

# Network Noise

Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

Quarterly Newsletter November 2003



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Have you voted for a politician lately? If you answered yes, then you are obviously eighteen or older, because despite being treated as adults in other important areas, sixteen and seventeen year olds in Queensland have no political say.

In a society like ours, voting in elections is the major way most people take part in the political process. There are other methods, of course. You can write letters or emails to the newspapers. You can write or lobby your local Council representative, State MP or Federal member of Parliament. You can push for change in institutions like schools, hospitals, local councils and so on.

You can take grassroots action without waiting for Governments to do anything. Some would say this is a more empowering approach. You could consider setting up community organisations to address a particular issue. You can take part in community activities, volunteer for Red Cross, St. Vinnies, or your local neighbourhood centre. You could organise a protest with other local people.

Still, the right to vote is a very important part of living in a democracy. If politicians didn't have to listen to voters at all, things could be even worse than they already are. Why should young people be denied the opportunity to state their preferences? If young people had the power to vote pollies in and out, maybe they wouldn't be so quick to jump to the youth-bashing "law and order" agenda every time an election loomed.

*continued on page 2*

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## Contributions

### Welcome

Ring, write, email or fax

your latest news on...

- workshops & events
- youth programs
- training events
- projects
- change of address
- latest resources
- research news
- innovations

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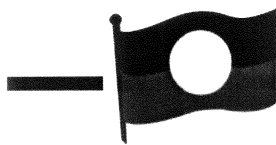
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<http://www.yanq.org.au>

The views and opinions contained  
in this publication do not necessarily  
represent the views of YANQ.  
YANQ also does not necessarily endorse  
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YANQ believes that the primary culture of Australia is Aboriginal.

We recognise that Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Islander peoples are 3 separate cultures. We recognise Aboriginal people as the permanent custodians of mainland Australia, including those areas of land whose owners have been wiped out as a result of racist policies and acts. We use the term **custodianship** in the context of protection and care for the land. YANQ is committed to respecting Murri communities and individuals. We seek to understand their responses to policies and issues affecting them. We are committed to learning about their understandings of the impact of decisions on them. YANQ apologises for the past and present social mistreatment of Murri and Islander people created by colonisation, and is committed to supporting the healing process.

## Lower the Voting Age!

Young people of sixteen and seventeen already:

- pay taxes on the income they earn, and have NO SAY in how these taxes are spent
- are able to join the armed forces and fight in wars (making life and death decisions)
- at seventeen, are locked up in adult prisons in Queensland if they commit a criminal offence
- may easily be parents or carers of children themselves
- drive cars on public roads (more life and death decisions)

Young people are often portrayed in the media and by older people generally as being unthinking and unable to make important decisions. But sixteen and seventeen year olds are being unreasonably discriminated against in this crucial area of political participation. There is no logical reason to deny sixteen and seventeen year olds the franchise!

**It is time to lower the voluntary voting age to 16, with the compulsory voting age remaining at 18.**

Aristotle -

'The true forms of government, therefore, are those in which the one, or the few, or the many, govern with a view to the common interest; but governments which rule with a view to the private interest, whether of the one, or of the few, or of the many, are perversions. For the members of a state, if they are truly citizens, ought to participate in its advantages.'

# ASIO and Young People

What would you advise a young client who told you that Government officers had burst into his home at 2 o'clock in the morning and held him there against his will and interrogated him for 7 days? The young person wasn't told what he did wrong, and even the people questioning him said that they did not suspect him of any offence, just that they thought he may have some information that would help them. Perhaps this is based on things his parents are involved in, or the activities of friends at school. He assures you he doesn't know anything, but was told unless he can prove it, he could be jailed for 5 years.

He asked to see a lawyer, but she wasn't able to help much, for as soon as she tried to advise him or ask the interrogators why he was being detained, she was kicked out. Same with his father who had been allowed to sit in while he was strip searched and questioned, but as soon as his father started objecting to what was going on, he was accused of being disruptive and removed.

The youth says that the officers told him that although they weren't allowed to hurt him, if they did he wouldn't be able to tell anyone who they were anyway as their identity was top secret. He asks you – is this allowed?

Under sweeping new reforms to ASIO's powers in the Government's anti-terrorism legislation, the answer is yes. You may think that this scenario is exaggerated, and not all aspects of it would really be allowed because our criminal justice system protects the rights of innocent people. However, under the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Act 2003 ('the ASIO Act'), this scenario is entirely possible, and perhaps more worryingly, entirely legal.

Since the shocking terrorist attacks in New York and Bali, countries around the world have taken steps to beef up their counter-terrorism laws. Australia is no exception, and in March 2002 the Federal Government proposed expansive new powers for ASIO which included indefinite incommunicado detention of non-suspects (i.e. people detained without charge or access to legal representation). In the Government's original proposal, children from the age of 10 years old were subject to the same regime.

One of the most worrying aspects to this legislation is that it still applies almost equally to children as it does to adults. The Act allows for the detention, questioning and strip searching of children aged 16 and 17 years old. While it ensures that children have access to a lawyer and a family member, and imposes guidelines on when and how youths are to be strip searched, other than that the Act applies to children in the same way as it applies to adults. It also has severe implications for people such as counsellors and youth workers, as anyone who could reasonably be believed to hold information that could be of use to ASIO in their investigations could be targeted under this legislation.

Amnesty International used the examples of a teacher and a student to illustrate some of the potential breadth of scope of the new laws. In a hypothetical situation, a student submits an essay on terrorism, and somehow it becomes known to ASIO that the essay perhaps contains information that isn't widely known (although could have been obtained from the internet). ASIO picks up both the student and the teacher who corrected the essay for questioning, and detains them in the process. Both the student and the teacher are obliged to answer questions, unless they can prove they can't answer.

The system has the potential to be one of 'guilt by association' or a process that is used as a fishing exercise. Of particular concern for caseworkers and others is the lack of protection of confidentiality. While a lawyer's professional privilege is protected, the ethical or professional obligations of doctors, priests, journalists or others are not protected, and thus they too can be forced to answer any questions or jailed for not doing so.

There has been community uproar since the introduction of such draconian powers in March 2002, and once the initial Bill was introduced in the Senate it was referred to a Senate Committee and a Joint Parliamentary Committee for review. The Committees received an unprecedented response of approximately 600 submissions. A later inquiry by another Senate Committee received another 434 submissions. The overwhelming majority of the submissions were against the ASIO Bill. A number of organisations made submissions that particularly pointed to their concerns about how the Bill would impact upon young people.

The three reports into this legislation all recommended sweeping changes, one reporting that the Bill 'would undermine key legal rights and erode the civil liberties that make Australia a leading democracy'. All reports recommended that children be excluded from the legislation, although the Government never agreed to this proposal.

After many months of negotiation and amendment the Bill was re-tabled in Parliament in March 2003. Its eventual passage through the Senate in June 2003 was guaranteed by the Opposition agreeing to key concessions made by the Government. One of these points that had been a bone of contention between the parties was the inclusion of children. The Government had raised the age to 14 years, and the Opposition insisted that children not be included. Once the Government signalled its willingness to raise the age again to 16 years, the Opposition capitulated. However, for most advocacy groups this is still not good enough. They claim it is still a breach of the rights enshrined in the Universal

Declaration on the Rights of the Child, such as the right to be presumed innocent, the right to silence and the obligation to protect a child's best interests. There is little doubt that this legislation provides for gross infringements upon the civil liberties of 16 and 17 year old youths.

So what does ASIO now have the power to do? With the Attorney General's approval they can obtain a warrant from a Federal Magistrate or a Judge as long as they have reasonable grounds for believing that detaining and questioning someone will substantially assist in the collection of intelligence regarding a terrorism offence, or in the case of a child, if they suspect that child has been involved in a 'terrorism act' (although this is very broadly defined). That person is then questioned in the presence of a prescribed authority (who can be a current or former judge, or President or Deputy President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal). The detained person can be questioned for up to 24 hours (in a maximum of three 8 hour blocks), and this questioning can be spread over a seven day period. This length of questioning is the same for children as for adults.

Both the Government and the Opposition have assured us that the Bill contains various safeguards to protect rights. However, many of these safeguards will be difficult to access and hard to enforce in practice. For example, while it is an offence for an ASIO officer to treat a detained person in a cruel, inhuman or degrading way, it will be difficult to enforce this when it is illegal to identify them.

The Bill has come under scathing criticism from many community groups and lawyers about the way in which it undermines our legal system and offends basic human rights principles. The Law Institute of Victoria has in particular been concerned with the way in which this Bill impacts upon children. Through our submissions and lobbying we have maintained that children should not be covered by this legislation at all. The Law Institute has submitted to the Government on numerous occasions that children are particularly vulnerable members of society, who perhaps do not have the same maturity and skills that adults placed in the same situation would have. To provide a system where there is little or no distinction between the questioning regime imposed on a child and that imposed on an adult goes against all of the 'standard features' of our criminal justice system.

High Court Justice Michael Kirby said in a recent speech that the Federal Government's planned anti-terror laws would never undermine Australian civil rights. Justice Kirby noted that section 75 of the Constitution provides Australians with the right of appeal to the High Court – a protection that no Government can legislate against. It will remain to be seen whether the Constitution can uphold the fundamental tenets of our criminal justice system ravaged by the ASIO Bill, particularly the usual protections provided to our young people.

By Claire Mahon & Karyn Palmer

Co-Chairs, Law Institute of Victoria Young Lawyers' Section Law Reform Committee

## Education Reform in Queensland

Most readers should be aware that Education Queensland is trialling changes to the education system. These changes go by the name "ETRF". They are a big and confusing set of changes, but basically what it means is:

- young people will have to stay at school until they are seventeen. They can leave earlier under certain conditions, like if they have finished grade twelve, or got a paying job, or are studying full-time at TAFE or some other training institution.
- Schools will have to keep better track of young people who drop out early
- Schools will have access to extra 'youth support co-ordinators' to help keep young people in school
- Students can do some of their grade ten, eleven and twelve through TAFE courses or other training providers

If you're confused about how ETRF will affect your community, you're in good company – a Government Minister was recently heard to ask what's ETRF?!

Most YANQ members work with, or are themselves, young people who depend on Education Queensland to provide them with an education. While most Queensland schools try hard to be inclusive, many many young people are falling through the cracks. Remote and rural students, Indigenous students, students from non-English speaking families, disabled students, gay and lesbian students, and very poor students are those most at risk of leaving school early.

Free universal education for every child is a fairly new idea in Australian (and world) history. In earlier times, education was only for the rich. It was assumed that poor children would always be unable to read or write. These days, we expect better. Education is now seen not as a privilege, but as a right of every Australian child. Cultural change is needed in Queensland schools if all our young people are actually going to have this right met. Class size is an issue. So is the culture of Queensland schools, which often fail to recognise the intelligence, potential and needs of their young people.

YANQ has finished a **Discussion Paper on ETRF**. To view this paper please visit our website at [www.yanq.org.au](http://www.yanq.org.au) or for a copy call 07 38447713. If education concerns you, please have a quick look and let us know if you agree or disagree with our research.

# Breaching

*The following article is excerpted from the report Breaching and Disadvantaged Young People: the Social and Financial Impacts. The report is the result of a joint project between the Social Policy Research Group of the University of South Australia and the Adelaide Central Mission, and the full version can be downloaded from [www.unisa.edu.au/sprg/inequalityandsocialexclusion.htm](http://www.unisa.edu.au/sprg/inequalityandsocialexclusion.htm).*

*Dr Lorraine Kerr from Deakin University and Harry Savelsberg from the University of South Australia authored the report, which analyses the effects of breaching on disadvantaged young people. 'Breaching' is the term used by Centrelink for the "process of designating certain conduct on the part of the recipient of an allowance as being a breach of the obligations that must be complied with in order to continue receiving the allowance. If a recipient is in breach, penalties must be imposed. These penalties involve reducing, or fully withholding, for a period the allowance that would otherwise be payable," according to the Report of the Independent Review of Breaches and Penalties in the Social Security System.*

*Michelle de Cean at YACSA also contributed to this article.*

*This article was first published in YACSAround Issue 3 July 2003*

A range of factors, most particularly labour market restructuring in recent years, result in the fact that Australian young people can no longer assume access to employment, a smooth transition from adolescence to adulthood, or full social and economic participation in their community. At the same time, Federal governments have implemented major shifts in employment/training services and income support for young people, while they are in education and while seeking work. However, an increasingly unstable labour market and contemporary youth policies do not affect all young people in equal measure.

Over the past four years, we have undertaken three studies that examined the impact of the introduction of the Common Youth Allowance in 1998 and the implementation of Mutual Obligation/Activity tests (as part of the Reforming Employment Assistance 1996 strategy). What we anticipated, and what the studies confirmed, was that although youth policy is mainly formulated as a 'one size fits all' model, young people are not all the same, do not have the same capacities and/or advantages and that the effects of the current policies are felt most profoundly by those who are already experiencing disadvantage. But furthermore, disadvantage is not experienced in a uniform way either.

Participants in our studies were all disadvantaged young people, but we found that they could be classified into three broad categories of disadvantage, depending on their life circumstances and the avenues of support available to them. In brief, Category 1 young people may be 'doing it tough' financially and having difficulties with education/training/employment, but have relatively stable familial and/or other support networks which will assist in everyday life and times of crisis. Category 2 are more likely to experience family instability, to be at risk of discontinuing education, have difficulties engaging in and maintaining links with employment/training, have more tenuous support networks and therefore more problems in coping with daily life and with crises. Category 3 are highly likely to have a history of alienating, conflict ridden and discriminating experiences of education, have very poor or non-existent relationships with families and tenuous links with peers or other support networks. Their lives are often characterised by abuse, conflict, mental health problems, substance abuse and transience – if not indeed homelessness. Young people in this category are often focused on short term survival, meeting essential needs and coping with crises, which makes long-term planning or commitment to any form of education/employment/training highly problematic.

The third study we conducted, which is the subject of this short paper, examined how being breached for non-compliance with a Mutual Obligation/Activity Test requirement affected young people who were already experiencing disadvantage.<sup>1</sup> We undertook this investigation because our previous research had revealed that many young people were failing to comply with a Mutual Obligation due to circumstances beyond their control. Such circumstances included their own or a parent's substance abuse or ill health, family violence, homelessness, non-receipt of Centrelink correspondence, or simply not having the resources – such as bus fare – to attend school, a job/Centrelink interview or similar. The next logical question for us was then 'what happens to these young people when part, or indeed all, of what for many is their only form of financial support is withdrawn?'

Intuition said of course there would be profound ramifications and that the 3 different categories of young people would experience the breach differently, depending on how much help they would get from their support networks. But we wanted to ask them why the breach occurred, what happened to them, what were the impacts on their lives and attitudes, and - importantly what would have helped them at the time, either to avoid the breach occurring or to cope with the effects.

The study's findings demonstrated that the impacts of the breaching penalties were severe in terms of their short, medium and long term effects. The most significant short term effect was the inability of respondents to meet basic needs such as food and accommodation as a result of financial shortfall. Given that most of the young people interviewed had

little or no financial support from parents or friends, even in times of crisis, this is an alarming finding. The implications of this are two fold. First, the inability of young people to meet basic needs is likely to result in frustration and rash behaviours such as crime to acquire essential goods and services and also to vent anger. Second, apart from the anti-social consequences of these sorts of behaviours the most immediate effect of the penalties was to reduce the capacity of the young people to function at a rudimentary level and, we argue, seriously impair their ability to comply with future Activity Test requirements. Hence the potential exists for a perpetual cycle of breaches and increasing penalties.

Perhaps the most notable medium term effect of the penalties was the impact on social networks and relationships. That is, already restricted opportunities to make and maintain social connections, such as sports groups, clubs or just going out with friends were further curtailed due to lack of funds. Close interpersonal relationships were often stressed due to financial hardship and the emotional anxiety resulting from the breach. Clearly the danger here is that young people will not engage with regular social networks which foster social integration.

The long term effects included issues of ongoing poor mental and physical health, often associated with poor nutrition, stress, isolation and substance abuse. Furthermore, because many severely disadvantaged young people are now serially breached the chronic health issues (and causes) manifest themselves as permanent features of the young people's lives, representing yet another dimension of social exclusion, if not testimony to the emergence of an underclass. Another long-term effect is an increasingly diminished capacity to undertake educational and employment/training programs, as the young person's disadvantage becomes even more entrenched.

Clearly the impact and consequences of chronic and acute multiple disadvantages resulting from breaches and attendant penalties is profound and may indeed contribute to permanent physical, mental and social disadvantage for many young people for whom life is already difficult in the extreme.

Dr Lorraine Kerr, Deakin University & University of South Australia  
Mr Harry Savelsberg, University of South Australia  
And also Michelle de Cean at YACSA

The full report Breaching and Disadvantaged Young People: The social and financial impacts can be accessed at [www.unisa.edu.au/sprg/InequalityandSocialExclusion.htm](http://www.unisa.edu.au/sprg/InequalityandSocialExclusion.htm)

## Sniffing Policy Released

YANQ has released its policy on young people and sniffing inhalants. The policy is available on the YANQ website [www.yanq.org.au](http://www.yanq.org.au).

YANQ believes that inhalants like paint and petrol are drugs of poverty. A wide range of measures is needed to help young people understand, avoid and/or minimise harm from these substances. Indigenous young people are over-represented in sniffer numbers. Girls as well as boys use inhalants, and the usage rate in females seems to be rising. Most often, living in desperate situations, turn to inhalants to block out their pain, or give them a peer group. Sniffing can provide an identity to young people who are unable to "fit in" elsewhere.

Inhalants have serious risks associated with them. If sniffers do anything strenuous while they're high, they can suffer Sudden Sniffing Death. Young people can become erratic or violent on inhalants, have fits or hallucinations. Some young people use inhalants experimentally, or only occasionally. It's likely that *once these young people stop using*, there may not be serious harm to their health as a result of short-term use. But Sudden Sniffing Death is always a concern. Pregnant girls should be discouraged from sniffing, as babies in the uterus can suffer permanent brain damage from inhalants.

**YANQ believes that sniffing should not be made illegal in Queensland.** If young people are behaving erratically while high, there is already enough legislation to allow police to intervene. Making sniffing itself an offence, will lead to confrontations with police and young people getting locked up. Avoiding putting young people in detention should be a priority of any sniffing program. There are better ways to proceed. Ambulance officers are much more appropriate people to help young sniffers.

If sniffing is made illegal, young people approached by police are likely to run away as fast as they can. This is the worst thing sniffers can do for their health. **More Sudden Sniffing Deaths will very likely result.**

Sniffing should be kept a social and health issue, not a legal issue.

# Values and Youth Work

As a value driven organisation, YANQ has decided to commit a page of Network Noise, on a regular basis, to exploring and promoting the idea of value clarification in the youth sector. This article is the continuation and conclusion of the article published in the June edition of Network Noise. This article is Copyright of S. Quixley, 1996. Non-profit community organisations are welcome to use the material, provided they don't charge for it and the source/author are fully acknowledged.

Part two of two.

## Key Exponents of the Four Approaches

**Treatment and Reform Approaches** for the basis of most *professional*<sup>3</sup> models of human services work. Most are based in the psychological, rather than sociological, disciplines. Most are focussed on work with individuals – or, where they are concerned with group work, it is with teaching groups to adjust to society's demands (eg. Training programs for the unemployed; most *self-help* models; conventional *community development* work). **Most models of youth work draw heavily on these approaches** ... in fact, they are widely taught in youth work courses, and are often advocated within the sector. The majority of practitioners with individuals (eg. Social workers, therapists, psychologists, psychiatrists), have been primarily trained to work from within this frame of reference. After all... why would society pay for provision of services which result in them being seriously challenged!?!

Most if the alternate ways of working (ie. **Collective Advocacy** and **Collective Empowerment**) have been developed in *the margins of the professions/academia*, or from outside them. **Again, these approaches get far less air-time within the youth sector, than the more conventional approaches.** Most are being developed/used by *non-professional* grassroots organisations. Such groups do not have the same means to document and publish their work as the *professional* groups.

These include:

- **social/political action groups** (eg. The women's movement, the gay movement) which offer their membership direct services such as counselling, support groups and training programs.
- **anti-welfare action groups** (eg. groups arguing the interests of the incarcerated, mentally ill, anti-poverty groups) which lobby against the system's power and provide services to those affected.
- **(some) self help groups** (...responding to everything from anorexia to agoraphobia! Including the trade union movement) which are concerned with offering preventative programs, and provide an alternative to those they've experienced from professional helpers.
- **lay therapy/counselling/encounter groups** (eg. Re-evaluation/ co-counselling) which are concerned with the whole context of an individual's life/needs/problems and focus on development of alternate *community*
- **anti-medical alternate professions** (eg palmists, naturopaths, astrologists), which propose, alternate social models.

It is important to note that some of these groups, which fall into the general headings above, base their approach on quite **conservative values**. In particular, some of the *self help groups* comprise of *survivors* whose only experience of a response to their problems has been the model(s) used on them by *professionals* ... which they in turn reapply to others dealing with a similar problem

## The Link Between Ideology and Youth Work Methods

Which of the above approaches did you *warm* to?

...*beliefs* are *values* that you haven't thought through ... that you simply accept without question

... you develop a *personal ideology* by thinking through your beliefs and arriving at values, which determine your *vision*, *analysis* and *strategy* in life

... *formal ideologies* can be a useful guide in helping you to work out a *package* of ideas that work for you, ideologically

The following diagram is an attempt to pull together three main things – some formal ideologies, the sorts of methods of youth work intervention/working/helping approaches that might be consistent with each, and the assumptions behind each approach. **Please note** that this table seeks to indicate **trends** in ideological thought, rather than prescribing who should believe what! (Apart from anything else many schools of thought within each formal ideology vary enormously ... some would even hold opposite views on the assumptions behind these approaches.)

<sup>3</sup> The term *professional* is used in 2 key different ways. Sometimes it is used to describe a standard/quality of service. It is also used to describe people who fit a particular qualified/socially acknowledged group of people. These two factors may operate independently of each other. For example, someone who is not qualified in a particular way may still provide a high quality of service! Conversely, the quality of service who is qualified may leave something to be desired!

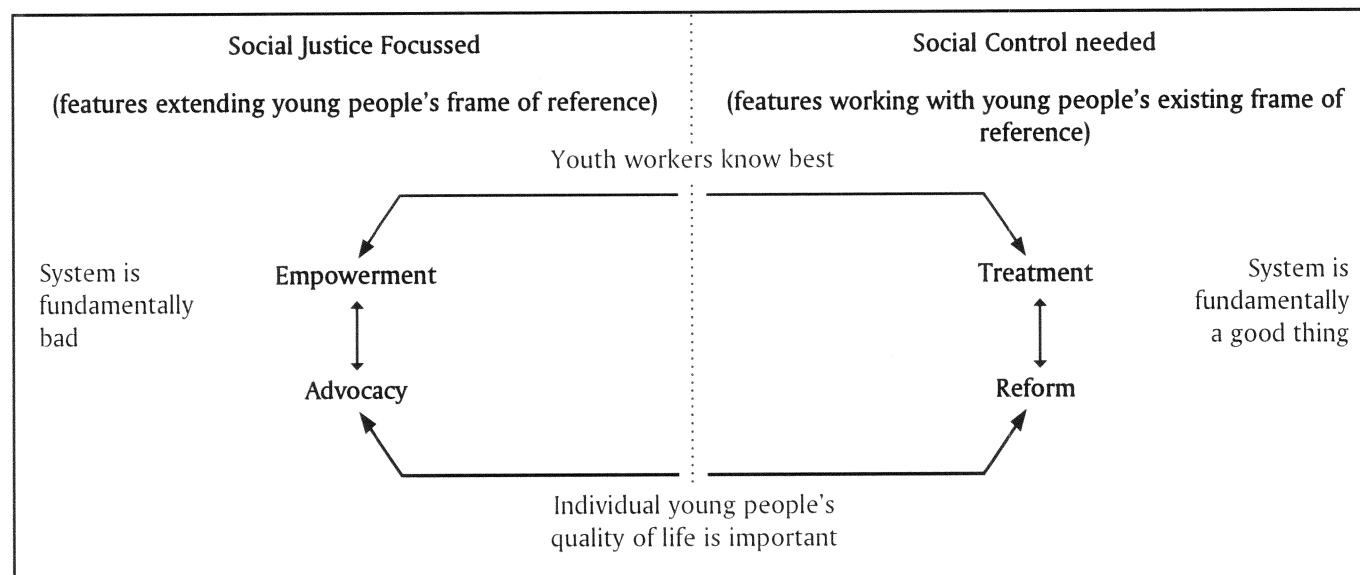
Formal Ideology	Model of Intervention	Assumptions/role of helping
Pragmatisms Individualisms Conservatisms Capitalisms	Treatment	<b>Assumption:</b> Individual Young people are responsible for their inability to act within the social system. Society is completely (treatment) or mainly (reform) sound <b>The role of helping</b> is therefore to change young people to fit better into society
Humanisms Liberalisms	Reform	
Marxisms Socialisms Feminisms Anarchisms	Advocacy Empowerment	<b>Assumption:</b> the problems experienced by individual young people mainly derive form factors in the social system (eg inequality – leading to poverty discrimination, etc) the overall focus of work with young people should be long term social change <b>The role of helping</b> is therefore to give the individual young people the means to cope with their maltreatment and/or act to change the factors affecting them (and others in similar situations)

**Table 1: relationship between formal ideologies and youth work**

The Youth Work Sector in Australia includes people holding elements of each of the formal ideologies listed here (...and many others besides!) Programs using all four models of intervention have been considered part of the sector. Many individual youth workers hold elements of *left wing* ideologies (ideologies in the bottom half) and *right wing* ideologies (top half)... perhaps you're one of them! Many youth agencies offer a range of services which include treatment/reform and advocacy/empowerment approaches.

### Another Way to Conceptualise Models of Youth Work

The term *social justice* has accumulated a range of definitions over the past few years. The following model draws on the original understanding of the term



### Summary

The concepts outlined above are designed to be tools to help you identify parts of your motivation for working with young people ...and to check that you are clear about why you are a youth worker. Hopefully, the above diagram will help you to identify the level of consistency/inconsistency in your day to day practice ... and to make the connection between your beliefs, values, personal ideology, agency values and practice.

### In the End, it All Comes Down to the Same Key Questions...

- ...what are the values you are working from?
- ...in whose interests are you working?
- ...why?
- ...what are the consequences for those you work for/with?

**Beaudesert Interagency**

Contact: Hugh Dunne  
PO Box 572 Beaudesert, Q 4285  
Ph: (07) 5541 4391  
Email: cdo@gil.com.au  
Meets 1st Wednesday of every second month 10am at the Illoura Centre 31 Duckett St, Beaudesert

**Brisbane Inner Urban Youth Interagency**

Contact: Clare Everson  
Ph (07) 3365 1278  
Email: ceverson@qld.redcross.org.au  
Meets 1st Wednesday 10am-12pm at Drug Arm 83 Castlemaine St Milton

**Caboolture Youth Network (YCAN)**

Contact: Kim Reid  
Caboolture Shire Council  
Ph (07) 5420 0342 Fax (07) 5420 0350  
Meets 3rd Wednesday of every month 1230-230pm at Caboolture Shire Council, Level 3, 33 King St Caboolture

**Gold Coast Youth Network**

Contact: Sylvia Roylance  
C/o Gold Coast Youth Services  
PO Box 740 Burleigh Heads Q4220  
Ph 55720400  
Email gcys@bigpond.com  
Meets last Wednesday of the month 1030-1230 at Robina Uniting Church Community Complex, 4 Greenwich Court Robina

**Inala Youth Interagency (LARGEFLY)**

Contact: John Rigsby-Jones  
Inala Youth and Family Support Service  
PO Box 141, Inala Q 4077  
Ph 3372 2655  
Meets 12 pm on 2nd Thursday of the month at Centrelink Office 2nd Floor Wirraway Parade, Inala.

**Ipswich Youth Focus**

Contact Mark Smith  
Ipswich City Council  
PO Box 191, Ipswich Q4305  
Ph (07) 3810 6656 Fax (07) 3810 6741  
Meets 1st Tuesday of the month at 1230pm at Ipswich Health Plaza Bell St Ipswich.

**Life's Worth It – Sandgate**

Contact: Bruce Cornish  
Ph: (07) 3869 0277  
Meets 2nd Tues every 2nd Month  
Sandgate Uniting Church  
116 Board St Deagon

**Logan Youth Interagency Network**

Contact: Melissa McKeering  
Community Youth Development Officer  
Logan City Council  
Ph (07) 3826 5632 Fax: (07) 3808 0014  
Email: Melissamckeering@logan.qld.gov.au  
Meets 2nd Monday of the month 3pm-5pm at Logan PCYC Conference Room (PCYC is situated behind the Logan City Council Chambers next door to the swimming pool) Jacaranda Av, Woodridge.)

**Pine Rivers Youth Service Providers Network**

Meeting Room Facilitator Di Cattling  
Youth Care Pine Rivers  
PO box 143 Strathpine Q4500  
Ph (07) 3881 2823 Fax (07) 3881 1047  
Meets 1st Monday of every second month 2pm at 16 Lincoln St Strathpine

**Redcliffe Youth Service Providers Network**

Contact: Darren Dallinger  
Redcliffe City Council  
Ph 3283 0217  
Meets 2nd Wednesday of every second month 3pm at Redcliffe Area Youth Space

**Redlands Youth Network**

Contact: Courtney Gillot  
Youth support worker  
Redland Shire Council  
Ph 3829 8233  
Meets 3rd Monday of the month 930am-1130am, at Redlands health Service Hospital Grounds Cleveland

**Service Providers Action Group For Youth**

Contact: Ryan Foster (Piccabeen)  
Ph 3354 2555  
1st Thursday of every 2nd Month at 3pm at Piccabeen 22 Hoben St Mitchelton

**South-east Youthlink Interagency**

Contact Steve Potts  
Ph 3349 2855  
Meets 2nd Tuesday of the Month 9am-11am at JPET house 1792 Logan Rd Upper Mt Gravatt

**Youth Health Interagency**

Contact: Jill Diggles  
Ph: 0402276 116  
Ph 3350 8948  
Meets monthly on 3rd Tuesday at Child and Youth Mental Health Service Rogers St Spring Hill 230pm 4.30pm.



### **Bundaberg District Youth Sector Network**

Contact: Peter Callen  
PO Box 2252 Bundaberg 4670  
Ph (07) 41540324  
Peter.cullen@qed.qld.gov.au  
1st Thursday of month at Bundaberg Skill Centre,  
Bigara Rd, Bundaberg

### **Cairns Youth Service Network**

Contact: Fiona Norman  
Youth Development Officer  
PO Box 359, Cairns Q 4870  
Ph (07) 40443031 Fax (07) 40443830  
Email f.norman@cairns.qld.gov.au  
Meets last Thursday of month 3.30pm  
Cairns City Library, Abbott St Cairns

### **Central and North Burnett Community Services Network**

Contact: Andrew Crowthers  
Monto Neighbourhood Centre  
Ph (07) 41661733 Fax (07) 41663186  
Contact: Brad Mitchell  
Mundubra Community Development  
Ph 41654690  
Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month 10am to 3pm (venue changes)

### **Central West Youth Network**

Contact: Ellie Tarver  
PO Box 102, Longreach Q 4730  
Ph: (07) 4658 0431 Fax: (07) 4658 3265  
Meets every 2 months (Venue charges)

### **Emerald Youth link Network**

Contact: Mathew Sampson  
Rural Youth Worker, Emerald Shire Council  
PO Box 21, Emerald Q 4720  
Ph (07) 49820540  
Email msampson@emerald.qld.gov.au  
Every 6 weeks

### **Gladstone Combined Youth Interagency and Youth Suicide Prevention Network**

Contact: Andrea Hughes  
Gladstone City Council  
PO Box 29, Gladstone Q 4680  
Ph: (07) 49766300 Fax: (07) 49726557  
Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 1100am. Neighbourhood  
Centre, 105 Toolooa St Gladstone.

### **Hervey Bay Youth Sector Workers Network**

Contact: Sue Lawler  
Hervey Bay City Council  
PO Box 5045 Hervey Bay, Q4655  
Ph: (07) 41974330 Fax: (07) 41974303  
Email: suel@herveybay.qld.gov.au  
Meets last Tuesday of each month at 1030am, contact Sue for  
venue details.

### **Warwick Youth Network**

Southern Downs Health Service District  
Contact: Julianne Williamson  
Po Box 273, Stanthorpe, Q 4380  
Ph (07) 46815260 Fax (07) 46815228  
Meets Quarterly, dates change Warwick Community Health Office.

### **Innisfail Community Sector Network**

Contact: Wendy Zerner  
Ph: (07) 40302210  
Meets last Thursday of every second month at Parish Centre,  
Rankin Street, Innisfail

### **Mackay Youth Connection & Network Inc**

Contact: Amanda Sulter  
Mackay Youth Support Service  
PO Box 1813, Mackay Q 4740  
Ph (07) 49577949 Fax (07) 4957 7637  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month 11am at community Health Centre

### **Magnetic North Youth Service Providers Association Inc**

Contact: Mark Davis  
Ph (07) 47799911  
Email mark.davis@lccq.org.au  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of month from 10:30am  
Migrant Resource Centre T&G building, Cnr Stanley & Flinders Sts,  
Townsville.

### **MICAT (Mt Isa Combined Action Team)**

Contact: Helen McKerrow  
Education Qld  
Ph (07) 4744 8212  
Email Helen.mckerrow@qed.qld.gov.au  
or Madonna Kennedy, Tropical Public Health  
Ph: (07) 47495623  
Email Madonna\_kennedy@health.qld.gov.au  
Meets twice per school term  
Contact Helen or Madonna for details

### **Rockhampton Combined Youth Interagency and Suicide Prevention**

Contact: Ronee Butler  
Central Public Health Unit  
Ph: 49206879  
Email ronee.butler@health.qld.gov.au  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month 930am to 1130am venue  
changes

### **South Burnett Community Network Welfare Workers Netwkr**

Contact: Leslie Burgess  
CTC Youth Service  
PO Box 490, Kingaroy Q 4610  
Ph (07) 4162 7788 Fax (07) 4162 2783  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month at Wondai Council Supper room  
10am – 12noon

### **South West Youth Interagency**

Contact: Karl Dadds or Cristal Treadwell  
South West Health Community Program  
PO Box 219 Charleville Q4470  
Ph (07)4654 4388 Fax (07) 4654 4389  
Meets once a month contact Karl or Cristal for details

### **Sunshine Coast Youth Workers Forum**

Contact: Terri Shine  
Ph: 5438 0376  
Mob: 0407036736  
Email t.shine@caloundra.qld.gov.au  
Meets Quarterly contact Terri for details

### **Toowoomba Youth Organisations Network (TYON)**

Contact: Ed Bradbury  
Department of Education  
PO Box 38, Toowoomba Q 4350  
Ph: (07) 4616 9111 Fax: (07) 4616 9100  
Email edward.bradbury@qed.qld.gov.au  
Meets periodically contact Ed Bradbury  
Also runs an email discussion and announcement list contact Ed for  
details

\*TO KEEP OUR RECORDS CURRENT PLEASE NOTIFY  
YANQ OF ANY CHANGES TO YOUR DETAILS

# YANQ Membership/Subscription

Application Form Tax Invoice

ABN: 28 205 281 339

All relevant fees have 10% GST included. Must be paid by personal cheque, money order, credit card or cash

Category Applied For:

Individual /Young Person (aged 12-25 years) Membership ☐

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Receiving Centrelink \$ 5.00 ☐

Young Person \$ 10.00 ☐

Income < \$25 000 \$ 15.00 ☐

Income < \$25 000 - \$50 000 \$ 40.00 ☐

Income > \$50 000 \$ 50.00 ☐

Must be paid by personal cheque, money order, credit card or cash

Organisational Membership ☐ Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: Title \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Community Not for Profit Organisation

Funding < \$100 000 \$ 55.00 ☐

Funding \$100 000 - \$250 000 \$ 80.00 ☐

Funding \$250 000 - \$400 000 \$120.00 ☐

Funding > \$400 000 \$150.00 ☐

For Profit Organisations

Community Organisation \$165.00 ☐

Subscriber ☐ Department/Service \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: Title \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Community Not for Profit

Individual \$ 60.00 ☐

Organisation \$160.00 ☐

For Profit \$ 200.00 ☐

Government Department or Service: \$185.00 ☐

Federal, State, Local

Pay by Credit Card: American Express ☐ Bankcard ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐

Card Details

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and support the objects and the values summary of the Network and hereby request to become a member of the network.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a current financial member of the Network, second the application.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

N.B. If for some reason you are unable to sign the values and vision statement of the Network you are entitled to become a subscriber after submitting the relevant fee.

# 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?

### Full Membership

Membership of the network may be granted to youth organisations, Youth Workers and young people in the non government youth sector who have:

Agreed to support the objects and values summary of the network and paid the prescribed fee and completed the relevant application form

### Subscriber

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

Become a member... and make a difference!

### Keep up to date

- Free newsletter quarterly, Network Noise
- Free Infact sheets distributed regularly
- 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

## YANQ Aims

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

## YANQ Objects

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

## Join today!

Simply fill in the application form, detach and return it to YANQ with your membership fee payment. For more information please call us on (07) 3844 7713 or 1800 177 899 (available for regional Qld)

## Summary of our Values

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

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

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

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

We believe that a range of strategies is required to achieve constructive social change. Governments in Australia appear committed to stopping the voice of those who challenge their misplaced priorities. YANQ is responsible for being a strong public voice which lobbies and advocates on behalf of those young people who particularly miss out in society, and of young people as a whole. To undertake this role effectively, it is crucial that we draw on the expertise of those working most closely with issues affecting particular groups of young people - young women and young men themselves, youth workers and youth organisations. That's why networking is another important social change strategy; it enables the youth sector to participate in collective action.

Ultimately, YANQ's credibility is maintained by practicing what we preach. Our whole structure is designed to ensure that our values and vision permeate the organisation. We are committed to maintaining an open, flexible, accountable, consistent, inclusive, valuing approach in all our dealings - within YANQ, and in our relations with our members and the wider community. We are committed to applying our values in everything we say, and everything we do.