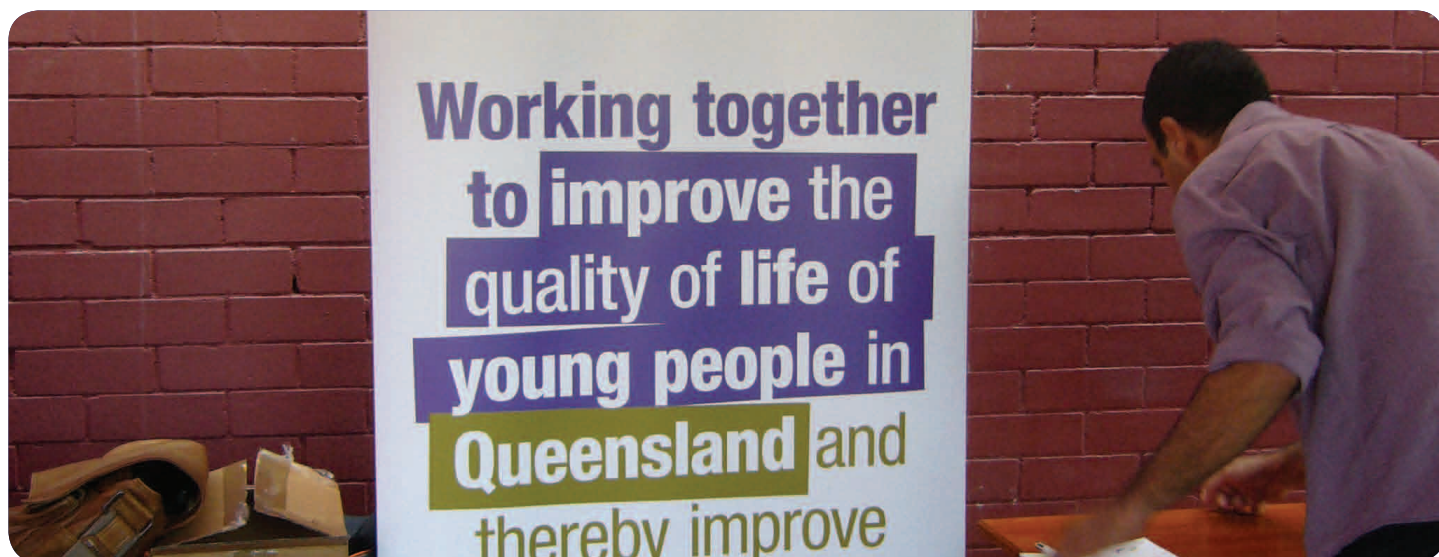




youth affairs network qld

ANNUAL REPORT 2010 / 2011





YOUTH AFFAIRS NETWORK OF QUEENSLAND INC.

Annual Report 2010 / 2011

YOUTH AFFAIRS NETWORK OF
QUEENSLAND INC.
ANNUAL REPORT 2010 / 2011

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YANQ acknowledges funding support from:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES—OFFICE FOR YOUTH
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
QUEENSLAND HEALTH
AND
(FEDERAL) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

YANQ extends its appreciation to Telstra for again donating 5000 \$5 Telstra cards for distribution to marginalised young people across Queensland.

YANQ would also like to thank all its members, all networks and communities that invited, hosted or worked with YANQ in various ways during past twelve months.

Report layout
Rebekah Oldfield

Cover picture
Gavin Tyson



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Acknowledgement of Aboriginal and 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 three 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.

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

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:

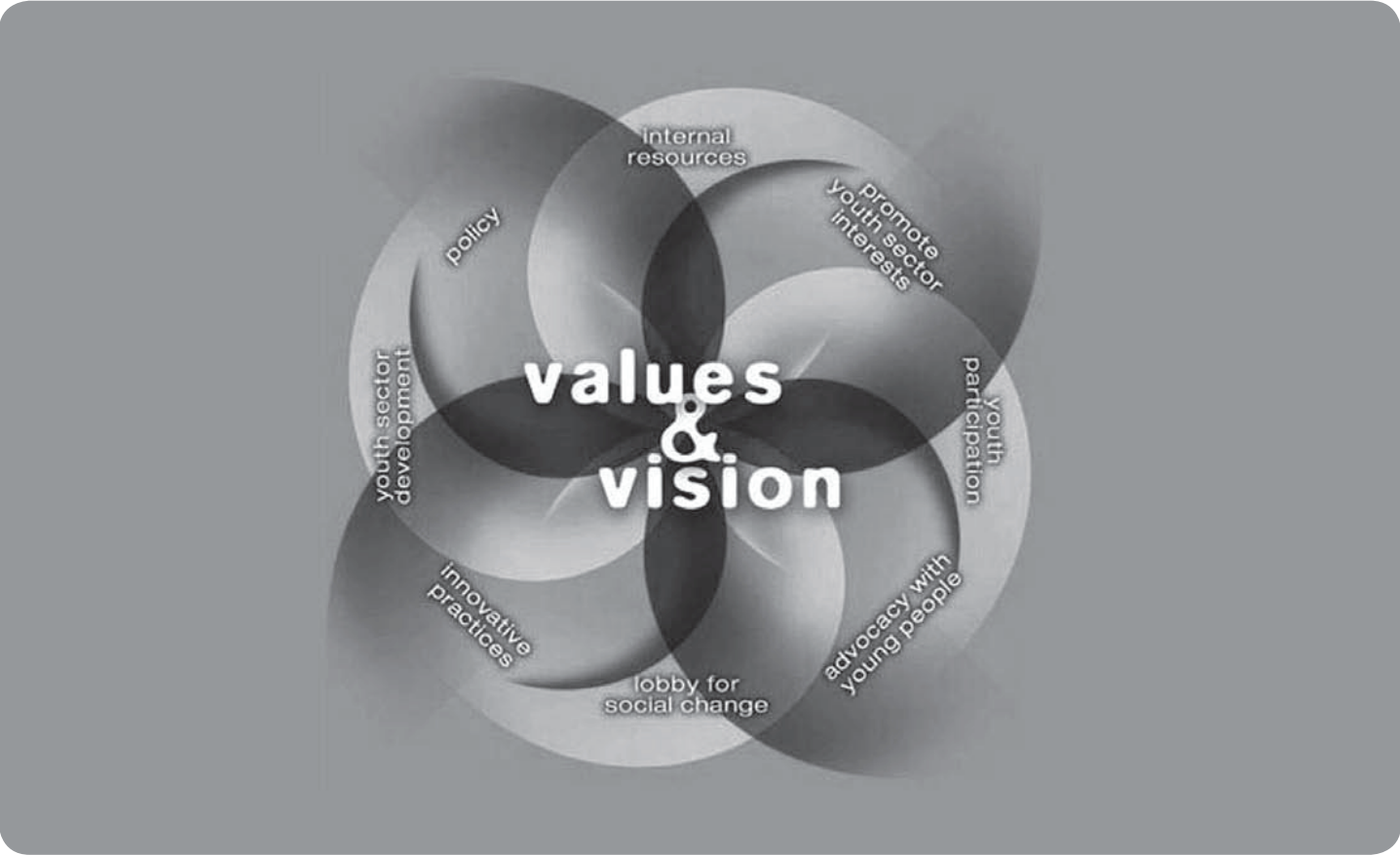
- disseminating information to members, the youth sector, and the broader community
- undertaking campaigns and lobbying
- making representations to government and other influential bodies
- resourcing regional and issues-based networks
- consulting and liaising with members and the field
- linking with 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 practising 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 2010 to June 2011

Committee Executive



Ms Angela Barnes
President
(July-Dec 2010)



Mr Barry Springett
Vice President
(Dec 2010-June 2011)



Ms Matilda Alexander
Secretary
(Dec 2010-June 2011)



Mr Jude Saldanha
President
(Dec 2010-June 2011)



Ms Patricia Ferrier
Treasurer
(July 2010-June 2011)

STAFF

Mr Siyavash Doostkhah
Director

Mr Daniel Walker
Policy & Communications Officer
(resigned February 2011)

Ms Trish Ferrier
Policy Coordinator

Ms Marilyn Topp
Administration & Financial Officer
(resigned May 2011)

Ms Caroline Woods
Project officer
Re-engagement Project & YDAQ

Ms Angela Arthur
Volunteer Administration Assistant &
Acting Administrator

Ms Sue McComber
Financial Officer

CONSULTANTS

How Now Solutions
Prof. Martin Mills, UQ
Dr Glenda McGregor, Griffith University
Suzi Quixley
Dr Peter Westoby
Cherie McGregor
Sarah Roberts
Howard Buckley

Committee Members



Ms Yassmin
Abdel-Magied



Mr Steve Fisher



Ms Deb Kilroy
ex officio



Mr (Kuot) Elijah Buol



Mr Robert Hayes



Mr Siyavash Doostkhah
ex officio



Mr Phil Dodds



Mr Gavin Tyson

President's Report

2010/2011 has been a significant year for YANQ and the Queensland Youth Sector. Much of YANQ's work has been focused on the implementation of priority strategies from the Youth Sector Development Plan. One of the key achievements would have to be the establishment of ten Communities of Practice Leadership Action Network (CPLAN) covering all of Queensland. This is the first time in the history of the youth sector in Queensland that a state-wide infrastructure has been planned and implemented.

The *Re-engaging Students in Education* research report, which we have been working on for the past three years in partnership with a number of YANQ organisational members, University of Queensland and Griffith University was launched in July 2010. Building on the success of this project, YANQ is now developing partnership arrangements with a number of youth sector organisations and the University of Queensland and Griffith University to apply for a three year Australian Research Council (ARC) grant.

YANQ has also been planning to stage a youth sector conference. The conference is the most significant event for the youth sector. YANQ is pleased to announce that after a five year gap due to withdrawal of funding support for the conference by Office for Youth, YANQ will be staging the Qld Youth Affairs Conference on a biannual basis. There will be six keynotes as well as 42 workshops over two days. Conference themes include Youth Justice, Health, Housing, Education and Workforce Development.

As well as these two great projects YANQ has been involved in many other projects across the state this year and a plethora of other work in advocacy, lobbying, research and policy development all of which are outlined in more detail throughout this report. Please contact our staff if you would like any further information and/or clarification about any of the issues documented in this report or if you would like to engage with any of our ongoing work, which we outline on a fortnightly basis in our email bulletin.

A special thanks to all YANQ members for your ongoing support of our work. Without members YANQ ceases to exist as we continue to work as we have always since being established in the 1980s to represent the sector. We believe that we continue to be a strong voice for the rights of young people and the development of our sector and welcome working with you!



PHOTO: Jude Saldanha, President

It was with sadness this year that we farewelled Marilyn Topp and Daniel Walker who have been integral parts of YANQ for many years. I know that all who knew Daniel and Marilyn would agree that they had both contributed a great deal to the work and vision of YANQ and we wish them all the best in their future pursuits.

I would also like to acknowledge my fellow Management Committee members for their hard work and dedication and especially to the Executive who have supported me in my role.

Finally, I hope that in the coming year we can continue to build on our strengths in partnership with the sector across Queensland and greatly look forward to working with you all.

Jude Saldanha
President

Youth Affairs Network Qld



Our Communication—Website, Twitter, Email Bulletin and newsletter Network Noise

2010/2011 was another busy year for communications and publications from YANQ. The YANQ website (www.yanq.org.au) continues to be an active resource for the youth sector throughout Queensland. There is also a very clear indication from our website statistics that visitors use the site as a 'go-to' point to find details on networks and interagencies, training and events, funding resources, campaigns and research relevant to youth issues. More than 45 000 people used the YANQ website in the 2010-2011 financial year.

The YANQ Email Bulletin, which is sent out each fortnight with updates from the website, is a very popular resource, and the mailing list has grown to over 900 recipients this year. Feedback on the Email Bulletin has continued to be positive, with readers appreciating the user-friendly

layout, the relevance of the updates, and the opportunity to promote their own events and news. YANQ also has established a Twitter account to broadcast updates and important news.

Of course, our members and subscribers still received our quarterly print newsletter, Network Noise, which contains detailed reports on campaigns, project updates and stories.

Telstra Phone Cards for Young People

Once again this year, in partnership with Telstra, YANQ distributed more than 5000 Telstra \$5.00 Phone Cards across the state. Youth sector members from various regions have been assisting YANQ with promotion and distribution of these cards amongst marginalised young people across Queensland.

Leading the Sector Workforce Development



Youth Sector Development Plan

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

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

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

With advice and guidance from the Industry Reference Group (IRG) and the Youth Sector Leadership Group (YSLG), YANQ developed a detailed action plan and implementation has already commenced.

This is a very exciting development for YANQ and the youth sector which would not have been possible without the excellent work of the youth sector members, Industry Reference Group and the Youth Sector Leadership Group.

The following three priorities broadly describe the implementation stage over the past twelve months.



PRIORITY AREA 1: COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE LEADERS GROUP

This project aims to create an ongoing and sustainable structure across the seven DET regions in Queensland to support a consistent focus on the workforce development needs of the youth sector from a local, regional and state perspective. The establishment of ten Communities of Practice Leadership Groups will use and lever off the comprehensive network of youth interagencies and networks across the state.

PRIORITY AREA 2: YOUTH WORK PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

This project aims to engage a broad spectrum of stakeholders in a dialogue on creating a working definition of what youth work is and who the youth sector represents. Universities, TAFEs and the youth sector will be engaged to clearly articulate what the youth sector is, how it is defined and identify core and unique characteristics aimed to generate discussion papers and

journal articles to promote the sector. As discussed in the Youth Sector in Queensland February 2010 report, Youth Work is being diluted and merging into other professions, lacking clear articulation and professional boundaries. The discussion paper is the first step in addressing this finding.

PRIORITY AREA 3: SECTOR SUPPORT STRATEGIES

Throughout discussions with both the IRG and the YSLG, specific sector support strategies were discussed and priorities identified for the next twelve months. These areas were highlighted in the Youth Sector in Queensland February 2010 report and viewed as fundamental in supporting youth service organisations in successfully addressing workforce development issues. Further, these activities are able to be implemented in relatively short time frames providing valuable momentum to the Youth Sector Development Project.



State-wide structure for youth sector policy and workforce development

In response to the recommendations of the Youth Sector in Queensland report, YANQ has undertaken an organisational restructure and established a state-wide presence. YANQ has been working with regional youth sector members to set up ten Communities of Practice Leaders Action Networks (CPLAN).

Each CPLAN will organise themselves in each region, depending on their own youth sector structures. CPLANs will meet regularly to inquire on youth sector issues, focusing their inquiry on four key questions:

- What would it take to develop a strong and vibrant youth sector workforce in Queensland?
- What would it take for this sector to contribute to improved access and opportunities for young people to enhance their inclusion and equity in society?

- What would it take to increase the level of connection and collaboration across the youth sector?
- What would it take to create a coherent and collaborative youth policy platform in Queensland?

Inquiry will be aided by Participatory Action Research, which will be supported by Queensland University of Technology (QUT). A State CPLAN Group has also been established as a reference group for YANQ. It is made up of representatives of statewide organisations who will be focusing on statewide issues that relate to the inquiry process. This group will also consider findings and recommendations of the regional CPLANs. Another aim of this group is to ensure that organisations are working together to coordinate support to the youth sector.

The work of CPLANs will complement the ongoing feedback collected through the Youth Consultative Network (YCN) representing networks and interagencies throughout the State. This will allow YANQ to identify developing issues in different regions, taking regional issues like isolation into account, and work on real-time responses.

YANQ has also completed a Youth Sector Workforce Planning Framework with assistance from the Health and Community Services Workforce Council.

In response to another key recommendation from the Youth Sector in Queensland report, YANQ has released a discussion paper titled “What is Youth Work?” It is envisaged that a working definition of youth work could be adopted in Queensland by middle of 2012.

YANQ has also been working with a number of other stakeholders on workforce issues including the Community Skilling Plan, Local Government Association Queensland and the Metro South Institute of TAFE. University of Queensland is also assisting YANQ with providing expert advice on use of Participatory Action research frame work.

YANQ has continued to work with a number of other peak bodies looking at strategies to support the sustainability of small NGOs.



Image: Map of CPLAN regions



Murri Youth Sector Report

During the year YANQ also finalised the research into workforce issues for Murri youth services and workers in Queensland. YANQ held extensive consultations with community members from Rockhampton and North West Murri communities of Burketown, Doomadgee and Mornington Island.

The *Murri Youth Sector in Queensland* report outlines the conduct and findings of a significant research project undertaken with Murri youth services in three parts of Queensland. It presents a summary of themes and draws attention to some of the possibilities for future actions and research that have emerged from an evidence base that has not previously been documented on the profile and demographics of this sector.

Genuine sector development is a long term process requiring interest, ownership and buy-in from those within the sector both to inform what is required and how this is possible and from government to work collaboratively with sector leaders and other key stakeholders to implement and evaluate strategies and initiatives. Working in partnership, short and medium term contributions can be developed while seeds are planted for long term sustainable development and support.

The next phase of the project involves releasing the report in July 2011, validation of both the data collected and the profile that has emerged with other regions across Queensland. This will create the opportunity to build in regional variations, identify regional specifics and increase interest and ownership across the sector and with government and other stakeholders at a local level. A Murri Reference Group will be established to support the further development of strategies and goals to direct effective and culturally appropriate and relevant outcomes.

As a result of early discussions with Murri youth workers, YANQ has developed and released a discussion paper "Which Wei: Values in Youth Work: A Murri Perspective"

<http://www.yanq.org.au/our-work/2611-qwhich-wei-values-in-youth-work-a-murri-perspectiveq>.

This discussion paper has been received very well in Aboriginal communities and is providing a starting point on how Murri culture can inform youth work practice and how cultural practices could be placed at the centre of practice frameworks by Murri youth workers.



Marginalised Students: enhancing life choices through engaging educational policies and practices

YANQ launched a report written by Professor Martin Mills from the University of Queensland and Dr Glenda McGregor from Griffith University, on the findings of a three year research project into *Re-engaging Young People in Education: Success factors in alternative schools*. This research, undertaken by YANQ, the University of Queensland, Griffith University and the Queensland University of Technology, has identified factors that enable young people to thrive in 'alternative' schools. Research was conducted in a variety of 'alternative' education sites in South East Queensland that are renowned for supporting young people who have become disengaged from 'mainstream' schools. YANQ has forwarded the report to relevant Queensland Government Ministers and Departments and is currently holding meetings to advance the report's various recommendations. The report is available for download at <http://www.yanq.org.au/our-work/projects/reengage>

Building on the previous research partnership with the University of Queensland and Griffith University, YANQ and partnering organisations have applied for a three year Australia Research Council (ARC) grant to further explore the provision of existing alternative/flexible learning pathways in Queensland for young people who have become disengaged from mainstream schooling. It seeks to assess educational principles and practices that work in such sites so as to develop a framework of educational 'best practice' that may inform this sector.

The aim of this project is to explore the effectiveness of alternative/flexible educational options available in Queensland for young people who have disengaged from mainstream schooling. It will facilitate the development of future frameworks to augment existing provision of alternative pathways and flexible educational options in and beyond Queensland. This is a significant project in that it seeks to understand how the national priority of increasing school retention can be furthered through the provision of diverse, but meaningful, forms of schooling. The project has the potential to make a significant contribution to the theoretical literature on social justice and schooling.

The project will commence in early 2012 and will be completed by 2014.



Youth Disability Advocacy Queensland

The Youth Disability Advocacy Queensland (YDAQ) campaign continues to highlight the need for an advocacy service tailored to the needs of young people with disabilities in on both a systemic and individual level.

YANQ has proposed a publicly funded, community owned service that would advocate with and on behalf of young people with disabilities for their rights, support young people with disabilities to self-advocate—collectively and individually—and educate the community about how it can improve access to opportunities for young people with disabilities. YDAQ represents a commitment from the youth services sector and the broader community to achieving equality for young people with disabilities in education, employment, housing, health care, community access and social inclusion.

This amounts to a gap in the representative value of the youth sector, attributable to poor government funding and support, and its capacity to effectively advocate for the needs of all young Queenslanders. The model proposed by YDAQ effectively unites the focus and capacities of both the youth and disability sectors to principally achieve

systemic advocacy for this group of young people. The lack of current funding for such services indicates a gross erosion of the Queensland Government's commitment to the representation of all of its constituents. The establishment of the service proposed would greatly assist the government in achieving a 'fairer and more inclusive Queensland'.

YANQ's research confirms the current absence of a specialised youth disability advocacy service in Queensland (See The Case for a Youth Disability Advocacy Service in Queensland, YANQ 2009). http://www.yanq.org.au/images/stories/caseforyouthdisabilityadvocacyerviceqld_081009.pdf

YANQ has also been working with a number of young people and service providers to develop a kit to assist organisations, boards and councils to include young people with disabilities in governance structures. Initial meetings of the project reference group as well as induction of young consultants have taken place and the project is on track to develop and release the Governance Resource Kit by the end of 2011.

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Latest News

- Queensland's Damning Report Into Youth Suicide
- Youth Leading the World Congress
- Australian Human Rights Commission's annual report released
- Six 100% scholarships available for ATSI students
- Working with CALD and Refugee Communities Workshop

Celebrate. Don't Medicate
Do you fit the criteria? Celebrate, Don't Medicate

FRIDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2011 13:43

What does it take to be diagnosed as having ADHD? Well... not much. According to the diagnostic criteria for ADHD published in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (IV),

A) Either

1) 6 or more of the following symptoms of inattention have persisted for at least 6 months to a degree that is maladaptive and inconsistent with developmental level:

- a) often fails to give close attention to details or makes careless mistakes in schoolwork, work or other activities
- b) often has difficulty sustaining attention in tasks or play activities
- c) often does not seem to listen when spoken to directly
- d) often does not follow through on instructions and fails to finish schoolwork, chores or duties in the workplace (due to oppositional behaviour or failure to understand instructions)
- e) often has difficulty organizing tasks and activities
- f) often avoids, dislikes, or is reluctant to engage in tasks that require sustained mental effort (such as schoolwork or homework)
- g) often loses things necessary for tasks or activities (e.g. toys, school assignments, pencils, books or tools)
- h) is often easily distracted by extraneous stimuli
- i) is often forgetful in daily activities

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“ADHD”

YANQ is increasingly concerned with the growing number of Queensland children and young people who are labelled as having “ADHD” and are medicated with dangerous drugs. YANQ is also particularly concerned with the number of children and young people in care of the state who are medicated. Since 2002, YANQ has been raising these concerns with the Child Safety Department and the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian. YANQ strongly believes that we need a formal Inquiry to investigate the growing trend across Queensland to diagnosis and medicate children by labeling them with “ADHD”.

YANQ hosted Australia's first forum of psychiatrists, psychologists, youth workers, educators, academics, researchers, politicians and other professionals concerned about the large and growing number of children diagnosed with “ADHD” and treated with drugs.

The forum was held at the Health Faculty of Queensland University of Technology on 7-8 February 2011 and attracted participants from across Australia and overseas. Opinions as to the validity of “ADHD” as a psychiatric disorder varied amongst the participants. Some consider that “ADHD” is a real but rare condition that is mis-diagnosed and over-medicated; others consider “ADHD” a fraud.

However, all participants agreed that unnecessarily administering powerful psychotropic drugs to children is a violation of their rights and often results in serious short and long term harm.

Forum participants are also concerned that:

- The criteria used to diagnose “ADHD” are all subjectively assessed behaviours and these behaviours; losing things; forgetting; fidgeting; butting in; disliking homework; and playing loudly etc. are a ‘normal’ part of childhood.
- There is nothing ‘ADHD’ specific’ about the effects of drugs used to treat the ‘disorder’. Although responses vary, most people become temporarily more narrowly focused and compliant on low-dose amphetamines. Drugs do nothing in the long term to address the many and varied causes of ‘ADHD’ type behaviours. On occasions drugs mask the symptoms of serious conditions (such as abuse or trauma).
- ‘ADHD’ drugs have well established significant short term risks including cardiovascular and psychiatric problems.
- ‘ADHD’ stimulants are amphetamines or amphetamine like drugs that are frequently diverted for illicit use.

Young People and the Juvenile Justice System

LABOR’S FORGOTTEN PLEDGE TO QLD CHILDREN

In 1992, when the Juvenile Justice Act was passed by Queensland Parliament, the Labor Government pledged:

“It is the intention of this Government, as it was of the previous Government, to deal with 17-year old children within the juvenile, rather than the adult system, as per the Kennedy Report into prisons. This is consistent with the age of majority and avoids such children being exposed to the effects of adults in prison, thereby increasing their chances of remaining in the system and becoming recidivists. This change will occur at an appropriate time in the future.” (Qld Parliament, 5 August 1992:p.6130)

Queensland’s Children’s Commissioner, Anti Discrimination Commissioner, Queensland Heads of Churches, United Nations and youth and legal advocates have urged the government to fulfil its commitment to transfer 17-year olds from adult prisons to juvenile detention centres.

Write a message here and send it to the Queensland Government to remind them of their 17-year old pledge.

Affix
stamp
here

To:
The Premier and Qld Government
PO Box 15185
City East
Queensland 4002



youth affairs network qld
YANQ is the peak body promoting the rights and interests of young people in Queensland. For further background information on this issue please visit YANQ’s campaigns section at: www.yanq.org.au

Youth Justice Coalition

YANQ has continued to resource and host the meetings of the Youth Justice Coalition (YJC). Meetings held in 2010/2011 focused on two campaigns: firstly, to transfer all 17 year old children from Queensland adult prisons to Youth Justice facilities and, secondly, to reduce the number of young people on remand by implementing the recommendations of the Coalition Against Inappropriate Remand (CAIR).

Young people on Remand

YANQ continues to hold grave concerns about the number of children and young people who are serving time at the Youth Detention Centres on Remand. YANQ and the Coalition Against Inappropriate Remand (CAIR) have continued to lobby the State Government to implement the various recommendations in the report Rethinking Remand and Enhancing Community Safety report. The report can be downloaded at <http://www.yanq.org.au/cair/1068-rethinking-youth-remand-a-enhancing-community-safety>



SAVE QUEENSLAND KIDS FROM ADULT JAILS

Children in adult prisons

YANQ continues to petition the Queensland Government for inclusion of 17 year olds in the Youth Justice System. The Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian and the Law Society of Queensland have added their voice to the campaign seeking immediate changes and inclusion of 17 year olds in the Juvenile Justice System.

In November 2010, the Commission for Children and Young People released their policy position on 17 year old children in adult prisons and called upon the Queensland Government to make:

- a time specific commitment by 1 March 2011 to transfer 17 year olds from adult prisons to youth detention; and

- the necessary legislative amendments to ensure that all young people under the age of 18 years fall within the jurisdiction of the Youth Justice Act 1992 and have access to the Charter of Youth Justice Principles.

<http://www.ccyprg.qld.gov.au/pdf/publications/papers/17-year-olds-Policy-Position-Paper.pdf>

YANQ strongly urged the Queensland Government to accept the recommendations of the Commission for Children and Young People for a time specific commitment by 1 March 2011 to transfer 17 year olds from adult prisons to youth detention. Unfortunately, after 19 years the Queensland Government is still refusing to act on this issue and children continue to be locked up in Queensland adult prisons.



Youth At Risk Initiative (YARI)

For the past few years YANQ has been concerned about the direction of the Funding Realignment project (now called the YARI). In particular, YANQ has been concerned that the flexibility needed by youth services to engage in a range of activities from crisis response and case management to community development/education and advocacy activities may be lost. YANQ is also concerned that there has been no proper engagement with the youth sector and that evaluation and learning from the ten programs, which will collapse under Youth At Risk, have not been included.

After the release of the Logic Model for YARI, YANQ held a number of meetings with officers from Department of Communities as well as a number of meetings with the Minister for Communities and her advisors. We are very pleased that our initial feedback was taken into account and that broader lists of outputs were listed in the YARI discussion paper released in December 2010.

YANQ has been consulting with its members across the State and provided a comprehensive response to the YARI discussion paper in February 2011. YANQ has also expressed serious concerns about the proposal outlined

in the YARI discussion paper to include YANQ (the peak body for the Youth Sector) under the YARI program. We believe that placing the sector peak body under a service delivery program will create much difficulty in time to come. For YANQ to fulfil its role as the sector peak body our core relationship needs to be with the policy development units, which have the carriage of the youth policy portfolio in the Department of Communities.

The Office For Youth and the Minister for Communities have given YANQ assurances that placing YANQ under the YARI program will have no impact on our work and that YANQ will continue to undertake the youth sector peak body role without any changes.

YANQ is deeply committed to ensuring a high quality service delivery system for young people throughout Queensland, which is strongly evidence-based and reduces the number of vulnerable young people in the Queensland community. This goal is highly compatible with the outcomes sought by the Office for Youth (OfY) Youth at Risk Initiative.

Federal Election

The Federal Election was the focus of Australian Youth Affairs Council's (AYAC) work during the 2010/2011 period. YANQ worked with AYAC to develop a Federal Election Campaign Kit, which contained five priority areas. They are:

- National Commissioner for Children and Young People
- Electoral Reform—lowering the voting age with focus on education in regards to importance of participating in democratic processes.
- Investment in Mental Health
- Access to Education
- Jobs Creation for Young People

AYAC's Federal election campaign kit can be downloaded from: <http://www.ayac.org.au/category/campaigns/>

The Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Australia (MYAN) also focused on the Federal Election and prioritised child protection for unaccompanied minors (refugees), education, racism and discrimination, and youth justice as key areas particularly for multicultural and refugee youth. MYAN has also prioritised the following issues for the coming year:

- Education
- Youth settlement
- Homelessness/housing
- Mental health
- Justice
- Family/intergenerational
- Employment and training
- Racism and discrimination

AYAC Research

AYAC completed its first research piece since becoming a funded national youth peak. "Where are you going with that?" is a look at how well organisations and government are doing at ensuring young people's views impact on organisational and public policy. The findings from this research are available from www.ayac.org.au.

AYAC Strategic Directions report

AYAC has also released its Strategic Directions report following consultations with the youth sector, youth-led organisations and young people. This report will inform AYAC's strategic planning process and can be viewed at http://www.ayac.org.au/wp-content/AYAC_strategic_directions.pdf

AYAC also joined with a number of key State, Territory and Federal youth sector and youth-led organisations including YANQ in supporting Greens Senator Hanson-Young's Commonwealth Commissioner for Children and Young People 2010 Bill but has also highlighted the need for a Deputy Commissioner whose sole mandate is focused on "Closing the Gap". AYAC also calls on the Senate Committee to pay serious attention to the views of young people on decisions that directly affect them. Read the full Joint Submission in response to the Bill at: http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/legcon_ctte/commissioner_for_childrenandyoungpeople/submissions.htm

Other AYAC/YANQ work

YANQ worked with AYAC on a submission regarding the National School Chaplaincy Program.

YANQ contributed to a roundtable being organised by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. The Committee's inquiry is into Indigenous Youth and the Criminal Justice System.

YANQ worked with AYAC in developing a submission on Income Management to the Federal Government.

Queensland Council of Social Services (QCOSS) budget submission

YANQ supported QCOSS's budget submission for 2010/2011, which encouraged investing for a "More Equal and Resilient Queensland". For details of QCOSS budget submission visit: http://www.qcoss.org.au/upload/6576_QCOSS_BudgetSubmission_%20Balancing%20the%20Recovery_19%2011%202009.pdf

Meetings and Forums



Futures Forum

Futures Forum is an independent coalition of over 40 state-wide human services, peak organisations, service providers and networks in Queensland that serves as a vehicle to identify state-wide strategic issues of concern for the sector and to explore collaborative action to address these issues. YANQ continues to be an active member of the Futures Forum.

In July 2010, Futures Forum members from 30 organisations met to consider the emerging issues and priorities for the sector in the next twelve months. At this meeting, an Action Plan was developed which identifies the following as the key strategic goal for the Forum as:

- Increasing the recognition of the unique contribution of the Community Services Sector by the broader community.
- You can check out the Futures Forum Action Plan by visiting <http://www.futuresforum.org.au/>

Values in Youth Work

In response to one of the key recommendations of the Youth Sector in Queensland report, YANQ organised a 5 day residential Values Train the Trainer program. Seven trainers from across the state participated in this training. The trainers are now running a one or two day workshop with youth services in regional Queensland under any of the following titles:

- Integrating values into your organisational framework
- Developing a values-driven model of service for your organisation
- Ensuring ethical practice throughout your organisation

Funding legislation

In November 2010, the Department of Communities invited YANQ to a two day consultation workshop on the development of funding legislation. We received a week's notice of this consultation and did not have the opportunity to consult our members and to respond in our capacity as sector peak body and on behalf of our members. YANQ recommends that the Department of Communities adopt a policy for consultation based on the Queensland Compact with a minimum turnaround time of three months for any consultation. This will allow peak bodies such as YANQ to engage their members and to provide quality feedback to the Government.

Packaging Rules for Youth Work Qualifications

YANQ played a lead role in consulting with all State and Territory youth sector peak bodies about the recently introduced new requirements relating to the Packaging Rules of Qualifications in Training Packages and as a result have sought an exemption for the CHC51408 Diploma of Youth Work in relation to the new requirements for Packaging Rules of Qualifications in Training Packages until a comprehensive review is undertaken.

It is the view of the youth sector that a comprehensive review of the existing youth work qualifications is needed as a result of proposed changes to ensure that key values, ethics, critical analysis, knowledge and skills are embedded in the remaining core units. This review and research could be outsourced but must involve universities, TAFEs, youth sector peaks, employers, youth workers and other key stakeholders. The youth sector would feed the result of this review into the Continuous Improvement Plan Processes of Community Services Health Industry Skills Council. Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) used information from YANQ to form its response to the proposal by Community Services Health Industry Skills Council.

Policy for young people

YANQ continues to raise with the Queensland Government the need to develop a Queensland Government Plan for Young People. This will follow from the Seniors Plan which was developed by the Department in recent times. YANQ has been lobbying the state government to allocate sufficient resources and develop a youth policy in a genuine partnership with young people and youth sector.

HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Sexual Health

YANQ has continued to represent the Queensland youth sector on the Queensland Ministerial Advisory Committee for HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Sexual Health. Youth issues are a major focus for this group and currently a working group chaired by YANQ is undertaking research to identify the needs/issues in relation to young people in Queensland, recommend strategic approaches to address issues, and advise the Health Minister of these matters and implications for other departments or whole of government issues. One of the areas already highlighted in our work is the need for sexual health training for teachers in high schools and youth workers based in non-government youth services.

In our role as the chair of the Youth Working Group, YANQ met with the Directors-General from Departments of Education, Communities and Health and discussed the roll out of sexual health training for schools as well as the need for training of youth workers. In early 2011, YANQ met with officers from Queensland Health in relation to workforce issues and sexual health training for youth workers, resulting in the provision of a small research grant to YANQ for establishing a comprehensive strategy for training youth workers in sexual health education as part of the Youth Sector Development Plan.

Multicultural Development

Multicultural Officer at YANQ

Since July 2010, Queensland no longer has a multicultural worker at the peak body for the youth sector in YANQ. This is the first time in approximately 15 years that Queensland has neglected the need for a dedicated position to facilitate a range of initiatives from research and training to community engagement and policy development with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and youth services working with CALD young people. YANQ has been referred by Multicultural Affairs Queensland to the Office for Youth to seek future funding to ensure a dedicated position at YANQ to facilitate engagement with CALD young people and services.

Unfortunately, YANQ's capacity to work with the multicultural youth sector has been significantly diminished. YANQ was hoping that the Queensland Government would recognise the vacuum created by de-funding of the multicultural position at YANQ.

However, Multicultural Affairs Queensland have continually referred YANQ to Office for Youth as the government department with lead role on youth issues.

However, YANQ continues to work on a number of specific initiatives including our work in developing Multicultural Youth Affairs Network (MYAN) model at a state level, with connection to key projects under the umbrella of the network including refugee youth programs with a focus on education and support for youth workers.

YANQ has also continued to deliver Cross Cultural Youth Work Practice Training to the sector. YANQ is also working on expanding this training next year to include working with entire agencies. This strategy has been developed in response to our evaluation of the training program and its use in the work place.

YANQ also initiated and attended a one day forum in relation to unaccompanied minors arriving in Queensland as refugees. There are a number of concerns with this program including the lack of support for young people as soon as they turn 18.

Treasurer's Report

I have pleasure in presenting the independent auditor's report for the year ending 30 June 2011.

I took over the role of the treasure from Trish Ferrier who had been YANQ's Treasurer for most of the financial year. Trish and the Finance Committee had developed a comprehensive process for financial planning and accountability which made my transition into the Treasurer's position very smooth. The successful work of YANQ's Finance Committee is evident by the report from our auditor and the financial position of the organisation.

Although YANQ's recurrent funding has been reduced in the past few years, strict fiscal restraint has ensured YANQ remains in a healthy financial position.

YANQ has continued to be a strong voice for the rights of young people in Queensland and the development of Queensland youth sector. In order for the sector to respond appropriately to challenges faced by young people and communities we require a healthy youth sector. That's why YANQ's work in the sector development area is paramount to creation of a vibrant youth sector in Queensland.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members and subscribers for their financial contribution to YANQ. I also would like to thank our funding bodies and donors for their contribution.

If you require any further information in regards to the audit report please contact our office.

Matilda Alexander
Treasurer

Youth Affairs Network of Qld

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS NETWORK OF QUEENSLAND INC.

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc. (the association), which comprises the committee's report, the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2011, the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc. is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) 1981* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

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Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc. as at 30 June 2011 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the *Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) 1981*

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc. to meet the requirements of *Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) 1981*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Hayes Knight Audit (Qld) Pty Ltd.

Hayes Knight Audit (Qld) Pty Ltd

AM Robertson

AM Robertson

Director

Level 19, 127 Creek Street,
Brisbane, QLD, 4000

Date: 12 October 2011

Acronyms

ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
ARC	Australian Research Council
ATSI	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
AYAC	Australian Youth Affairs Coalition
CAIR	Coalition Against Inappropriate Remand
CALD	Culturally And Linguistically Diverse
CPLAN	Communities of Practice Leaders Action Network
DET	Department of Education and Training
DEEWR	(Federal) Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations
DoC	Department of Communities
INC	Incorporated
IRG	Industry Reference Group
MYAN	Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OfY	Office for Youth
QCOSS	Queensland Council of Social Services
QLD	Queensland
QUT	Queensland University of Technology
TAFE	Technical And Further Education
YANQ	Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc.
YARI	Youth At Risk Initiative
YCN	Youth Consultative Network
YDAQ	Youth Disability Advocacy Network
YJC	Youth Justice Coalition
YSLG	Youth Sector Leadership Group



youth affairs network qld

ANNUAL REPORT 2010 / 2011

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