



youth affairs network qld

Annual Report 2007/2008



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Queensland Government
Department of **Communities**

YANQ acknowledges funding support from:
Department of Communities – Office for Youth
Multicultural Affairs Queensland

YANQ extends its appreciation to Telstra for donating 5000 \$5 Telstra cards for distribution to young people in need.

YANQ would also like to thank all individuals and organisations that have assisted us with our work during the past twelve months.

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Acknowledgement of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders

We believe 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.¹

Aboriginal Flag



The Aboriginal flag was designed by Harold Thomas in 1971, and first flown in Adelaide's Victoria Square. The flag is still widely recognised today as being the symbol of the Aboriginal people for the Aboriginal people.

The flag is made up of three colours-black, red and yellow. Black represents the Aboriginal people of this land, the red represents the earth we live and feed off and the yellow represents the sun, "the giver of life".

Torres Strait Island Flag

The Torres Strait Island flag was designed in 1992 by a 15 year old student, Bernard Namok of Thursday Island. The flag has a white star underneath it.

The green represents the land and the Deri is a symbol of all Torres Strait Islander people.

The black represents the people and their culture while the five pointed star symbolises the many island groups and represent peace. The flag also stands for unity and identity of all Torres Strait Island people.



About the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland

The Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc (YANQ) is the peak community youth affairs organisation in Queensland, representing individuals and organisations from Queensland's youth sector.

We promote the interests and well being of young people across the state by:

- disseminating information to members, the youth sector, and the broader community
- undertaking campaigns and lobbying
- making representations to government and other influential bodies

¹ This is an extract from YANQ Values – for a full outline of YANQ's value see www.yanq.org.au/values.

- 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
- input into policy development
- enhancing the professional development of the youth sector

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 that respond to the rights and needs of young people.

YANQ employs a small team in its Brisbane based secretariat. The organisation is managed by a committee.

A Summary of YANQ's 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.

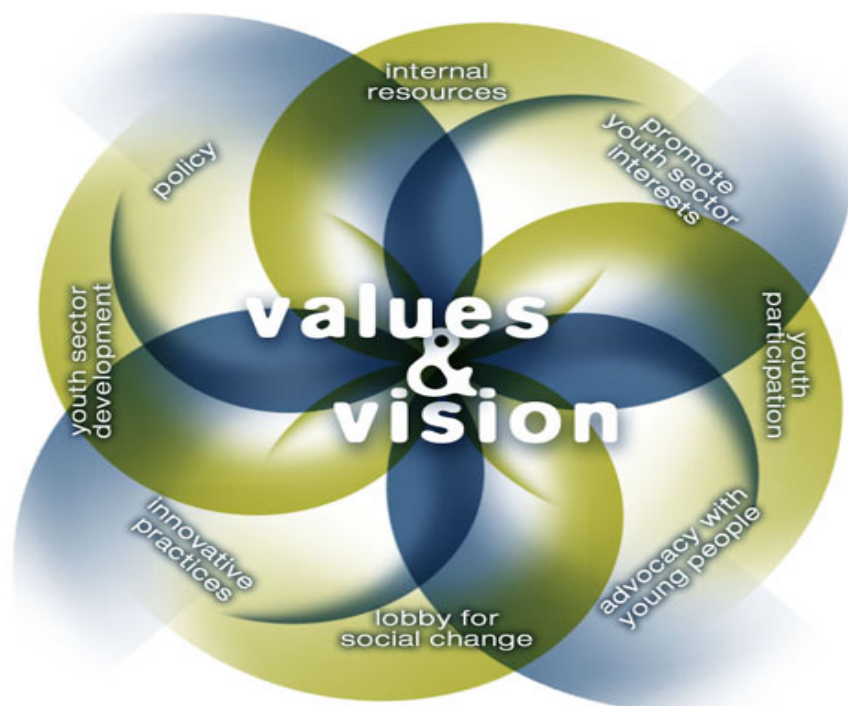
We aim to contribute to developing a society that genuinely includes all its members. That's why we are committed to promoting multiculturalism (in its widest sense), and supporting and respecting the wide range of cultures that are part of Australian society. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 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.



The YANQ Team from July 2007 to June 2008

Committee Executive

Mr Phil Dodds **President** - July 2007 to December 2007
 Ms Patricia Ferrier **President** - December 2007 to present
 Mr Adrian Hepi **Vice President**
 Ms Matilda Alexander **Secretary** – July 2007 to December 2007
Treasurer – December 2007 to present
 Ms Diane Forsyth **Treasurer** - July 2007 to December 2007
 Mr Adam Barnes **Secretary** – December 2007 to present

Committee Members

Ms Liz Shields (resigned December 2007)
 Ms Gillan Mason Johnson
 Mr Jarryd Williams
 Ms Tanya Genito
 Ms Anne Castles
 Ms Angela Barnes
 Ms Tamsin McGuin
 Mr Barry Springett

Staff

Mr Siyavash Doostkhah
Director
 Mr David Powell
Network Development Officer
 Ms Kirsten McGavin
Multicultural Development Officer
 Ms Marilyn Topp
Administration & Finance Officer

President's Report

Congratulations to the staff and other management committee members for a productive year. Thanks to the staff who have a great commitment to YANQ's values and work. They have worked very hard and this year's report will identify what they have been working on in greater detail.

Perhaps the biggest change that has happened since our last Annual General Meeting is that Australia has had a change of government. This has brought with it some important milestones which are worth noting. Firstly the Federal Government's apology to Indigenous People of Australia and in particular the Stolen Generations. YANQ looks forward to working with State and Federal Governments to further reconciliation, such as the development and implementation of a Treaty.

Secondly the funding of a national youth peak body, the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC), which has come out of the Australian Youth Forum initiative. YANQ, through our Director, Siyavash was heavily involved in organising consultations and developing the funding proposals for AYAC.



One other significant initiative of the Federal Government is its change of policy in relation to mandatory detention of refugees, using detention as a last resort when dealing with refugees in Australia. This is a much welcomed and significant change which is in line with YANQ's values.

In relation to YANQ's initiatives in 2008, the Re-engagement Research Project announced at last year's Annual General Meeting has been making progress. A census has been conducted (with results to be released by the end of 2008), a research proposal investigating non-traditional schooling has been developed and 17 papers and 6 digital artworks from young people published in the special 'Re-engagement' edition of *new Transitions*.

Another important initiative was the Young Muslim Women's Participation in Sport Research that was undertaken in partnership with Al-Nisa. The report was launched at Government House as part of a forum on issues relating to Muslim Women.

Also worth a mention is a project that YANQ coordinated with the Coalition Against Inappropriate Remand (CAIR). This coalition published 'Rethinking Youth Remand & Enhancing Community Safety' which was submitted to government in February/March this year. This project focused on enhancing community safety by creating more options for young people on remand (awaiting trial or sentencing).

YANQ has also continued to focus on strengthening the youth sector and brought together a number of partners to review the training needs of the Youth Sector. This will assist YANQ to develop a training strategy for the sector. This work has resulted in YANQ obtaining resources to begin this project in 2009.

Also starting in early 2009, YANQ will be supporting the establishment of a Youth Disability Advocacy Service. Dr Bob Jacobs will be residing in Queensland next year and he will dedicate the first six months of the year to support this initiative.

Staffing during the last financial year has been relatively stable with no staff changes. Thanks to Siyavash (Director), David (Network Development Officer), Kirsten (Multicultural Development Officer) and Marilyn (Administration and Financial Officer) for their hard work and contributions.

One significant change in our management committee this year was the resignation of Diane Forsyth who was elected as a councillor in the local government elections early in 2008. Di had been on the YANQ committee for 10 years and has been an important part of the development of the values which are now embedded in YANQ's Constitution. Di had been treasurer for many years and was very committed to the ongoing strength of YANQ as a peak body. Thank you Di for all your hard work and great spirit over the years - you have been an integral part of YANQ.

It is important to acknowledge all of YANQ's members who are an extremely important part of our organisation. Thanks for your support in 2008. Also thanks to our funding bodies, Department of Communities - Office of Youth and Multicultural Affairs of Queensland.

I hope you enjoy this report.

Trish Ferrier, President

Youth Consultative Network

See www.yanq.org.au/speakout

The aim of the Youth Consultative Network (YCN) is to help those interested in social justice for young people to:

1. **SPEAK OUT.**
2. **CONNECT** with young people and others in the community speaking out about the same thing.
3. Come up with a **PLAN** and put it into **ACTION**.

The YCN gives networks, interagencies and other groups the tools to share information about key issues facing marginalised young people in Queensland. YANQ believes that sharing information increases the chances that we can collectively find solutions by:

1. Making it easier to connect with others in different parts of the state facing similar challenges;
2. Drawing the attention of policy makers and advocates (like YANQ) to youth issues.

Every 6 months, YANQ invites interagencies to share its information regarding:

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

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

During 2007/8 ten interagencies participated in YANQ's Youth Consultative Network. The participating interagencies included:

1. Brisbane Inner Urban Youth Interagency
2. North East Youth Organisations Network (NEYON)
3. Service Providers Action Group for Youth
4. Logan Youth Managers Network
5. Gold Coast Youth Network
6. Goodna & Ipswich Youth Interagencies
7. Laidley Youth Interagency
8. Northern Sunshine Coast Interagency Network
9. Hervey Bay Youth Sector Workers Network
10. The Youth Network NQ Inc

These interagencies registered 64 different issues facing young people and youth services. The issues raised fell into the following categories²:

2 The numbers in brackets represent the number of times an issue in this category was raised.

Matters Relating to Young People	Matters Relating to Services/Organisation
(13) Housing/Accommodation (6) Service Availability (5) Drug/Alcohol (3) Transport (2) Education: P-12 (2) Employment (2) Mental/Emotional Health (1) Relationships (1) Abuse/Neglect (1) Cultural (1) Health (1) Social Security (1) Red Tape	(9) Funding/Resources (7) Staff/Volunteers (2) Accountability (2) Collaboration/Cooperation (2) Training (1) Community Relations (1) Referral Options (1) Worker Safety

2008 Survey of Members and Subscribers

See <http://www.yanq.org.au/survey08>

Between March and April 2008 YANQ conducted a survey of its members and subscribers. The aim of the survey was to receive feedback from YANQ's members and subscribers regarding:

- YANQ's performance in the 12 months prior to the survey; and
- future directions of YANQ in terms of areas for improvement and issues within the sector to focus on.

Overall the results were positive for YANQ. Of the 235 surveys distributed, 72 were filled out. This is a response rate of 30.64% and is substantially higher than the response rate of 18.82% for YANQ's last survey of members and subscribers in 2005.

To assess its performance, YANQ asked members and subscribers to rate the quality of work in relation to a number of specific activities (publications, forums, projects etc) undertaken in the 12 months prior to the survey. Combining all the responses (668 in total) to these questions shows that:

- 49.25% (329) of respondents rated YANQ's performance as Very Good.
- 45.81% (306) of respondents rated YANQ's performance as Good.
- Only 4.94% of respondents rated YANQ's performance as average or below.

Despite the positive ratings, respondents did point to some areas for improvement. One notable example is the suggestion that YANQ needs to increase its presence at sector events especially those outside of South East Queensland.

So that YANQ can continue to plan for the future, the survey also invited respondents to identify the high priority issues facing young people and the sector (organisations). The responses to these questions were then grouped into broad categories - the top 5 categories of response for each are as follows:

Issues Facing Young People

- Housing / Accommodation
- Access to Education
- Family Conflict
- Poverty / Income Security
- Abuse / Violence

Issues Facing the Sector

- Funding / Viability
- Staff Recruitment / Retention

- Responding to Issue 'X'³
- Standards & Compliance
- Gaining Community Support

Reports

new Transitions: Re-engagement Edition

See <http://www.yanq.org.au/content/view/1059/9/>

In January 2008 the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ) put out a call for papers under the topic, *From Disengaged to Re-engaged - Young People's Right to Education and Training*. Simultaneously we also invited young people to submit their ideas via the 'Re-engage This!' multimedia competition. The outcome of these initiatives was the special, public edition of **new Transitions**.

This edition of **new Transitions** - the Re-engagement edition - featured some excellent writing and art from an eclectic group of people in the youth sector - youth workers, young people, academics and program coordinators. The papers ranged from workers' opinions based on years of practice to detailed discussion of programs that are working today to maintain or re-engage young people in education.

The creative entries from young people that were published were:

- High for me by Sharaya Bond (short essay)
- Re-engage This! by young people working with Reconnect Gold Coast (digital video)
- Last Year in Year 8 by Norma Fisher (short essay)
- Pregnant... by Nadia Horvath (short essay)
- Reflections - 2005 by Benita Terrancciarno (short essay)
- Hard Love Vol. 1 by Daniel Surgenor (graphic art)

The articles published were:

- *Is Disenfranchised a more appropriate term than Disengaged?* by Dr Bob Grandin
- *Are alternative schools the answer?* by Kitty te Riele.
- *From the field: An interview with a coordinator of a flexi-school* by Barbara Eccles.
- *Understanding the true meaning of flexibility in working with young people in 'flexi'-schools* by Nicole Wright.
- *Issues for newly arrived young people from language backgrounds other than English* by Adele Rice.
- *Too many cracks in the wall* by John Crozier.
- *The kaleidoscope effect: How to best combat the ever changing face of youth disengagement* by David Burck.
- *How do we really engage young adults in education?* by Dr Geoff Plimmer.
- *Light the fire, spark it up, get naked* by Pauline Haber.
- *Seeking brighter futures* by Susanne Koen and Phillipa Duigan.

3 Many of the responses to this question identified difficulties experienced by young people (e.g. homelessness, disengagement from education etc). YANQ has interpreted these responses to assume that the respondent is saying "a high priority issue facing the sector is responding to <youth issue> (e.g. youth homelessness, disengaged youth, drug/alcohol abuse etc). These have then been collapsed into one category because the previous question dealt with the particular issues faced by young people.

- *Young carers in education: Students with family caring responsibilities* by Michael Ireland.
- *From disengaged to re-engaged: The alternative schooling option* by Peter Roguszka.
- *Micro savings: Independent students and economic disadvantage as a barrier to participation in education* by Renee Mills.
- *New school Ties: Because schools can't do it alone* by Rosalyn Black.
- *The role peers play in successful re-engagement* by Sharlene Chadwick.
- *Caring for kids* by Ilena Young.
- *Tapping into the potential of the Australian teenage male* by Wendy Pope.

Multiculturalism: from myth to reality

<http://www.yanq.org.au/content/view/946/24/>

In March 2008 YANQ released this paper which argued that the current definition and application of the idea of 'multiculturalism' actually undermined the goal for diversity. Therefore YANQ proposed an alternative framework for multiculturalism that included the following features:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island culture as a founding base for multiculturalism
- Layers of other cultures built upon the base of the first Indigenous culture
- Processes involving planning, engagement and implementation
- Structure including systems and institutions are constantly challenged and evolving through diverse cultural input and processes
- Diverse cultural input from all cultures including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, CALD groups, inter-faith groups, Anglo culture and the wider community
- A shared vision for multiculturalism that is underpinned by processes, structures and diverse community input firmly established on a strong foundation

YANQ argues that the proposed framework allows individuals and groups across all cultures in Australia to contribute towards the achievement of multiculturalism through active and continuing engagement in the policy debate.

This paper was presented at the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland Multicultural Summit in November 2007 and the Racisms conference held at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

Report of the Youth Mental Health Summit Released

See <http://www.yanq.org.au/content/view/471/59/>

In March 2007, a coalition of youth and mental health services along with the QLD Alliance and YANQ hosted the 2007 Youth Mental Health Summit.

The report from that summit was released in August 2007.

Youth Service Programs in Queensland for Disengaged Young People

See <http://www.yanq.org.au/content/view/1128/59/>

As part of the 'Re-engagement Project' YANQ sought information on the various programs that were relevant to young people, 12-18, not participating in education, training or work.

We published all the information we found in a report that aimed to provide a brief overview of the range of publicly funded youth service programs.

For each program listed, brief details were provided on the aims, methods, criteria and funding source. The information was not exhaustive and was meant only as a quick reference.

Support for Young People Disengaged from Education & Work: Perspectives of Youth Services in QLD

See <http://www.yanq.org.au/content/view/1127/59/>

In September 2007, YANQ published the outcomes from a small research project that investigated concerns about the lack of support available for young people who were not engaged in education, training or work. The research assessed the level and nature of support that is available for young people who are disengaged from education and work and focused specifically on young people aged between 12 to 18.

This paper was also presented at the Department of Communities Youth Conference in September 2007.

Submission to the Review of the Juvenile Justice Act 1992

See <http://www.yanq.org.au/content/view/654/22/>

In October 2007 YANQ made a submission to the review of *Juvenile Justice Act* (1992).

During the consultation phase for developing this submission, YANQ held a specific Juvenile Justice forum in Brisbane. The Department of Communities as well as a number of youth and legal services provided specific information relating to the review of the *Juvenile Justice Act* 1992. Over 50 people attended this forum.

As there was a great amount of interest in this review YANQ uploaded the summary and notes from the Juvenile Justice forum and in the first 3 days there were 130 hits on our website downloading the information from the forum.

YANQ also provided an opportunity for youth sector members to provide feedback to our draft submission and an option for youth sector members to endorse our submission. We received feedback from members across the state. As well as broad support from YANQ's members the submission received strong endorsement by Uniting Care Centre for Social Justice, Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland (ECCQ), Brisbane Youth Service (BYS), Just Rights Qld, Prisoners' Legal Service Inc (PLS) and Faculty of Law at the Queensland University of Technology.



Making Decisions in Groups

See <http://www.yanq.org.au/content/view/684/59/>

To help support interagencies across Queensland to participate in the Youth Consultative Network, YANQ published information about tools that groups can use to make decisions.

What Young People Need is their Rights

See <http://www.yanq.org.au/content/view/601/59/>

This article was written by Daniel Allert (while on placement at YANQ) in an effort to re-frame debates about young people's services (such as education, housing, employment support etc). The paper argued that it is important to assert young people's rights, as opposed to their 'needs'. It is necessary to differentiate between these two terms because of the negative impact which the current term 'needs' is having on young people in our society by reinforcing negative connotations.

Rethinking Youth Remand & Enhancing Community Safety

See <http://www.yanq.org.au/content/view/1065/59/>

During May 2007, this report was published on YANQ's website. The report was the culmination of a great deal of work undertaken by the Coalition Against Inappropriate Remand (CAIR - www.yanq.org.au/cair) of which YANQ is a member.

The report, written for CAIR by Suzi Quixley, argued that inappropriately detaining young people in custody puts community safety at risk. Repeated studies indicate that the younger a person is when they are first detained in custody, the greater the likelihood that they will go on to re-offend and end up in adult prison. 74% of the young people in custody in Queensland Youth Detention Centres on 30 June 2006 were on remand



- i.e. they were being held in custody **before a finding of guilt had been made or before their sentence had been finalised.** This is largely unnecessary and jeopardises both the safety of the community and the future chances of success in life for the young people detained.

The report outlined a number of alternatives that would improve the lives of young people on remand and make our communities safer places.

Network Noise, Email Bulletin and Website

YANQ's Email Bulletin was distributed on a fortnightly basis to over 730 recipients. In total 444 news items were published in the 26 editions. Anyone interested in youth policy is welcome to subscribe to the Email Bulletin by visiting www.yanq.org.au/bulletin.

The website (www.yanq.org.au) also continues to attract visitors. By the end of June 2008 YANQ's site was attracting an average of 151 visitors per day⁴. On average each visitor was accessing 2.8 different pages. During the year 444 new items were added to the site bringing the total number of articles available on the site (as at June 30, 2008) to 631.

The hardcopy newsletter for YANQ's Members and Subscribers is *Network Noise*. *Network Noise* is published four times per year. Members and subscribers of YANQ can access past editions by visiting www.yanq.org.au/networknoise. During 2007/08 *Network Noise* included articles on the following topics (among others):

- Youth Homelessness and Housing Policy
- Alternatives to detention for young people.
- The ultimately successful campaign for a funded National Youth Peak.
- Education policy to overcome marginalisation of indigenous young people.
- Re-engaging 'disengaged' young people back into education.
- Retaining and recruiting youth workers through fair pay and conditions.



4 This figure does not include visits from PCs in the YANQ office or visits from search engine robots/crawlers.

- Young Refugees.
- Use of chemical restraints on children in State care.
- Rehabilitation Laws in Queensland.
- Legal services for young people.
- Services and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) young people.
- The changing role of the Job Placement, Employment, Training (JPET) program.
- The Youth Consultative Network (www.yanq.org.au/speakout).
- Drug & Alcohol abuse – treatment and prevention.
- Social security policy.
- Dangers of Codes of Ethics.
- Role of Peak Bodies.

Sector Development & Training

Youth Sector Development Project

See <http://www.yanq.org.au/content/view/851/47/>

In partnership with the Health and Community Services Workforce Council, YANQ approached the Department of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA) and the Department of Communities to seek support for a project that would come up with a plan for the development of the youth sector.

Throughout 2007/08 the plan underwent various revisions before a final funding proposal was submitted to the State Government in November 2008.

Youth Services Multi-Employer Agreement

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

In an effort to respond to ongoing staff recruitment and retention difficulties, YANQ worked closely with the Australian Services Union (the Union) to develop a Youth Services Multi-Employer Agreement (YSMEA). The aim of the campaign was (and continues to be) to encourage youth services to provide fair pay and conditions to their staff and thus attract more workers to the sector.



The campaign included a number of visits to youth service networks in the South East Corner as well as meetings with the managers of youth services interested in signing up to an MEA. Throughout the campaign, YANQ and the Union published a number of joint statements to keep the sector informed of the campaign's progress.

As the campaign progressed it became clear that the Union's application for a new combined SACS/CASH award in the Queensland (rather than Federal) jurisdiction would have major implications for any YSMEA. Put simply, the new Award included all of the improvements (save for wage increases) that the Union and services were seeking through a YSMEA. For

this reason, negotiations for the YSMEA were put on hold until the outcomes of the Union's application for a new Award and increased pay rates were known (these are expected early in 2009).

Review of National Community Services Training package

YANQ represented the youth sector nationally by participating in the Industry Reference Group that reviewed the Community Services Training package.



Other Sector Development Work

- **Cross Cultural Youth Work Practice Training**
Dr Peter Westoby delivered Cross Cultural Youth Work Practice Training for YANQ in Toowoomba in April 2008.
- **Collaboration amongst Inner Urban Youth Services**
YANQ auspiced a project for the Inner Urban Youth Interagency which developed strategies to improve relationships and collaboration between services.
- **Network of IT Officers in NGOs**
Following the ICT Factor Conference (July 2007) YANQ set up an email list and blog to help develop the peer support resources available to IT Officers in non-government human service organisations in Queensland. The networking tools were eventually removed following a lack of use.
- **Regional Networking**
Townsville Youth Social Policy Forum (August 2007) - This forum was an opportunity to hear about issues impacting on the lives of young people in regional Queensland as well as important issues for youth service providers. The forum also explored collective advocacy processes.

Advocacy, Research and Other Forums

Regular Briefings to Government Bodies

During 2007/08 YANQ continued to brief various government bodies (both face-to-face and via mail) on issues facing young people and the youth sector. YANQ gave regular briefings to the following bodies:

- Office for Youth, Department of Communities.
- Education Queensland.
- Commissioner for Children & Young People & Child Guardian.

In addition YANQ is a member of the following reference or advisory groups to Government bodies.

- Equity Committee, Queensland Studies Authority (QSA).
- Youth Protocol Working Group, Commonwealth Department of Families, Community Services, Housing and Indigenous Affairs.
- Youth Advisory Committee, Anti-Discrimination Commission of Queensland
- Youth Justice Reference Group, Department of Communities.
- Youth Violence Taskforce, co-chaired by the Queensland Minister for Police and the Queensland Minister for Communities, Disability Services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Multicultural Affairs, Seniors and Youth.

Policy Forums

The Queensland Council of Social Service (QCOSS) partnered with YANQ to host a Youth Social Policy Forum. Through the forum the youth sector gave advice to QCOSS's annual budget submission to the State Government.



To help prepare its submission to the review of the Juvenile Justice Act (1992) YANQ also held a forum to discuss youth justice policy in Queensland.

YANQ hosted a meeting of the youth sector to discuss issues facing young people on remand in Youth Detention Centres. As a result of this meeting the Coalition Against Inappropriate Remand (CAIR) was formed, eventually leading to the publication of a report (see 'Rethinking Youth Remand & Enhancing Community Safety' above).

YANQ assisted Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues (as part of an ARACY funded project) in running a discussion forum in Brisbane on 'where to from here': issues which impact on CALD young people. The researchers also shared policy and program implications of the papers and the information gained in the consultations, strategies for promoting multicultural youth issues, developing programs in this area, and enhancing opportunities for collaboration (e.g. promoting NMYIN and other networks).



Multicultural Youth Network Queensland (MYNQ)

YANQ's Multicultural Development Officer (Kirsten McGavin) continued to facilitate this network. During the year the network was a great support to YANQ. In particular MYNQ focused support on YANQ's plans to conduct Racism! Forums, and gave valuable input into YANQ's research into Muslim Young Women's participation in sport and the support of young people not participating in education, training or work.

Muslim Young Women's Participation in Sport

See <http://www.yanq.org.au/content/view/1258/24/>.

During 2007/2008 YANQ partnered with Al-Nisa Youth Group Inc. (Al-Nisa) to investigate and analyse socio-cultural barriers affecting Muslim young women's participation in sports and recreation. The research project also aimed to develop strategies that promote a greater participation in sports and recreation by young Muslim women in Queensland.

With Al-Nisa's support YANQ used a variety of research methods to collect data including hard-copy and electronic surveys, one-on-one interviews and focus groups. About seventy respondents and informants were located across Queensland, with participants from Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

While the research was conducted in the 2007/2008 period, the research report was published and launched in July 2008.

Re-engagement Project

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

At the Annual General Meeting in December 2007, YANQ announced it was embarking on a project entitled 'Disengaged to Re-engaged: Young People's Right to Education & Training (the Re-engagement Project for short).

The aims of this project were simple; to...

- map re-engagement services available to young Queenslanders;
- develop, articulate and publish models of successful re-engagement services;
- encourage a deeper understanding within the youth sector, governments and the community about disengagement and the types of re-engagement services that can work in different communities.

In the 6 months to June 2008 YANQ set about these aims by:

- working with a Re-engagement Policy Advisory Group (made up of youth workers, service managers, educators and academics) to develop a research proposal for investigating the factors of success in non-traditional schooling;
- opening a census of re-engagement services, which closed August 30 2008, with results to be released in December 2008;
- working with local youth services to plan two community forums in the Townsville and Moreton Bay regions (these were held in October and November respectively);
- calling for and publishing 17 papers on the topic (see <http://www.yanq.org.au/content/view/1059/9/>);
- running a youth multimedia competition and publishing the six winning entries alongside the papers above.

Other Campaigns or Advocacy Work

- **Celebrate, Don't Medicate Campaign** See <http://www.yanq.org.au/celebrate>
YANQ continued its work drawing attention to the 'medicalisation' and chemical restraint of young people in 2007/08. In November and December YANQ gave presentations in Brisbane and the Gold Coast.
- **Federal Election Campaign**
YANQ and other State and Territory Youth Peak bodies approached various political parties in the lead up to the Federal Election and canvassed their responses to a number of youth issues. The responses were published on the website of the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition and distributed nationally.
- **Australian Youth Affairs Coalition**
YANQ continues to be involved in this organisation and in particular efforts to secure funding for a national youth peak. YANQ's efforts, along with those of youth peaks in other states and volunteers on AYAC's committee paid off. The Commonwealth Government announced funding for a national youth peak in May 2008.
- **Incorrections Network**
YANQ maintained its involvement in the Incorporrections Network. This network aims to raise community awareness about the need for investment in prevention and diversionary programs and less focus on punishment.
- **Community Services Futures Forum**
The Queensland Community Services Futures Forum is a coalition of statewide human services peak bodies, service providers and networks in Queensland. YANQ has been a member of this forum since its inception.

During 2007/08 the Futures Forum focused on establishing a Compact between the State Government and community services in Queensland (the Compact was signed off in November 2008).

- **Young Workers Advisory Service (YWAS)**
YANQ has maintained its membership of the steering committee for YWAS.

Media Coverage

During 2007/08 YANQ continued to advocate for social justice for young people via print and electronic media. Media coverage during the period included:

Date	Media Outlet	Topic
17/9/2007	ABC Radio News – Statewide	Opposed banning of young people from shopping centres.
24/9/2007	ABC Radio News – Statewide	Underage drinking
8/11/2007	ABC Radio - Toowoomba (Talkback)	Young people in remand and Juvenile Justice
20/11/2008	ABC Radio – Gold Coast	Youth Detention Centres
21/11/2008	Courier Mail (p.2)	New Youth Detention Centres
4/3/2008	ZZZ Radio	Re-engagement, ADHD, Juvenile Justice
30/4/2008	ABC Radio News – Statewide	Changes to laws regarding same-sex couples
1/5/2008	ABC Radio – Brisbane	Age of consent in Queensland

Treasurer's Report

I have pleasure in presenting the independent Auditor's report for the year ending 30th June 2008, incorporating the Balance Sheet and consolidated Income and Expenditure Statement of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc (YANQ).

As Queensland's youth affairs Peak Body, YANQ continues to promote the interests and well being of young people across the State and undertake many activities throughout the year as detailed in the Annual Report.

A finance sub-committee has met throughout this year to ensure that we are on track and accountable for all of our financial affairs. This sub-committee enhances the ongoing accountability mechanisms such as management committee meetings and auditing processes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all YANQ staff for their dedication and particularly to acknowledge Marilyn Topp who has shown dedication and commitment to learning the skills required to facilitate our regular bookwork and financial entries. I would also like to acknowledge the members of the Management Committee for their commitment and support.



Matilda Alexander
Treasurer

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT



To the members of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

Scope

We have audited the attached financial statements, being a special purpose financial report of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc for the year ended 30 June 2008. The Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc Committee of Management is responsible for the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc constitution and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the need of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee of Management's financial reporting requirements under the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc's constitution. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements. (These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and UIG Consensus Views).

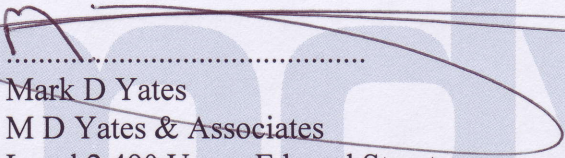
The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Qualification

As the organisation is entirely dependent on the internal control exercised by the management committee and members, no warranty can be given that all entitlements of revenue have been received or that all services or goods paid for have been utilised for the Associations purposes. My audit of the profit and loss account items extends only to vouching the records of receipts and payments.

Qualified Audit Opinion

In my opinion, subject to the preceding paragraph, the financial statements are properly drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Incorporated Associations Act and present fairly, in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1, the position of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc for the year ended 30 June 2008 and the results of it's operations for the year then ended.


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Mark D Yates
M D Yates & Associates
Level 2 490 Upper Edward Street
SPRING HILL QLD 4004

Dated 2nd day of December 2008

A decorative graphic element consisting of two overlapping, wavy, ribbon-like shapes. The shape on the left is a vibrant blue, and the shape on the right is a bright green. They are positioned horizontally, with the blue shape slightly behind and to the left of the green shape, creating a sense of depth and movement. The edges of the shapes are smooth and flowing.

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