



youth affairs network qld

## Queensland Youth Work – Community of Practice 2023



This is a unique opportunity for workers in the youth justice, residential care system, youth support services and other youth workers to join a state-wide online Community of Practice (CoP) to explore practice frameworks that help improve ethical and effective youth work provision.

A CoP is a group of people who share a common concern, a set of problems, or an interest in a topic and who come together to fulfill both individual and group goals. CoPs often focus on sharing best practices and creating new knowledge to advance a domain of professional practice. This CoP will operate as a group of peers who share a concern or passion for their work with young people, and a thirst for learning. All participants will be committed to working and learning about youth work within a context of equity, respect, anti-racist and anti-oppressive practices.

The Community of Practice will:

- be made up of a highly experienced support team drawing on practice-based and theoretically informed knowledge,
- and experienced workers who are currently in positions which bring them into contact with vulnerable young people.

An action research process will guide the work of this group who will endeavour to answer one key question:

**What will it take to enhance the way we can effectively engage with highly marginalised young people?**

The CoP will:

- facilitate practical and hands on learning and knowledge sharing to support workers with knowledge and tools to critically analyse key youth work issues, and to explore creative and transformative practices to use in their daily work that support and strengthen young people's wellbeing.
- act as a support structure for the members of the group so they can ask questions, share practice wisdom and to turn their newly acquired knowledge and experience into concrete learning and actions.
- operate flexibly and a range of learning tools such as group Zoom meetings, private Facebook Group, Google Docs and podcasts will ensure the participants find the best medium that suits their learning needs.
- It is anticipated that there will be 6 x 2 hour online sessions during 2023.

The Support Team includes:

- **Peter Westoby** is currently a community development practitioner at Hummingbird House, a consultant with Community Praxis Co-op, a custodian of the [Camellia Centre for Reflective Practice](#) and Honorary Associate Professor at Deakin University, and a visiting Professor with the Centre for Development Support, University of Free State, South Africa. Peter's experience includes over 30 years of development practice work in South Africa, Uganda, Nepal, PNG, the Philippines, Vanuatu and Australia. He is also the author of [15 books and over 50 professional journal articles](#).
- **Phil Dodds** has been working in and around the youth sector since 1994. Phil has a Social Work degree and has worked in crisis/long term accommodation, outreach and has worked with young people involved in the criminal justice system for the last 20 years. Phil's current work involves supporting young people and their families who have a mother in prison or at risk of imprisonment.
- **Jen Kaighin** is a lecturer in Social Work and Human Services in the Faculty of Health, School of Public Health and Social Work, QUT. Jen came to academia following almost 20 years as a youth work practitioner in Brisbane, Darwin and Victoria. Jen's teaching reflects the years of practice wisdom and the lessons learned from the young people she engaged with. Jen's passion for teaching lies in building learning environments that encourage and celebrate diversity, critical reflection, challenge, and growth. Jen's research interests include queer theory, education and practice; youth work practice; and young people's rights.
- **Neta-Rie Mabo** is a proud Meriam, Munbarra and South Sea Islander woman. Neta-Rie is the State Youth Programs Manager at Sisters Inside and has over 11 years' experience working with girls affected by criminalisation and imprisonment. Neta-Rie is an accomplished visual artist and coordinates the Sisters Inside Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander Art Programs in the community and in youth prisons in Queensland as a successful decarceration strategy.

- **Siyavash Doostkhah** is the Director of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ). Siyavash has over 30 years experience in the Queensland Youth Sector. He has worked with young people in various settings including crisis shelters, Detention Centres and in low socio-economic communities. Siyavash oversaw the delivery of Certificate IV and Diploma of Youth Work in remote parts of Queensland. He gives guest lectures on youth work and youth advocacy on a regular basis at various TAFEs and Universities.
- Young people with lived experience.

If you are interested in joining this CoP in 2023, follow this link and answer a few simple questions. <https://forms.gle/6JMQZ5dVDnKWb7M8>

Please note that participants in this CoP will need to commit to a range of activities such as group conversations, readings and listening to podcasts. The details of what activities will be on offer will be negotiated with the group based on individual and group needs.

There are six preplanned sessions throughout the year. Additional sessions may be held based on participants' interest/needs. The preplanned sessions are from 3:00pm - 5:00pm on the following Wednesdays:

- March 29<sup>th</sup>
- May 17<sup>th</sup>
- June 21<sup>st</sup>
- August 23<sup>rd</sup>
- October 4<sup>th</sup>
- November 15<sup>th</sup>

Funded by



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Government

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