbane Roma St Q 4003

YANQ would like feedback from
members in regards to the report
and ideas for future action plans.

Please Contact Carolyn Grant at
YANQ on (07) 3236 5400

Conferences/training/events



2000 FIRST INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE MODELS CONFERENCE

An exposé of service responses to challenging youth issues

Adelaide

12-15 March 2000

Highlights

- ◇ INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
- ◇ SEVERAL YOUTH PRESENTATIONS
- ◇ 120 SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

from Australian and overseas on good practice service responses to a range of challenging youth issues.

Full information and registration details at

www.youthchallenges-conf.net



An initiative of the Government of South Australia

Office of Employment and Youth

To obtain further information,

Ph: +61 8363 4399

Fax: +61 8363 4677

'Y Generated' Youth Expo

"Y-Generated is a youth expo that will be held on the 5th of February with the collaborative efforts of Ipswich City Council, Drug Arm, The Department of Families, Youth & Community Crae, Pulse and HAPY. It is aimed at the Ipswich and West Moreton area with a primary focus on providing young people with alternatives to drug use

Please contact HAPY for further details on:

Ph: 3812 1050

Fax: 3812 2971

Suicide Prevention Australia

7th National Conference

Saturday 1st to Monday 3rd April 200

Melbourne Convention Centre Australia

For details and registration please contact:

The Conference Secretariat

Suicide Prevention Australia

PO Box K998

Haymarket NSW 2000

Ph: 02 9211 1788

Fax: 02 9211 0392

Diary Date
















The 6th State Youth Affairs Conference is planned for the 1st of November 2000.

Please put this in your diaries

interagency meetings



Regional Queensland

-  **Bundaberg Youth Forum** Contact: Jan Molloy (JPET worker), Skill Centre, PO Box 694, Bundaberg Q 4670. Ph (07) 4153 4233 Fax (07) 4153 1181. Meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 80 Woongarra Street Bundaberg
-  **Cairns Youth Services Network** Contact: Desley Renton, YDO, Cairns City Council, PO Box 359, Cairns Q 4870. Ph (07) 4044 3353 Fax (07) 4044 3830. Meets on the last Thursday each month at Lifeline, Aumuller St, Cairns.
-  **Central and North Burnett Community Service Network (YDIG youth sub group)** Contact: Andrew Crowthers, Monto Neighbourhood Centre, PO Box 97, Monto Q 4630. Ph (07) 4166 1733 Fax (07) 4166 1061. Meets 1st Monday of each month (venue changes).
-  **Central West Youth Network** Contact: Nicole Lester, DTSY, PO Box 218, Longreach Q 4730. Ph (07) 46574340 Fax (07) 46574989 Meets First Thursday of each Quarter. (venue changes).
-  **Emerald Youthlink Network** Contact: Brad Witt, Rural Youth Worker, Emerald Shire Council, PO Box 21, Emerald Q 4720. Ph (07) 4982 0540. Meets the first Monday every second month at the DFYCC Conference room, 51 Ruby St, Emerald.
-  **Gladstone Youth Interagency** Contact: Kevall Johnstone, Gladstone City Council, PO Box 29, Gladstone Q 4680. Ph (07) 4972 4855 or 0419 776 643. Fax (07) 4972 6557. Meets first Wednesday of every month. Venue: Neighbourhood Centre, 105 Tooloora St. Gladstone Q 4680
-  **Hervey Bay Youth Sector Workers Network** Contact: Sue Lawler, PO Box 45, Torquay, Hervey Bay Q 4655. Ph (07) 4125 0230 Fax (07) 4125 0303. Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month. Venues subject to change.
-  **Innisfail Youth Services Network** Contact: Rebecca Hyde, PO Box 887, Innisfail Q 4870. Ph (07) 4030 2255 Fax (07) 4061 6005. Meets 2nd or 3rd Tuesday of the month at Alan Maruff House, Innisfail.
-  **Mackay Youth Connection & Network Inc** Contact: Andrea Baird, YACCA, PO Box 560, Mackay Q 4740. Ph (07) 4953 5577 Fax (07) 4953 5731. Meets monthly at YACCA, 10 River Street, Mackay.
-  **Magnetic North Youth Service Providers** Contact: Monica McCabe, PO Box 573, Townsville Q 4810. Ph (07) 4771 3648 Fax (07) 4721 5804. Meets 3rd Tuesday each month from 10.30am at Migrant Resource Centre, T&G Building Cnr Stanley and Flinders Sts, Townsville Q 4810
-  **North-West Region Youth Interagency Network** Contact: Warren King, DFYCC, PO Box 2816, Mt Isa Q 4825. Ph (07) 4743 6689 Fax (07) 4743 3951. Meets every two or three months (venue changes).
-  **Rockhampton Youth Interagency** Contact: Scott Green, Youth Trek, 22 Quay St, Rockhampton Q 4700. Ph (07) 4921 4488 Fax (07) 4921 2362. Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Community and Public Health Centre at 10.30am.
-  **South Burnett Youth Development Network** Contact: Shirley Varrall, PO Box 326, Kingaroy Q 4610. Ph (07) 4162 5052 Fax: (07) 4162 5120. Meets monthly at the Child Health Bldg, Kingaroy.
-  **Sunshine Coast Youth Workers Forum** Contact: Eric Moes, Maroochy Shire Council, PO Box 76, Nambour Q 4560. Ph (07) 5441 8125, Fax: (07) 5441 8089. Meets every six weeks at Alcooringa, Ballinger Rd, Buderim.
-  **Toowoomba Youth Organisations Network (TYON)** Contact: Ed Bradbury, Department of Education, PO Box 38, Toowoomba Q 4350. Ph (07) 4688 4499 Fax (07) 4688 4498. Meets monthly (venue changes).

interagency meetings



South-east Queensland

- ☞ **Bayside Youth Link** Contact: Danielle Jenkins, (BABI) Wynnum Coordinated Community Response, PO Box 511, Wynnum Q 4178. Ph (07) 3245 7655. Meets monthly at Unit 1/92 Charlotte St, Wynnum Central
- ☞ **Beaudesert Interagency** Contact: Lu McGregor, Beaudesert Community House, PO Box 572, Beaudesert, Q 4825. Ph (07) 5541 3762 Fax (07) 5541 3654. Meets first Wednesday of the month 10am -12:00pm at Illoura Centre, 31 Duckett St, Beaudesert.
- ☞ **Beenleigh & District Interagency** Contact: Kerry Clayton, BAYS Assoc. Inc, PO Box 1147, Beenleigh Q 4207. Ph (07) 3287 1375 Fax (07) 3287 1735. Meets monthly at Community Health, Mt Warren Blvd, Beenleigh.
- ☞ **Brisbane Inner Urban Youth Interagency** Contact: Mitchell Dobbie at Drug Arm, 83 Castlemain St Milton Q 4064. Ph: (07) 33683822 Fax: 3367 3289 Meets 1st Wednesday of the month, 10am -12pm at Drug Arm.
- ☞ **Caboolture Youth Network** Contact: Janine Botfield, Caboolture Shire Council. Ph (07) 5495 0342 Fax (07) 5499 1332. Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month at Dept. of Families, Youth and Community Care, Level 3, King Street, Caboolture.
- ☞ **Gold Coast Youth Network** Contact Gerina Appo, Gold Coast Youth Service, PO Box 6155, Tweed Heads South, NSW 2486. Ph (07) 5524 7566 Fax (07) 5524 8026. Meets last Wednesday of month. For information on venue please contact Gerina Appo.
- ☞ **Inala Youth Interagency** Contact: John Rigsby-Jones, Inala Youth and Family Support Service, PO Box 141, Inala Q 4077. Ph (07) 3372 2655 Fax (07) 3372 2710. Meets at 12:00pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Centrelink Office Wirrawat St Inala.
- ☞ **Ipswich Youth Focus** Contact: Mark Smith, Ipswich City Council, PO Box 191, Ipswich Q 4305. Ph (07) 3810 6656 Fax 3810 6741. Please contact Mark Smith for details on dates and venues.
- ☞ **Logan Youth Interagency Network** Contact Jane Gardiner. PO Box 3226 Logan City DC, QLD 4114 Ph (07) 3826 5107 Fax (07) 3808 0014. Please contact Jane Gardiner for details.
- ☞ **Pine Rivers Youth Service Providers Network** Contact: Di Cotling, Youth Care Pine Rivers, PO Box 143, Strathpine Q 4500. Ph (07) 3881 2823 Fax (07) 3881 1047. Meets 1st Monday of every 2nd month.
- ☞ **Redcliffe Youth Service Providers Network** Contact: John Dawkins, Redcliffe City Council, PO Box 66, Redcliffe Q 4020. Ph (07) 3283 0365 Fax (07) 3883 1630. Meets every two months at Cascade Place, Hutchinson St, Redcliffe.
- ☞ **Redlands Youth Network** Contact: Christine D'Arcy, Redlands Health Service Centre, PO Box 585, Cleveland Q 4163. Ph (07) 3240 8311 Fax (07) 3821 4782. Meets 3rd Monday each month 9:30-11:30am at Redlands Health Service Centre, Hospital Grounds, Cleveland.
- ☞ **South-east Youthlink Interagency** Contact: Renee Simons at Southside Education Centre, PO Box 89, Wellers Hill Q 4121. Ph (07) 3848 3143 Fax: 3848 8677. Meets every second Tuesday of the month, 9am - 11am at various venues.
- ☞ **Youth Health Interagency** Contact: Lea McLaughlin at Brisbane Youth Service, PO Box 1389, Fortitude Valley Q 4006. Ph (07) 3252 3750 Fax (07) 3252 2166. Meets every two months at Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Cnr Water & Rogers Sts, Spring Hill.

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 over 400 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?

Membership of the network is open to anyone with an interest in youth affairs, who subscribes to the aims and

objectives of the organisation.

Become a member...

... and make a difference!

Keep up-to-date

- Free newsletter quarterly, *Network Noise*
- Free fact sheets distributed regularly, *In fact...*
- Discount on other YANQ publications, such as *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

aim

- To improve the quality of life of young people in Queensland and thereby improve the quality of life of society.

objectives

- To establish a state youth affairs

network to foster cooperation and consultation and develop shared perspectives among young people, organisations working with young people, youth workers, others concerned with youth affairs and those who work with youth;

- to identify the needs and views of young people and to make these known at local, state and national levels;
- to promote the interests and well-being of young people in Queensland, especially disadvantaged young people;
- to encourage the participation of young people, minority groups and disadvantaged young people in the developing youth affairs network;
- to act as a clearing point for information to and from the youth affairs field on issues of relevance;
- to advocate, assist and support the development of policy positions on issues affecting young people and the youth affairs field, and to provide advice, perspectives and advocacy to governments and the broader community;
- to recognise and support the special needs of non-metropolitan young people, groups, associations and workers;
- to ensure consultation with non-metropolitan young people, groups, associations and workers on issues and processes that may impact upon them;
- to support and encourage the development of new methods for meeting the needs of young people.

Join today!

Simply fill in the application form, detach and return it to YANQ with your membership fee payment.

For more information please call us on (07) 3236 5400 or 1800 177 899.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

(Contact) Name: _____ Ph: (____) _____
Organisation/Dept: _____ Fx: (____) _____
Postal Address: _____ Post Code: _____
Street Address: _____ Post Code: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY APPLIED FOR

Young Person Income < \$25,000 \$10.00
Individual Income < \$25,000 N-G Govt \$25.00
Income > \$25,000 N-G Govt \$40.00

(Individuals must pay by personal cheque, money order or cash)

Organisation Funding < \$100,000 \$55.00
Funding \$100,000-250,000 \$95.00
Funding > \$250,000 \$150.00

No funding - apply to YANQ for special consideration

Government Department or Service \$150.00

email: _____

I hereby subscribe to the aim and objectives of YANQ and enclose a cheque/money order for the prescribed membership fee.

Signed _____ Date _____

(Applications must be approved by the Coordinating Committee.)

Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc.

PO Box 70, Brisbane Roma St Q 4003

Phone: (07) 3236 5400 or 1800 177 899 Fax: (07) 3236 5411