



# STATE YOUTH AFFAIRS CONFERENCE 2014

**CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS**

**AUGUST 21 & 22**

**MERCURE HOTEL**

**BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA**

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# STATE YOUTH AFFAIRS CONFERENCE 2014

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**The Youth Affairs Network Qld, Inc announces a call for presentations and workshops for its Working Together for Young People State Youth Affairs Conference.**

In August 2014, youth sector delegates from across Queensland will join together to engage in discussions on how to save Youth work in Queensland. The 2014 State Youth Affairs Conference will aim to highlight the unique role, which youth workers play in the lives of marginalised young people and the significant contribution of this work to the broader community. The conference will be an opportunity to network with other youth workers and explore collectively how we can position ourselves as Youth Workers to be able to continue doing the work we are so passionate about.

This is the first youth affairs conference since the election of LNP and defunding of YANQ, reigniting the strong tradition of biennial youth affairs conferences in Queensland dating back to early 90's. The conference will explore the complex environment of the youth services sector through unpacking new research and thinking in youth work practices, workforce development innovations and community and government service provision priorities. Sharing of ideas, knowledge, possibilities and solutions across the human services sector will provide an exciting and challenging conference program.

## CONFERENCE STREAMS

The conference will be streamed into six key content areas that cover a broad range of essential topics about youth work in Queensland in both keynote addresses and workshops.

### Youth Work and Youth Sector in Queensland

This is the major stream of the conference exploring the unique role of a Youth Worker and how we can maintain this distinct practice in light of all pressures on the sector. With all the changes to funding guidelines and further moves to turn human service organisations into businesses we are faced with major challenges to justify our existence and continue meaningful engagement with young people.

### Youth Justice

Since the election of LNP two years ago, there has been a raft of new legislation targeting young people. Unfortunately we have lost some of the most successful youth justice programs and have gone back decades to a focus on punishment. The conference will be an opportunity to explore how we can work collaboratively in our advocacy work, from local level to international alliances.

The youth justice stream will consider the over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the criminal justice system and youth justice system. There will also be a focus on the high number of young people in youth detention centres who are on remand and the problem of locking up children in adult prisons in Queensland.

### Education and Training

This stream will focus on strategies for engaging young people in education and learning including how to re-engage young people in learning after they have moved away from formal education and other service systems.

### Youth Health

This stream will explore key health issues faced by young Queenslanders including sexual health and mental health and services, programs and partnerships providing responses.

### Youth Housing

Housing continues to be one of the main obstacles faced by young people across Queensland. This stream will focus on housing needs and issues for young people across Queensland.

### General

A general 'working with young people' stream will provide an opportunity for a range of presentations and workshops critical to youth work practice which may not fit into the above five themes such as working with young women and LGBT issues.

## KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

The exploration of youth work practices and the development and delivery of innovative responses occurs across all facets of the youth sector. The conference seeks to engage people from across all levels of the sector to ensure keynote presentations and workshops capture the experience and expertise in the sector.

We invite presentations and workshops in one of the six key content streams above that:

- address concepts such as social justice, values and ethics
- utilising collaborative approaches to enable enhanced practice
- showcase education, training and development responses
- demonstrate cultural awareness and inclusion
- provide important academic and field practice research findings
- share strategies and activities through case studies and practical stories
- present technological solutions
- relate to specific communities; geographical or demographic

Workshops and presentations may explore aspects of the broad conference streams in relation to any of these areas, discussing current realities and future possibilities across the youth sector.

## CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

1. To explore possibilities for maintaining a distinct identity and practice called “Youth Work”
2. To connect youth sector workers, managers and leaders to share successes, stressors and innovations
3. To promote innovative youth work models and strategies in response to young people's rights, organisational/community needs, challenges and share research to inform practice
4. To understand and influence government policy in key areas affecting the development and sustainability of the youth sector

## WHO WILL ATTEND

The youth sector is made up of a broad range of service providers in the community and government sectors, and includes practitioners, managers and volunteers who cover a diverse range of service delivery purposes and practices. Those attending the conference will include:

- Youth Workers and other professionals working with young people
- Small to medium community based not-for-profit services
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth workers and community services

- Education and training providers
- Government agencies in both their service delivery and policy roles
- Larger church and charitable organisations that have a number of youth services across the state
- Peak organisations and representative groups from across the industries
- Culturally and linguistically diverse communities and refugee youth service providers
- Universities and other research institutions
- Anyone working with young people or interested in the youth sector

## EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST IN PRESENTING

To submit an expression of interest in providing a presentation or conducting a workshop or discussion panel, please complete the Call for Presentations & Workshops form below.

The date for submissions is **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2014**.

All submissions will be considered by the conference organisers, and priority will be given to those that best achieve conference objectives. Submissions will be accepted by email and receipt of proposal forms will be acknowledged by email.

Proposes will be notified of acceptance by mid- April 2014.



## Call for presentations and workshops form

**Presenter's details**

Title (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr, etc): **SURNAME:**

**GIVEN/FIRST name:**

**Position:**

**Organisation(s) or affiliation:**

(if applicable)

**Postal address:**

<b>State/ Territory</b>	<b>Postcode</b>	<b>Country if other than Australia</b>
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**Phone:**

**Fax**

**Mobile:**

**Email: (essential)**

**Co-presenters name and  
organisation:** (name)  
(If applicable): (organisation)

**Details of your presentation:**

*This information will be used in  
our printed and web conference  
materials if your presentation is  
selected*

**Title of  
presentation:**

**Brief summary  
of presentation:**  
(100 words)

**Description of your  
presentation**

A short abstract or  
synopsis (up to  
500 words)  
covering:  
\*main ideas  
\*topics covered  
\*what participants  
will get out of it

## Keynote presentations and workshop form (cont)

What is your preferred timeframe for your presentation?

- 30 minutes
- 45 minutes
- Flexible about timeframe
- Other – please specify

Indicate which best describes your presentation or workshop style

- Lecture/presentation
- Interactive workshop
- Panel presentation
- Other – please specify

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### Conference Themes

*Presentations and abstracts must cover at least one of the conference themes.*

### Primary Theme (one only)

- Youth Work and Youth Sector in Queensland
- Youth Justice
- Education and Training
- Youth Health
- Housing
- General

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### Biographical note on presenter/s

(up to 150 words per person)

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Return to: **Working Together For Young People  
State Youth Affairs Conference 2014**

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Due date: 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2014  
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