

network noise

the newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ)



What's Inside...

Suzi Quixley challenges us to Act Up

Advocacy body sends dangerous message

Meet the members of YANQ

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youth affairs network qld

Cover photo: Family Planning Queensland

Contributions welcome!

We'd love you to contribute to Network Noise. Ring, write, email or fax us your latest news on any of the following:

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

The September copy deadline is **mid August**.

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A NEW QUEENSLAND

We are at the half way mark of the first 100 days of LNP Government in Queensland.

Before, during and after the state election, YANQ has been raising the need for the new State Government to focus on youth issues by committing to developing a whole of government Youth Policy, strengthening the role of Office For Youth and ensuring additional resources for the sector.

In early May, YANQ President and Director met with Margaret Allison, the Director General of Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. The meeting was very positive and the Director General demonstrated a willingness to hear the issues which are having an impact on young people, youth workers and youth organisations. Margaret has previously worked in Court Services and during this time she was exposed to the difficulties of connecting with marginalised young people. We discussed the key role of youth workers in engaging and building a trusting relationship with young people and how funding guidelines need to be flexible enough for youth workers to be able to continue building relationships with young people as a major part of their work.

The LNP Government is also interested in YANQ's CPLANs and the way YANQ is engaging with the youth sector at a regional level. All 10 CPLANs are now up and running, establishing regional structures for policy and sector development. CPLANs are supported by YANQ's policy coordinator as well as external support from Qld University of Technology and the Metro South Institute of TAFE.

In June 2012, the CPLAN facilitators will gather in Brisbane and commence a twelve month policy development process which will culminate in a state policy forum in middle of 2013. All YANQ members should have received correspondence from their regional CPLANS inviting them to participate in these processes. Please take the time to contact your CPLAN facilitator and become involved with advancing policy and sector development at a regional level as well as helping to inform YANQ policy agenda. Details of regional CPLAN facilitators and their contacts can be found on YANQ website.

For the first time in the history of youth service provision in Queensland we have a state policy development structure that can be informed by evidence on the ground from across Queensland. This will no doubt provide YANQ with a clear agenda to progress policy and sector development at state and national levels.



Siyavash Doostkhah
Director

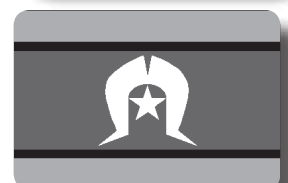
director@yanq.org.au



YANQ believes that the primary culture of Australia is Aboriginal

We recognise that Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Islander people are three separate cultures. We recognise Aboriginal people as the permanent custodians of mainland Australia and Torres Strait Islanders as permanent custodians of the Torres Strait Islands that are an integral part of Australia, including those areas of land and sea whose owners have been wiped out as a result of racist politics and acts. We use the term custodianship in the context of protection and care for the land.

YANQ is committed to respecting individuals, Murri and Islander communities. 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 mistreatments of Murri and Islander people created by colonisation, and is committed to supporting the healing process.



YANQ VALUES

Benefit of Values Driven Organisational Frameworks

At a Special General Meeting

held on 14th May 2012, YANQ members voted to adopt the revised set of values and priorities to guide YANQ's work in the coming years. For the past 10 years, YANQ has used a value base to ensure consistency of work towards achieving the organisation's vision. There has been a great deal of learning in the last decade and a comprehensive review of the 10 year operation has informed changes to the organisation's value and priorities.

Over the past decade, YANQ has been promoting a values driven model of youth work in the sector and in recent times we have been running workshops in various parts of the state assisting organisations to articulate and integrate values into their organisational frameworks, develop values-driven models of service delivery and ensure ethical practice throughout their organisation.

Organisational frameworks and policies and procedures relating to service provision, including organisational ethics, are driven by values. Sometimes these are

the result of conscious processing of values by the organisation - resulting in a coherent organisational framework. All too often, however, organisational frameworks/policies/procedures have been developed in a reactive, ad hoc way. This often results in incongruent frameworks, internal conflict and a lack of coherent practical and ethical guidance for organisational staff.

Every individual has thousands of different beliefs and values. Developing a coherent set of values for an organisation is therefore a complex governance issue. The deeper the shared values across an organisation, the more coherent the organisation and its collective actions/decisions will be.

In community services organisations, the imperative to develop shared values is high. Most organisations in the youth sector workforce recognise the importance of developing coherent organisational values and seeking staff who hold compatible values.

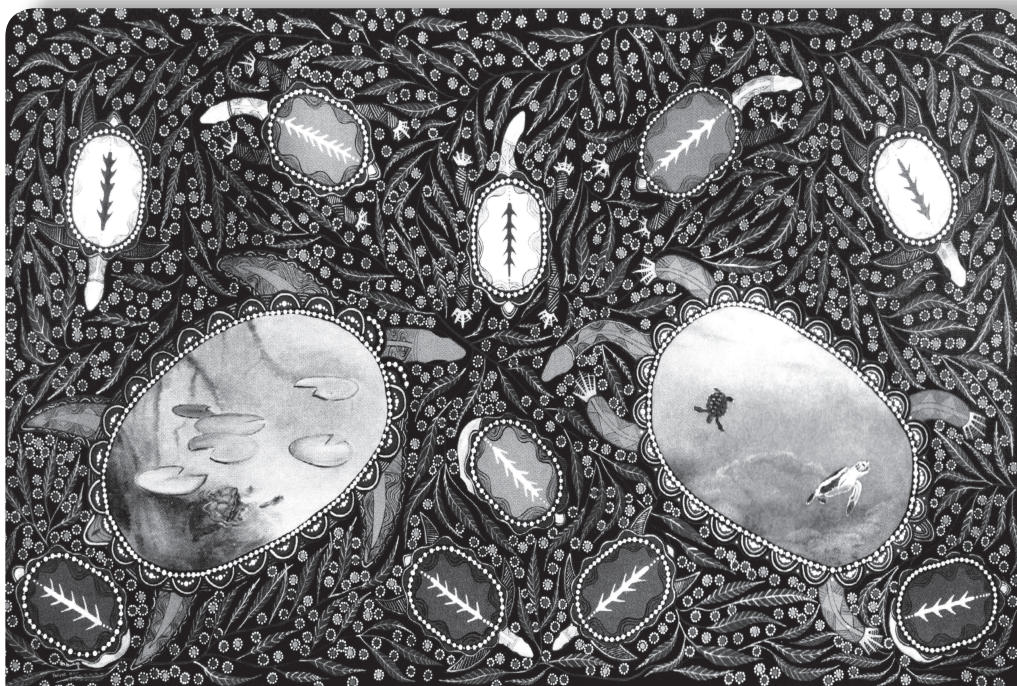
The youth sector workforce are widely aware of the impact of values on policy and practice - in particular, they are



conscious of the adverse consequences of insufficient values processing within organisations. These consequences are most commonly evident in internal organisational conflict, or poor/patchy quality of service to young people.

There is currently a lack of specialist organisational development models and processes which address these issues to the level of sophistication required in the community services industry.

Corporate development models tend to address values at a general, aspirational level - through Mission Statements, codes of conduct and similar. Documents of this kind do not provide sufficient guidance, at either a policy or practice level, for the youth sector workforce.



If you are interested in learning more about how to develop and integrate values in your organisational frameworks or if you like YANQ to hold a training workshop in your region please contact YANQ.

Siyavash Doostkhah
YANQ Director

Tex Scuthorpe's
Vision for a Sustainable Planet -
a key theme underpinning YANQ's values

'What is Youth Work' Consultations

In March 2012, YANQ held consultations in four regions throughout Queensland as part of YANQ's Youth Sector Development Project.

This consultation has provided the first opportunity for groups of Queensland youth workers to compare the current working definition of youth work provided in the YANQ **What is Youth Work** Discussion Paper with their own ideas. Whilst being a relatively small group compared with the overall sector, workers came from four regions and about half of them were Murri or other First Nation Australians working with young Murris. The consultations also included a majority of regional and rural perspectives.

YANQ's **Youth Sector in Queensland** Report (Feb 2010) identified that youth program contracts are increasingly going to large, nationally or externally based organisations with insufficient understanding of and commitment to local or "youth centred" service and community contexts. Youth Workers are increasingly expected to take on roles or responsibilities that were previously undertaken by government or statutory bodies (e.g. child protection, juvenile justice, etc). Increasingly, workers in the broader youth or community services sectors either do not identify as being youth workers (but as case workers, child protection officers, education consultants, community development officers, etc.) or where they do, are being afforded insufficient recognition or being treated as "junior workers".

The lack of a commonly held definition of youth work was identified as a major obstacle to ensuring that Youth Work remains a clearly identified and valued occupation within the broader sector. YANQ has released two discussion papers to assist the sector to develop a shared definition. The **What is Youth Work** discussion paper considers the history, different approaches to and current status of youth work and proposes a working definition. The **Which Wei** paper looks specifically at Murri youth work, including its history and current context and focuses on the values and attitudes required to work well with young Murris.

Consultations were then held to provide youth workers with the opportunity to discuss whether they saw "youth work" as being different from "working with young people" and if so, how they would define it, including gauging support for the working definition outlined in the background paper.

In the next few weeks, YANQ will be releasing a report which brings together the voices of around 80 participants who attended the eight separate sessions held to progress the development of a commonly held and understood definition of youth work in Queensland.

Acting Up

An opinion piece by Suzi Quixley

Making the Invisible, Visible

This is the last in my series of Network News articles exploring values in youth work. These are part of a wider focus on values, arising from the YANQ Youth Sector Development Project. The articles run parallel to processes occurring throughout Queensland to define youth work and examine the role of values and ethics in work with young people.

Previous articles have looked at youth workers as potential individual activists (through the way we treat young people) and community activists (helping to build communities which include young people as equal members). We have seen the role youth workers can play in enabling genuine participatory democracy at a local level.

But what about at a state and national level?

What would it take to genuinely transform the lives of Australian young people?

To improve their access to fundamental human rights such as income, housing, health care, safety and education. To ensure that young people are treated equitably – regardless of their age, sex, race, sexuality and ability. To respond to their right to be genuinely included as equal members of Australian society. To optimise their means to make a social contribution?

Structural decisions affecting young Queenslanders are ultimately determined by the Queensland and Australian governments.

I believe that youth workers have an ethical responsibility to contribute toward addressing the inequities faced by young people – to be social activists.

No amount of bottom up advocacy can, alone, improve the structural situation of young people. Collective advocacy for the human rights of young people is essential to addressing fundamental weaknesses in our social, cultural, economic and political structures. Our chances of success increase when we work collaboratively with allied groups toward achieving shared goals for marginalised and disadvantaged social groups more widely.

Who sets the advocacy agenda? Youth sector peak bodies can and should play a key role in advocating for the human rights of young people, particularly marginalised and disadvantaged young people. Our peaks can and should operate in the interest of building a genuinely participatory and inclusive society. They can and should be accountable to the youth sector, and proactively address the informed priorities identified by the sector.

It's no surprise that, alongside increased government control of youth work practice, youth sector peak bodies throughout Australia have been pressured to serve the interests of governments. Peaks bodies across the community services industry have been increasingly required to prioritise government-determined tasks over the issues which most affect their constituencies. Service contracts have typically de-emphasised the research and advocacy roles of peaks. Some have even limited peak bodies' right to represent the interests of their constituents through the media. Peaks are encouraged to engage with bureaucrats, rather than those with the capacity to more directly influence decisions, particularly politicians.

In my view, too many of the limited resources of peak bodies are dedicated to **reacting** to government agendas, through activities such as sitting on advisory bodies with limited power to affect outcomes, and responding to 'consultation' papers.

It is essential that peaks **proactively** engage with active social reform – lobbying government, undertaking community education and sharing information with allied groups, whilst strengthening their sector at a local level. What is the point of a peak body, unless its main role is to lobby for its constituency?

The good news – we have power! At both a state and national level, the community services industry is BIG, and potentially very powerful. We employ, for example, many more people than the mining or banking industries. In 2010, Peter Shergold from The Centre for Social Impact wrote:

The social economy touches virtually everyone. ... There are around 600,000 not-for-profits, of which almost 60,000 are economically significant. They provide 8% of employment, excluding the wage equivalent of \$15 billion worked by 4.6 million volunteers. Non profit activity contributes \$43 billion to GDP and is growing at almost 8% each year.

Sadly, we (the youth sector and community services more widely) are punching below our weight.

We must recognise our size, social value and economic impact. We must champion the voices of young people ... especially those young people who are generally excluded from the common wealth.

Collectively, we can ...

1. Stop the invisibility of marginalised young people ... advocate with and for young people to the wider society; assert the value of building truly inclusive communities that respect the full diversity of their members; strengthen the voice of young people on social issues.

2. Learn to say No and remember that third sector is not third best ... the people sector is at least as socially valuable as the public and private sectors. As Colin Ball argues, the people sector pre-existed both the public and private sectors. We are the first sector, and should treat ourselves as such.

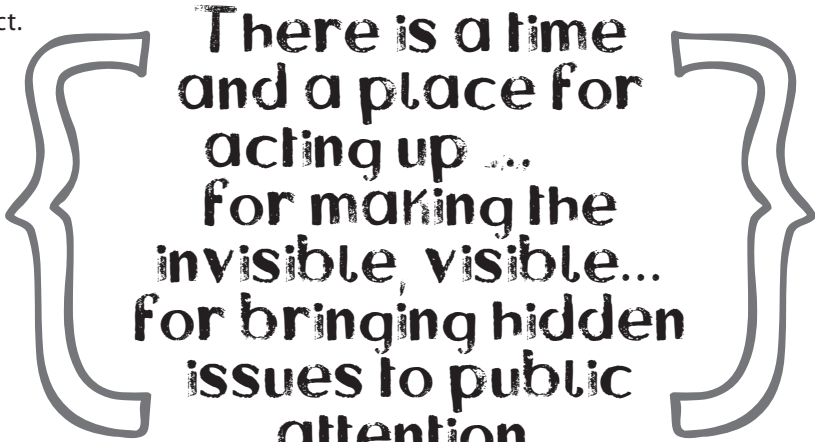
3. Reclaim our organisational independence ... take back control of the purpose of our organisations. Remember why the organisations we're involved with were originally established, and test all our current activities against these values and visions.

4. Value the existing strengths in the youth sector ... the unique personalised, customised services we can offer; our capacity to build connections within and between young people, community and society; the value of long term interagency relationships in achieving outcomes. We should especially promote the need for more sophisticated cost/benefit analysis of what our services offer.

5. Treat ourselves as equal partners with government ... re-engage with genuine negotiation based on respect for our mutual strengths – government has money; small NGO's have unique understanding of young people's varied needs on the ground and expertise in how best to deliver services in response to local needs.

6. Re-legitimise our contribution to participatory democracy ... lobby to address limits on advocacy in both funding contracts and charitable status; challenge any and all threats to the autonomy of legally incorporated community organisations.

We can continue to work at a reform level, having a small influence on existing government agendas through writing submissions or participating in committees, consultations, roundtables or working groups. But let's not forget our main purpose – to be a voice with and for young people who have been silenced.



**There is a time
and a place for
acting up ...
for making the
invisible, visible...
for bringing hidden
issues to public
attention.**

If we're not on the side of marginalised young people, who will be? As youth workers, we are uniquely positioned to be a moral compass of democracy; to bring heart back into an economically-driven world; to put the social back into society.

There is a time and a place for acting up ... for making the invisible, visible ... for bringing hidden issues to public attention.

In the end, we may need to throw a tantrum or two, to ensure that young people's voices and needs are heard above the babble of bureauspeak and media misrepresentation. We may need to collectively refuse to sign service agreements that give government copyright and censorship authority over our publications. We may need to run more campaigns (like past YANQ campaigns against locking up untried young people and medicating young people who don't conform to conservative social norms). We may need to knock on MP's and Ministers' doors, skywrite our messages or use social media to generate mass petitions. In other words ... we may need to participate more actively in democracy at a state and national level.

It's time to decide whose side we're on.

Are we on the side of those young people who are socially excluded, or the side of those who exclude many young people from society?

.....

Suzi is a freelance writer and consultant whose practice is driven by social justice values. She has a long standing interest in the ethics, values and politics of community services work, and has written widely on the subject.

Further articles and practical handouts are available at www.suziqconsulting.com.au/free_articles.htm

YANQ MEMBER PROFILES

Organisation Name: SAPH Vision Quest Association - 'New Beginnings'

Based: Gold Coast Queensland

Since start-up in 1999, SAPH Vision Quest has specialised in the development and conduct of innovative Prevention & Early Intervention (PEI) Programs for disadvantaged and at-risk young people. Our work is important as our programs offer one of the few effective means of countering the dramatic increase in anti-social behaviour by young people in the age group 10-14 years that has occurred over the past 10 years. Effective PEI programs change young people's lives for the better, and dramatically reduce the cost to society of their actions and of their consequent involvement with the Youth Justice System.

Simply put, we aim to give young people positive alternatives in their lives, whilst promoting their self-awareness, and developing community awareness and leadership skills.

Who do you work with?

SAPH Vision Quest has developed an effective referral system linking into its programs, by working actively with schools, indigenous and migrant/refugee organisations within the region. Our programs have gradually been extended to cover all of South East Queensland and Northern New South Wales, and will be extended throughout all of Queensland in 2013-14. We also have developed links with organisations in the other Australian States, and with a number of major overseas Youth Organisations. We received a high commendation for the innovative nature of our work at a major European Youth



Prevention Conference held in Sweden in 2010.

We actively encourage collaboration with like-minded organisations, both in Australia and abroad, and are looking at licensing our programs to selected organisations throughout Australia.

What do you value about being a YANQ member, and what would you like to see done differently?

We have been actively involved with YANQ since 2009. It is the Network's ability to support organisations throughout our state, distribute information to members, and to lobby government that is most important to us.

I believe that YANQ needs to expand its role in lobbying State Government on behalf of the organisations it represents. It must be a strong voice for youth, and for those non-profits that provide effective support to young people. YANQ should be a 'guiding voice' to government on what most needs to be done to improve services for young people, especially for those who are, by definition, our most disadvantaged. Our government, in turn, needs to pay heed to the experience that NGOs like ours have developed, and learn to work collaboratively, instead of trying to 'invent the wheel' by itself.

Ben Braur
Founder and Director

Further information on SAPH Vision Quest or the New Beginnings Program is available on our website: www.new-beginnings.org.au/ or by contacting our Gold Coast Office on 07 5510 3340.



Photos: Ben Braur. Publication permission given by Parents/Guardians

Organisation Name: Family Planning Queensland

Based: State-wide

Family Planning Queensland has provided sexual and reproductive health services throughout Queensland since 1972. Today, FPQ works in nine regional centres located in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Sunshine Coast, Brisbane, Ipswich, Toowoomba and the Gold Coast. From these sites, FPQ provides a range of clinical, education, training and information services in the area of sexual and reproductive health. This includes everything from training GPs and nurses how to communicate effectively with young people to support their sexual and reproductive health to producing resources to help parents and carers talk to their children about puberty and growing up. FPQ is a nonprofit, nongovernment organisation supported in part by Queensland Government and by members and supporters.

FPQ fills an important niche as a training provider as well as publisher of key resources in self protection, contraception, sexuality and relationships education for all including people with a disability. We work to ensure teachers, disability workers, youth workers and other adults who care about the health and wellbeing of young people have access to information, tools and support to talk sensibly about sexuality and relationships to keep children and young people healthy and safe from harm.

In 2010-2011, over 13,000 Queenslanders visited FPQ clinics, with more than 70% of services delivered outside Brisbane. Training and education programs were also provided to over 20,000 medical, nursing, allied health and disability sector professionals.

We collaborate with other organisations to provide training, education and resources to support young people's health and wellbeing. For example, FPQ recently published CONNECTIONS, a resource package and workshop for GPs and nurses. CONNECTIONS builds communication skills to use in consultation with young people to support positive sexual and reproductive health outcomes. FPQ is pleased to be planning to customise CONNECTIONS for school based youth health nurses in the coming months. More information is available by contacting Diana Earl on 3250 0240.

What are your goals and what frameworks do you work with to achieve them?

FPQ's strategic directions include a very conscious focus on young people's sexual and reproductive health, particularly in creating conversations and inclusive responses to sexuality. We do this in partnerships with other organisations that work with young people, workforce development of teachers and others in school systems, inviting feedback from young people about their sexual and

reproductive health needs (such as through participation in the James Cook University survey, Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Rural and Regional Young People in Queensland: young people aged 15 to 24 are invited to participate online at <http://www.jcu.edu.au/srhproject/>), engaging with young people directly through our own community programs such as our Sunshine Coast Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Young People's Sexual Health Project, among other strategies. FPQ values direct input from the young people who access services at our clinics and participate in our programs. Putting young people's needs and interests first to inform our program and service planning is the most important guiding framework in this area.

How long have you been a member of the YANQ? What do you value about the Network?

FPQ has been a member of YANQ since 2005. In many of the nine regions where FPQ has centres, our staff have enjoyed the opportunity to network through YANQ events; learn from the research YANQ undertakes to inform and improve collaboration and services; and enjoys the newsletter. We have also participated in conferences and advocacy work.

Where would you like to see the Network going in the future?

Front of mind for FPQ is that sexuality and relationships education is optional in Queensland schools. There are no minimum requirements in the curriculum at any age. This means an 18 year old could complete Year 12 without ever having learnt about puberty and periods, negotiating healthy relationships, risks of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and prevention strategies, and the list goes on. It is disappointing that in 2012 Queensland students are not guaranteed information about sexuality, relationships or their

sexual and reproductive health in the course of their schooling.

Research shows that STIs are increasing in young people, particularly Chlamydia, which can result in long term impacts including infertility. Young people are already making choices about sex: services need to support young people to make appropriate choices. If young people lack knowledge about sexual and reproductive health and relationships, they are highly vulnerable to unwanted sex, sexual violence, unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS.

Many young people are denied the information they need to make informed decisions about sex and relationships. This information is often withheld because of an unfounded belief that giving young people information about sexuality will encourage promiscuity. As a result, young people are not always able to protect themselves from STIs, unwanted sex and unplanned pregnancies.

Anything else that you'd like to tell other YANQ members?

FPQ is also a lead publisher of resources to support parents, carers and professionals to help keep kids safe. FPQ's latest resource, *Is this normal?* Understanding your child's sexual behaviour provides parents and carers with a traffic lights framework to help them understand and appropriately respond to children's sexual behaviours. It shares stories about everyday situations and offers concrete tools to support communication with children about their sexuality and relationships. It is available for purchase at http://www.fpq.com.au/publications/teachingAids/Is_this_normal.php

We'd like other organisations concerned about the health and wellbeing of young people to work together to advocate for sexuality and relationships education in Queensland schools. You can contact FPQ on 3250 0240 for more information.



Organisation Name: Young People Ahead

Based: Mount Isa

Young People Ahead, locally known as YPA, is a not for profit community organisation in the rural region of Mt Isa. We auspice four youth programs:

1. Mount Isa Youth Shelter (MIYS)
2. Volatile Substance Misuse Initiative (VSM)
3. Bail Support Program
4. Youth Housing And Reintegration Service (YHARS)

These programs are funded by the Department of Communities and aim to address and provide support to the young people of Mount Isa experiencing or at risk of homelessness, volatile substance misuse, youth justice issues pertaining to bail and reintegration from incarceration and those leaving care of the Department of Child Safety.

YPA is a diverse, multicultural organisation which employs 21 staff who accomplish amazing work with the youth of Mount Isa.

Who do you work with?

Due to our location, a high proportion of clients are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds, ranging in age between 10 to 25 years. All YPA programs are culturally appropriate, do not discriminate and are accessible to all youths and their families who need help during times of need.

YPA also works in collaboration with other local organisations and government agencies to provide the best outcomes for all young people.

What are the core values of YPA?

YPA's culture is one of Team Work, Advocacy and Integrity. YPA operates from a strengths based approach and believes young people are their own 'experts of change'. We empower young people to make positive change, provide opportunities and promote individualism. YPA services are client focused and work in collaboration with other organisations and government agencies to ensure the best outcomes for clients are achieved in a holistic framework.

Young people identify the organisation as being trustworthy, safe and above all hands-on when engaging with clients.



How long has YPA been a member of the YANQ?

YPA has been a member of YANQ for over 15 years and greatly values the support it gives to community based organisations such as YPA who work tirelessly in the youth sector. YPA sees great value in the Network in terms of advocacy and dissemination of information to the State-Wide Youth Sector and their efforts to strengthen the sector.

What will be the important issues for your organisation and YANQ in the future?

We at YPA greatly value the importance of YANQ and its fellow networks in the State and believe that they have a bright future especially as they relate to having strong policy platforms throughout the region and ultimately impacting decisions made in Local, State and Federal Governments. We strongly believe that YANQ should be given direct State funding to fully develop, implement and evaluate service delivery at the coal face, and to also have the ability to make a real policy impact into Government funding allocations to regions for the betterment of the sector.

With the development of the CPLANs throughout the State – YANQ has been making massive in-roads into furthering their reaches outside of SE Qld and one that YPA fully supports and hope continues. We as an organisation would really like to see the creation of youth specific Regional Youth Development Coordinators to better equip, support and assist community organisations on the ground in terms of funding, events planning, program evaluations and above all advocacy.

Do you have any plans for future collaboration within or outside the sector?

As YPA is the largest youth organisation in North West Queensland we are constantly working with other smaller organisations, especially as they relate to Health, Education and Training and are always looking out for future partnerships especially with Employment and Housing.

In terms of support in other areas that we see YANQ having a role in, these include development of a stronger position with Private Sector and or Corporate Companies, to involve them in providing support and funding to programs that are not fully funded by the Department. As YPA sits firmly in a very large mining region we see huge potential in getting mining companies involved in supplementing funding for our youth programs, but currently lack the business acumen to commence and foster relationships with them.

Alvin Hava
Manager, YPA-Isa



Organisation Name: Queensland Youth Services**Based:** Townsville, Ingham and Ayr

Saturday morning radio program participants



opportunities and options.

What do you value about the State Network, and what are your concerns?

QYS has been a member of YANQ for many years and this membership plays an integral part of keeping in touch with the rest of Queensland's youth services network.

One of the most important issues for our organisation in being based in the north is that we don't get forgotten when it comes to funding of our programs and up-skilling of our youth workers.

As we are based in North Queensland, so far away from other south east Queensland organisations in the network, we find that it is sometimes difficult when it comes to finding similar services which to transfer clients.

Get Set for Work participants catering for Muso Magic**What work does your service do?**

Queensland Youth Services Incorporated (QYS) is a non-government organization that was founded in the Townsville region in 1978. QYS offers a diverse range of programs to young people in the Townsville region. These programs are:

Youth Support Coordinator Program: The YSC program supports young people still connected to education/training but at risk of disengaging. The focus is on prevention and early intervention activities.

Reconnect Program: This program covers the Townsville area and the target group is young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, and their families. The young people involved in the program are reconnected when it is appropriate with, or introduced to, family, educational pursuits, vocational training, employment options and the broader community.

Young Parents Programs: These programs are aimed at assisting young parents (parents who are under 25 years of age), their partners and their children through various projects, outreach and information and referral services. The programs also assist young people who are expecting a child and those whose children are in foster care. The Young Parents Programs currently incorporate the Munchkins Playgroup and the Young Parents Support Program.

Get Set for Work Program: The program targets disengaged youth aged 15-17 years old. The aim of the program is to provide participants with a set of skills that will enable engagement in further education and training, or employment opportunities in the local region.

Youth Housing and Reintegration Service: The Townsville Youth Housing and Reintegration Service's objective is to reduce homelessness affecting young people aged 12-20 years who are either exiting, or transitioning from child protection orders, are transitioning to the community following a period of sentence or remand in a Youth Detention Centre, or are homeless, or in inadequate housing.

QYS strives to promote and provide services for young people with a view to improving their quality of life and well-being. QYS programs aim to provide opportunities for young people to achieve, realize their individual potential, build self-esteem and develop value in themselves and our community.

QYS is committed to principles of social justice. The organisation promotes a sense of wellbeing for young people by providing support networks, strategic programs, information and assistance to access support services,

ADVOCACY BODY SENDS DANGEROUS MESSAGE

By Sue O'Reilly

When does any form of disability turn into a "disease" to be eradicated?

When it is being discussed by doctors and medical researchers seeking money from governments, corporate donors and members of the public to fund research aimed at finding ways to prevent and/or cure some form of disability.

Now, you may think that no one in this relatively enlightened day and age, however well-meaning and well-intentioned, would describe any form of disability as a "disease".

A condition which there may one day be ways to prevent or cure perhaps... but no one would talk as though a lifelong physical or intellectual disability was akin to rabies or leprosy or cancer - would they?

If that's what you are asking yourself, then go to the website of the Cerebral Palsy Alliance Research Foundation, and also one of its main financial sponsors, the Balnaves Foundation, and read all about it for yourself.

Cerebral Palsy Alliance is the new, improved "brand" for one of Australia's largest disability charities, the Spastic Centre of NSW, which early last year

bowed to about 20 years of pressure and pleas and agreed to change its name to something a little more... up-to-date.

You may recall the Spastic Centre was responsible a few years ago for a television commercial, aired nationally, in which the pitch for donations featured parents graphically describing how devastated they felt when told their children had CP - with the children sitting alongside them.

Around the same time, the entrance to the Spastic Centre's headquarters in Sydney featured a giant bill-board proclaiming: "There is as yet no pre-birth screening test for cerebral palsy".



Image: www.healthandphysicaleducationteacher.com

Clients with CP, parents and families arriving for appointments couldn't miss it, and nor could anyone driving past for that matter.

When challenged as to what a pre-birth screening test might be designed to achieve, and whether it could possibly be anything akin to the pre-birth tests designed to detect - and with parental consent, abort - fetuses with genetic and chromosomal abnormalities such as Down Syndrome, Spastic Centre staff replied that it merely had something to do with "providing early intervention services more efficiently". But fairly soon after, the poster disappeared - never, as far as I'm aware, to be seen again.

Sadly, however, the thinking behind that TV ad and poster has proved far harder to dispel.

Although founded by a small group of Sydney-based parents in the late 1940s to provide services and supports for people with CP in NSW and their families, the Spastic Centre/Cerebral Palsy Alliance has over recent years become increasingly enamoured with the startlingly ambitious idea of "leading the world in the search for the prevention and cure of cerebral palsy".

Given the explosion in neurological, genetic and stem cell research in high-powered universities, specialist teaching hospitals and research institutes throughout north America, Europe, Asia and Australia over the past couple of decades or so, we can only wish the former Spastic Centre of NSW well in its self-anointed role of "world leader" in this particular field of work.

Yes, research is important. Yes, research is desirable. And yes, someone has to do it. But exactly the same argument applies to the far more mundane-sounding but equally vital goal of helping provide wheelchairs, therapy services, respite and decent supported accommodation for people with disabilities - and as it happens, the latter is what the Spastic Centre/Cerebral Palsy Alliance was created to do.

There are no natural linkages between present-day disability service provision and long-term medical research. They are two very different things - which is perhaps why, as the CPA actually boasts, it is "unique" in trying to do both.

Just as worrying though are the hopelessly mixed, contradictory messages this organisation is now spending money on promoting to the "world" (or at least the citizens of NSW) when its research arm asks for money from governments, corporate donors and the public to - as it puts it - "help us achieve our vision: a future without cerebral palsy."

For decades, disability rights campaigners and activists have fought desperately hard to beat back the pessimistic, negative, medical-model view of disabilities like CP as some terrible, untreatable, incurable affliction from which people "suffer".

It was the far more optimistic and tolerant social-model view of disability that led to the closure of the gruesome quasi-hospitals in which people with disabilities used to be locked away, and to the spread of concepts like "inclusion", "participation" and "basic human rights".

How is promoting a "vision" of a world without some form of disability, whatever it may be, in any way helpful to people living with that form of disability today? For instance, would I have wanted my late son, who had CP, to have heard his disability publicly described as a "disease" that needed to be "eradicated", as it was late last year on ABC TV by the head of the Balnaves Foundation in a news story sparked by a CPA Research Foundation media release? No, I would not.

My son was a happy, cheeky, wise and much-loved person who, precisely because he had cerebral palsy, taught his parents and siblings a vast amount about what really matters in this world, brought us into contact with kind, inspiring and generous people and changed all our lives for the better.

As the US politician Sarah Palin wrote recently about her young son, who has Down Syndrome, "families of children with special needs are bonded by a shared experience of the joys, challenges, fears and blessings of raising these beautiful children, whom we see as perfect in this imperfect world. Our children are a blessing, and the rest of the world is missing out on not knowing this".

One day, medical researchers may well find a way to prevent all the many causes of cerebral palsy, maybe one day even come up with a cure. Maybe one day there will be no such thing as "disability". Maybe one day medical researchers will even achieve human perfectibility.

But in the meantime, do you think some research genius might be able to come up with an answer as to why kids with CP in NSW have to wait up to three years for a bloody wheelchair?

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Sue O'Reilly is a freelance journalist and the mother of a son with cerebral palsy who died last year, aged 21. In 2010, along with another mother of a son with disabilities, Sue founded the grassroots political lobby group Australians Mad as Hell to campaign for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

australiansmadashell.com.au

This article was first published 12th February on ABC Ramp Up. <http://www.abc.net.au/rampup/articles/2012/02/15/3431179.htm>

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CPLAN

Sunshine

Network Facilitator - Howard Buckley
Co-facilitator - Naomi Rayward

Sunshine CPLAN takes in an area that extends from the Pine River (just north of Brisbane) to beyond Bundaberg and out to the Burnett regions. There are many youth agencies providing many wonderful services and programs for young people across this region. The Sunshine CPLAN meets monthly and is well-supported by over 25 youth agencies in the region. As a CPLAN we have decided to focus on workforce development as a way of engaging youth agencies across this broad, diverse region.

In the south of the region a project has begun that has brought together youth agencies from Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast to write a document that articulates a shared way of working with young people. A survey was conducted, two workshops were held and the result has been the development of a document called "Integrity In Our Practice" and is currently in draft with the aim of being released to the public by end of June. It is hoped that this document will be 'owned' by agencies undertaking youth work in our region and create a platform for dialogue to enhance the quality of youth work in the region.

One of these dialogues has already begun with the establishment of a working group to look at how universities and VET institutions can enhance the job-readiness of budding youth workers. This working group will begin by looking at how we can improve student placements; consider how the youth sector can have input into course elective choices; and explore how to improve professional development pathways for youth workers. This is a small step in what we hope will become an on-going dialogue.

Contact Howard on manager@dbcyp.org.au

Far North Queensland

Network Facilitator - Daniel Morris
Co-facilitator Samuel Karam

"What would it take to develop a CPLAN in FNQ?" This is the question Sam and myself have been asking as we delve into the participatory action research process and most importantly, how can we ensure that it is participatory?

So far for the team here in FNQ we have looked at several opportunities for creating a medium for engaging youth service providers in a process that is participatory, not too time consuming and is inclusive of the diverse range of organisations, target groups and other community stakeholders.

Our initial concept was to utilise a consortium of service providers involved in a local initiative, Coordinated Care for Vulnerable Young People, whose primary purpose is to guide and strengthen the existing service sector to better respond to the needs of vulnerable young people; with outcomes indicating that it is certainly meeting its goal. Due to the fact that the key stakeholders involved in this consortium had a very particular target group, we felt that it may limit our ability to engage as much of the youth sector as possible.

Our next strategy will be to incorporate the CPLAN within the local council's Youth Sector Network and use it as a means for supporting and strengthening the aims and actions of this group who have a much larger range of stakeholders. We will be meeting council in the very near future to discuss how this may work in practice and to gain support for the initiative.

For the time being though, the PAR model has been informally incorporated into much of our current work, with Sam and I asking ourselves, each other and staff members during our team meetings, "what would it take to....."

Contact Daniel Morris on daniel@youthlink.org.au

Mid North Queensland

Network Facilitator - Nikki Hughes
Co-facilitator - Suewellyn Kelly

Mackay CPLAN project is definitely off and racing!!! Mackay Youth sector workers have found it useful to assign CPLAN discussions as a Mackay Youth Connections Network Inc general meeting agenda item. At meetings a focus has been the four questions:

1. What will it take to developed a strong and vibrant youth sector workforce in Qld?
2. 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?
3. What would it take to increase the level of connection and collaboration across the youth sector?
4. What would take to create a coherent and collaborative youth policy platform in Queensland?

This has lead into working groups around youth engagement / grassroots participation / increased skill development for young people. The second working group to arise via the CPLAN process is around work retention and useful job professional development.

Both Suewellyn and myself have been involved with Youth Invests' project around service mapping, this regional based resource will provide information on what services are out there; including the name of the organisation, details of that organisation (i.e. works with disengaged young people, provides counseling etc.), where the organisation is located (i.e. street address, building etc.) and a contact number/s. Once collated the information will be organized as per region (i.e. Whitsundays, Bowen, Mackay and/or Central Highlands), and this resource will be provided free of charge.

Other working groups are in the pipeline so in the near future the Mackay CPLAN should be report more positive community development.

Contact Nikki Hughes on ydo@mackay.qld.gov.au

UPDATE

South East QLD

Network Facilitator - Amanda Wright

Co-facilitator - Donna Matulis

CPLAN on the Gold Coast has been running in conjunction with the Gold Coast Youth Network.

We have held some meetings separately and others within the GCYN meeting. Numbers at the CPLAN meetings has been mixed, but as GCYN has a good number of attendees we have decided to continue to hold the meetings as a part of the network, with the idea that sub-groups will form to look at specific issues.

Prior to this, the GCYN has primarily been an information sharing and networking meeting, so the response to CPLAN, and space within the meeting to discuss issues of relevance, has been received well.

Contact Amanda on
rads@goldcoastyouthservice.com

North Queensland

Network Facilitator - Sam Loy
Co-facilitator - Rachel Cook

The North Qld CPLAN has proved to be a beneficial and productive forum for raising and addressing concerns in our local sector. After successfully embedding CPLAN within our existing sector network (The Youth Network NQ), we have been able to attract and retain workers to the process who have investigated issues such as public transport, job security, and A&D service delivery. The North Qld CPLAN, in conjunction with the disability sector, was able to score a (kind of) win in regards to public transport, and we are gearing up for several training opportunities from the good folk at Dovetail and ATODS.

All in all, CPLAN has been a welcome inclusion in the working lives of Townsville's dedicated youth sector.

Viva la PAR process!

Contact Sam on sloy@tgpn.com.au

Central Queensland

Network Facilitator - Victoria Homer
Co-facilitator - Nyoka Henry

The Central Queensland CPLAN had its inaugural meeting in November 2011. After an initial information session about CPLAN with Phil Crane and John Flanagan in October, energy in the region was high. A number of people were very keen to be involved in this innovative strategy and as such we had representation from both NGOs and government organisations, as well as geographically from across the region. Once established, the group agreed that the concept of the CPLAN was great and were looking forward to getting stuck into coming up with creative ideas to support young people and the youth workforce as a whole.

During the last few meetings the group undertook a detailed mapping exercise to determine where the areas of need were in the youth sector, as well as identifying strengths to build on. Leveraging off this exercise the group is ready to start identifying some projects that they can undertake to address some of the identified issues. As a region we are very excited about taking our CPLAN to the next level.

Contact Victoria on
victoriah@centacare.net

North West Queensland

Network Facilitator - Alvin Hava
Co-facilitator - Craig Hardy

The North West CPLAN has been integrated into the Mt Isa Youth Alliance and at this stage is focused on youth agencies working in Mt Isa.

Our group has been working on putting together the final touches on the first ever Youth and Community Workers Forum in Mount Isa for around mid July. The main reason as to why the impetus for this event came about because of the CPLAN question, "How do we make our local youth sector stronger".

In response to this, the group is hoping to stage this forum for the benefit of all youth and community workers in the North West, as a means of showcasing the great working happening in our CPLAN region. We are looking to have some key note speakers who have a diverse and broad knowledge of issues and needs in the youth and community sector.

Contact Alvin on
manager@ypa-isa.com.au

Metro

Facilitator - Trish Ferrier
Co-facilitator - Amanda Margerison

The Metro CPLAN has been operating for 12 months. Initially the group was the Youth Leadership Group that informed the Workforce Development Project and was used as a reference group by the project worker. As the CPLANs were established, this group became the Metro CPLAN.

After the YANQ conference the group was keen to provide an opportunity for youth workers to explore 'hot' topics in a safe environment. What emerged from this discussion in answer to the question 'What would it take to develop a strong and vibrant Youth Sector?' was the idea of holding a forum or series of forums which enabled youth workers to explore issues together.

The Can of Young Worms idea was born, and the group then looked at how it could do this. We had hoped we would find some funding to do this, but when this became difficult we decided to give it a go without funding. Ipswich Community Youth Service took on the registration role and donated funds for catering, Byron Mulligan from Lightworks donated his time as a Facilitator, YANQ prepared the flyer and circulated the

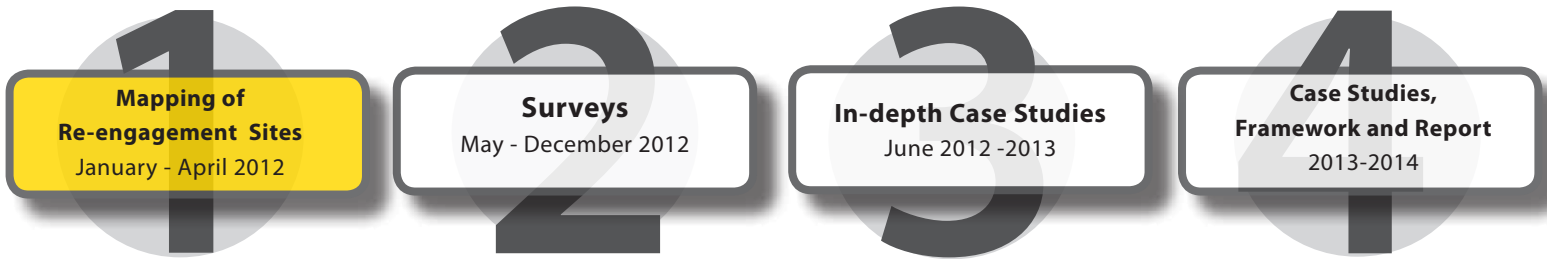
information to the sector; Jabiru organised the event to be videod, and Visible Ink, Brisbane City Council provided us with a free venue.

The topic of the event was Sociality, Sexuality and Young People. Professor Alan McKee started the day with a discussion about some research he is currently undertaking on this topic. We also had some experienced practitioners in the audience who were available for speaking to the issues that emerged from the discussion. They were representatives from Family Planning Qld, Youth Advocacy Centre, Open Doors, Queensland Health and Education Queensland. Forty people participated in the Forum, including a broad range of workers and experience.

The Metro CPLAN are keen to find ways of replicating this again in the region as well as across Queensland.

Contact Trish on policy@yanq.org.au

RE-ENGAGEMENT MAPPING



Queensland Sites that Re-engage High-School Age Young People in Learning Opportunities

The following is a summary of findings from a scan to identify sites that re-engage young people, that have rejected or been rejected by mainstream schooling, in meaningful learning opportunities in Queensland, Australia.

Sites on this list:

- Re-engage with high-school age young people
- Are alternative schools, flexible learning centres, or other school-like settings that provide on-going, sustained opportunities for students to work towards learning goals.

Sites were identified through consultation with representatives from regional networks that seek to support services for young people across Queensland in February and March 2012 (for more on methodology – please contact education@yanq.org.au).

This scan is meant to complement a pilot study undertaken by YANQ in 2010 in collaboration with the University of Queensland and Griffith University. In this study data was collected from a small,

diverse group of alternative schools in South-East Queensland, identified some of the practices that have engaged marginalised young people facing very difficult life circumstances and resulted in a YANQ publication: *Re-engaging Students in Education: Success Factors in Alternative Schools*.

Summary of Findings from Scan

Most regions across Queensland have only a few alternative education or flexible learning sites that seek to move young people towards particular learning goals. Many of these programs align with high school equivalence certifications or other general education requirements.

Most sites serve just a few young people (less than 100 in most cases and many serving around 20 young people) when compared to ‘mainstream’ high school

Sites are diverse in structure and affiliation. Many sites are linked with a ‘mainstream’ high school or other organisations that work with young people.

Curriculum is diverse at sites. However, it should be noted that many schools utilise TAFE, Access10, or online options. In addition, many sites rely on the unique expertise of their staff in custom designing opportunities for their students.

It is not uncommon for a site to only operate for a few years. Unfortunately, we were unable to include sites in the scan that have recently closed due to funding cuts or other reasons. However, we acknowledge that many of these sites may have used curriculum or service delivery models that should be documented as possible in future scans.

Other Issues of Note

Important efforts of programs that offer short-term, part-time, or other types of supports to re-engage young people across Queensland are also acknowledged but not included on the below list (e.g., Youth Support Coordinator, Youth Connections, Get Set for Work programs).

There are many sites across Queensland that work with young people before they are high-school aged. These programs are important and in the future scans should include these programs.

Finally, there are many sites that work with young people in the juvenile justice or foster care system that do offer alternative or flexible learning opportunities. These sites are also not included in the below list – but many may offer innovative models and ideally would be included in future scans.

Katrina Brink, Project Officer

A list of all re-engagement sites is available from www.yanq.org.au/reengagement-current

COLLABORATION PROJECT

Image: Arts Qld



In recent years in the human services sector, there has been shift away from specialised and bureaucratic patterns of service provision towards a more coordinated, integrative approach.

This more holistic approach aims to create greater connections and purpose leading to innovation and streamlining of service delivery through information and skill sharing with greater engagement with all stakeholders.

But how successful have the we been at successful service integration and collaboration

YANQ is producing a research document on good practice in integrated service delivery that will assist YARI funded services and Youth Justice Services to improve the integration of their service delivery.

The project is researching models of integration and collaboration, particularly those with an evidence base that have been evaluated locally or demonstrated to work well at the local level.

This aligns with the department's priority to reduce offending and keep young people safe from harm. The Project is being conduct in both Gold Coast and Townsville locations.

We are gathering data from a range of areas; firstly we have conducted a literature review to gather current thinking and practices in service integration and collaboration.

The literature review focused on taking a cross section of current models of integration and collaboration literature, especially those with an evidence base that has been evaluated locally or effectively demonstrated at the community level. The evidence based models which demonstrate collaboration and integration between Government and Non-Government service providers, in particular relationships with local Youth Justice, Child Safety and Housing services will be reviewed.

Secondly we have a questionnaire in the two project locations is designed to provide an opportunity to gather a range of perspectives from individuals across the

range of service types.

We are also conducting individual interviews and focus groups to gather case studies and to provide further depth to the data already collected.

If you work on the Gold Coast or Townsville please assist the project and take 10 minutes to fill in the survey.

Please follow the link below to complete the questionnaire:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/yanqintegrationandcollaboration>

If completing a hard copy please return to YANQ, 30 Thomas St, West End or fax to 3844 7731. If you have any questions about the survey or the project in general, contact John Flanagan on how_now@iprimus.com.au

Surveys to be completed and returned by 1 June 2012.

John Flanagan
Collaboration Project Officer

INTERAGENCY

In many regions in Queensland, youth workers and youth organisations hold regular meetings—often called interagencies or networks. These interagencies provide opportunities for networking, sharing information, peer support and coordinating responses to local issues. Below are the details for those networks that YANQ has contact with.

Regional Queensland Interagencies

Banana Shire Youth Network

Contact: Terrica Strudwick
Rural Youth Worker
Anglicare Biloela
PO Box 69 Biloela Q 4715
Ph: 07 4976 6300 Fax 4922 4063
Email: tstrudwick@anglicare.org.au
Meets monthly, contact Terrica for details.

Bundaberg and District Youth Forum

Contact: Andrea Bax
Youth Development Officer
Bundaberg Regional Council
PO Box 3130 Bundaberg Q 4670
Ph: 07 4153 3066 Fax 4151 1813
Email: andrea.bax@bundaberg.qld.gov.au
Meets the second Tuesday bi-monthly (first meeting for the year is February) from 9.30-11.30am at Impact Make Your Mark, 106-108 Bargara Road Bundaberg.

Cairns Youth Service Network and Far Northern Youth Service Network (YSN)

Contact: Glen Martin
Youth Development Officer
PO Box 359, Cairns Q 4870
Ph: 07 4044 3016 Fax: 07 4044 3830
Email: G.Martin@cairns.qld.gov.au
Meets last Thursday of every second month at Cairns City Library, Abbott Street, Cairns. Contact Glen for times of meetings for Cairns YSN as they alternate. Contact Glen for meeting details of Far Northern YSN.

Central Highlands Regional Council Areas: Emerald, Gemfields & Capella Area Youth Rep

Contact: Sherie McDonald
Youth Development Officer
Central Highlands Regional Council
PO Box 21, Emerald Q 4720
Ph/Fax: 07 4982 8393
Mobile 0427 820 540
Email: rhall@chrc.qld.gov.au
Contact Sherie for details of local youth and community service networks.

Central Highlands Regional Council Areas: Blackwater, Springsure, Bluff, Dingo, Bauhinia, Rolleston & Comet Area Youth Rep

Contact: Joshua Clutterbuck
Youth Development Officer
Central Highlands Regional Council, Blackwater
Ph: 07 4980 5506 Mobile 0428 987 511
Email: jclutterbuck@chrc.qld.gov.au
Contact Joshua for details of local youth and community service networks.

Central West Youth Network

Contact: Sheree Miller
Youth Development Officer
Winton Shire Council
PO Box 288, Winton Qld 4735
Ph: 07 4657 2666 Fax: 07 4657 1342
Email: youthdo@winton.qld.gov.au
Contact Sheree for further details.

Charleville Youth Interagency

Contact: Elise Huddle
Charleville Neighbourhood Centre
Ph: 07 4654 1345
Email: ydw@charlevillenc.org
Meets 3.30pm the third Thursday of each month at Charleville Neighbourhood Centre.

Fraser Coast Youth Sector Workers Network

Contact: Tracey Mason
Principal Officer
Community Development
Fraser Coast Regional Council
PO Box 1943 Hervey Bay Q 4655
Ph: 07 4197 4378 Fax: 07 4197 4303
E: tracey.mason@frasercoast.qld.gov.au
Meets last Tuesday of each month 10.30am. Contact Tracey for venue.

Gladstone Youth Interagency

Contact: Vernetta Perrett
Youth Development Officer
Gladstone Regional Council
PO Box 29, Gladstone Q 4680
Ph: 07 4976 6300 Fax: 07 4972 6557
Email: vernettap@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au
Meets first Wednesday of the month 12pm at the Community Advisory Service, 142 Goondoon Street, Gladstone

Innisfail Community Sector Network

Contact: Kath Barnett
Community Development Officer
Ph: 07 4030 2255 Fax: 07 4061 6005
Email: cdo@ccrc.qld.gov.au
Meets last Thursday of every second month 1pm at Parish Centre, Rankin Street, Innisfail

Mackay Youth Connections Network Inc

Contact: Colin McPherson
Community Solutions Mackay
Email: colin.mcpherson@communitysolutions.org.au
Meets first Tuesday of the month 10.30am. Venue - Mackay TAFE J Block, Level 3, Room 3:13

MEETINGS

Maryborough Interagency Network

Contact: Vicki Wilson
Senior Community Development Officer
Fraser Coast Regional Council
Ph: 07 4190 5806
Email: vicki.wilson@frasercoast.qld.gov.au
Meets first Thursday of every month
9-11am at Maryborough Neighbourhood
Centre, 25 Ellena Street.

Mount Isa Youth Alliance Network & ICM Group

Contact: Alvin Hava
Young People Ahead
PO Box 2151, Mt Isa Q 4825
Ph: 07 4743 1000 Fax 07 4743 1030
Email: manager@ypa-isa.com.au
Contact Alvin for meeting and
venue details.

North Burnett Community Services Network

Contact: Melinda Priest
Community Development Officer,
Monto Community Development Centre
Ph: 07 4166 1733 Fax: 07 4166 1061
Email: cdomonto@bigpond.com
Meets second Wednesday of every month
at different venues around the North
Burnett.

Rockhampton Youth Interagency Network

Contact: Sgt Greg Jones
Branch Manager, Rockhampton PCYC
PO Box 944, Nth Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4927 7899 Fax: 07 4922 3998
Email: greg.jones@pcyc.org.au
Meets third Friday of the month 9-11 am at
Commonwealth Respite & Carelink Centre,
57A Alexandra Street, North Rockhampton.

Roma Community Services Interagency

Contact: Roma Neighbourhood Centre
PO Box 1028, Roma Q 4455
Ph: 07 4624 0800 Fax: 07 4622 1448
Email: reception@maranoa.qld.gov.au
Meets on a Monday at Roma
Neighbourhood Centre at 11.30am.
Meetings of the Child, Youth and Families
Interagency Sub-Committee are held at
the Neighbourhood Centre at 10.15am on
the same dates.

Sarina Interagency Meeting

Contact: Paul Taylor
Youth Development Officer
Sarina Youth Centre
PO Box 41 Mackay Q 4740
Ph: 07 4961 9277
E: sarinayouthcentre@mackay.qld.gov.au
For additional information, please contact
Paul on the above details.

South Burnett Community Network

Contact: Louise Judget
Community Development Worker
PO Box 300, Kingaroy Q 4610
Ph: 07 4162 5711 Fax: 07 4162 5121
Email: sbcdp@bigpond.net.au
Meets first Tuesday of the month
10am-12pm Wondai Council Supper Room.

Southern Downs Youth Network

Contact: Sheila Stebbings
Community Youth Co-ordinator
PO Box 26, Warwick Q 4370
Ph: 07 4661 7166 Fax: 07 4661 0333
E: sheila.stebbing@southerndowns.qld.gov.au
Meets quarterly. Contact Warwick Youth
Service for meeting details.

South West Youth Network

Contact: Ingrid Reichelt
Community Support Officer
Regional Contract Management Unit,
Community Support Services,
Sport & Recreation (CSSR)
Department of Communities
PO Box 2427, Toowoomba Q 4350
Ph: 07 4694 0180 Fax: 07 4699 4244
E: ingrid.reichelt@communities.qld.gov.au
The group meets twice a year and covers the Darling
Downs and South West Qld Region from Gatton south to
the NSW border, west to the Northern Territory border
and north to Taroom and Crow's Nest. Contact Ingrid for
details.

The Youth Network NQ Inc

Contact: Rachel Cook
Mobile: 0408 635 998
E: rachel.cook@theyouthnetworknq.org.au
W: www.theyouthnetworknq.org.au
Meets third Thursday of the month 9-11am.
Contact Rachel for venue details.

Toowoomba Youth Organisations Network (TYON)

Contact: Edward Bradbury
Senior Guidance Officer - DDSW Region
Ph: 07 4616 9105 Fax: 07 4646 9101
Email: Edward.BRADBURY@deta.qld.gov.au
Meets last Tuesday of each month at the
Jacaranda Conference Room, Grand Central
Shopping Centre from 9.00am - 11.00am.
Contact Edward for any further details.

Whitsunday Youth Focus Network

Contact: Debra Carrington
Manager Community Development & Projects
Whitsunday Regional Council
Ph: 07 4945 0216 Fax 07 4945 0222
E: debra.carrington@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au
Meets monthly. Contact Debra for Network
details.

South-east Queensland

Brisbane Inner Urban Youth Interagency

Contact: Emma McConnell
Ph: 07 3403 0136
Brisbane South Youth Justice Service.
Email: emma.mcconnell@communities.qld.gov.au
Meets 10-12 noon first Thursday of the month. Contact Emma for details.

Brisbane Southside Youth Interagency

Contact: George Parrott
Ph: 07 3403 0136
The Smith Family
Meets monthly. Contact George for dates and times.

Caloundra & Hinterland Child and Family Network

Hinterland Community Development Assn of Caloundra
PO Box 451, Landsborough Q 4550
Ph: 07 5429 6766 Mobile 0418 720 515
Email: hcdworker.lydia@gmail.com
Contact for meeting times and venues.

Gold Coast Youth Network

Contact: Amanda Wright
Gold Coast Youth Service
PO Box 740, Burleigh Heads Q 4220
Ph: 07 5572 0400 Fax: 07 5575 2607
Email: RADS@goldcoastyouthservice.com
Meets last Wednesday of the month 10.30am-12.30pm at Department of Communities Youth Justice Service Centre at Mermaid Beach.

Goodna Youth Interagency

Contact: Fiona Muhling
Challenge Employment
21 Dunlop St, Collingwood Park Q 4031
Ph: 07 3282 8000 Fax: 33818 2013
E: fionam@challengeemployment.org.au
Meets third Tuesday of the month from

1.30pm at the Goodna Community Health, 82 Queen Street Goodna. All youth & community service providers welcome.

Inala Youth Interagency (LARGEFLY)

Contact: John Rigsby-Jones
Inala Youth Service
PO Box 141, Inala Q 4077
Ph: 07 3372 2655 Fax: 07 3372 2710
Email: largefly@iys.org.au
or admin@iys.org.au
Meets 1pm second Thursday of the month at Inala Community House Hall, Sittella Street, Inala.

Ipswich Youth Interagency Group

Contact: Kate Toohey
Youth Development Officer
Ipswich City Council
PO Box 191, Ipswich Q 4305
Ph: 07 3810 7437 Fax: 07 3810 6741
Email: ktoohey@ipswich.qld.gov.au
Meets first Tuesday of the month 12.30pm at Busy Beat Hub, Brisbane Road, Ipswich.

Lockyer Service Providers Interagency

Contact: Anne James CDW/Coordinator
Lockyer Information & Neighbourhood Centre Inc (LINC)
Ph 07 5462 3355 Fax: 07 5462 4437
Email: lincgaton@bigpond.com
All meetings commence at 1.00pm.
Laidley meetings held 2 March, 25 May, 17 August, 9 November at Laidley Community Centre, 13 Mary Street (opp The Bus Stop). Gatton meetings held 19 January, 13 April, 6 July, 28 September at Gatton Baptist Church, 12 William Street (opp Police Station)

Logan Youth Network

Contact: Francis Mills
Community Development and Safety

Program Leader
Logan City Council
PO Box 3226, Logan City DC 4114
Ph: 07 3412 5138 Fax: 07 3412 3444
Email: francismills@logan.qld.gov.au
Meetings are held bi-monthly at rotating venues across Logan. Please contact Mel for meeting calendar.

Moreton Bay Regional Youth Service Providers Network

Contact: Naomi Rayward
Youth Planning & Development Officer
Moreton Bay Regional Council
Redcliffe District
Ph: 07 3283 0352 Fax: 07 3883 1723
E: Naomi.Rayward@moretonbay.qld.gov.au
All meetings are held Wednesdays 2.30pm-4.30 pm at various host agencies. Please contact Naomi for meeting dates and locations.

Nambour & Northern Sunshine Coast Youth Interagency Network

Contact: Lyn Harris
United Synergies
Ph: 07 5442 4277
Email: lharris@unitedsynergies.com.au
Meets once each school term; dates for meetings and venues are advised prior to meetings as venues alternate; includes professional development component.

North Brisbane Youth Interagency

Contact: Kelly Nelson (Visible Ink) or Vicki Jacobs (Piccabeen Community Association)
Ph: 07 3407 8102.
Email: kelly.nelson@brisbane.qld.gov.au
For meeting times, please contact Kelly or Vicki.

Northern Gold Coast Interagency

Contact: Veronica Cox (Studio Village) or Nikki Condon
Ph: 07 5529 8253
Email: svcc@cirruscomms.com.au

Meets last Tuesday of every month
1pm-3pm at Studio Village Community
Centre, 87 Village Way, Studio Village

Redlands Youth Network

Contact: Kara Mansley
Redland City Council
Ph: 07 3829 8233 or 07 3829 8489
Fax: 07 3829 8891
Email: kara.mansley@redland.qld.gov.au
Meets every second month. Contact Kara
for meeting calendar.

Sunshine Coast Youth Partnership

Contact: Lydia Najlepszy
Ph: 07 5479 0070
6/131 Sugar Road, Alexandra Headland,
Qld, 4574
Email: info@sunshinecoastyouth.com

Tweed Shire Youth Network

Contact: Sylvia Roylance
Ph: 02 6670 2736
Email: SRoylance@tweed.nsw.gov.au
Meets bi-monthly on the third Tuesday
of the month 9am-12pm. Meets on
alternate bi-month for professional
development workshop for service
providers. Venue rotated throughout
shire. Contact Sylvia for details.

Issued based networks

Criminal Justice Network

Email: info@cjn.org.au
The Network exists to link individuals
and groups committed to pursuing the

rights of people marginalised by the
criminal justice system. The Criminal
Justice Network is informed by the voices
of people with lived experience. For more
information and details on forums that
the Network holds, please visit
<http://www.cjn.org.au>.

Health Educators Network

Contact: Pamela Doherty
Education and Training Coordinator
Children by Choice
PO Box 2005 Windsor Q 4030
Ph: (07) 3357 9933 ext 3.
Fax: (07) 3857 6246
Email: ed@childrenbychoice.org.au
The Health Educators Network provides
members with an opportunity to network
with other educators, share information
and work collaboratively in the area
of community health education in the
Brisbane and Greater Brisbane Area.
The network is open to any health
educator in the region and members
meet quarterly with rotating venues.

Youth Justice Coalition (YJC)

Contact: Siyavash Doostkhah
Director
Youth Affairs Network Queensland Inc
Ph: 07 3844 7713 Fax: 07 3844 7731
Email: director@yanq.org.au
The Youth Justice Coalition (YJC) is a
diverse coalition of interested NGOs,
CLCs, peak bodies and individuals that
work together to advance the rights of
young people under the age of 18 years
in the youth justice arena in Queensland.
The YJC meets bi-monthly (every 2nd
Thursday every 2nd month) commencing
February 2010. The coalition actively

encourages community members
interested in youth justice issues to
participate.

Statewide program networks

Partnership Brokerage Program

Contact: Carmen Auer
Chair of Qld Partnership Brokerage
State Network
E: Carmen.Auer@thesmithfamily.com.au
Ph: 07 5561 2701 Mobile: 0411 652 126

Youth Connections Program

Contact: Alice Thompson, Chair of Qld
Youth Connections State Network
Email: athompson@brisyouth.org
Ph: 07 32523750
Mobile: 0418 666 762

Youth Support Coordinator Program

YSC Hub Facilitators
Contact Megan Murray
Ph: 07 3876 2088 Mobile: 0439 739 747
Email: megan.murray@qyhc.org.au

Contact Kristy Carr
Ph: 07 4725 8249
Mobile: 0407 999 710
Email: kirsty.carr@qyhc.org.au

Web: www.qyhc.org.au/ysc/index.html
Contact YSC across the state at

These details are current as of May 2012. If your details are incorrect, please email admin@yanq.org.au with updated contact details.

For more information on interagencies or to join our list, please contact Trish Ferrier
(YANQ Policy Coordinator) on 07 3844 7713 or policy@yanq.org.au

Want to join YANQ? Simply fill out the application form, detach and return it to YANQ with your membership / subscription fee payment. For more information, please call us on: (07) 3844 7713 or 1800 177 899 (available for rural Queensland) email admin@yanq.org.au or visit our website at www.yanq.org.au

Summary of our values

YANQ believes that the Traditional Custodians and primary Culture of Australia is Aboriginal. We support the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to self determination, and recognise their capacity to generate their own solutions to the problems imposed on them by continuing colonisation and ongoing pressures to assimilate. We recognise the proven credentials of Aboriginal Traditional Owners and Custodians in connecting with and managing this Land. We value the wisdom and leadership Aboriginal cultures can bring to addressing the problems faced by Australian society.

We aspire to a world which recognises the interdependence of all species on this planet. We envisage a future where Australia is in a position to benefit from Aboriginal Culture; where Australians collectively acknowledge the strengths of one of the world's oldest surviving cultures and embrace highly evolved Aboriginal tradition, Lore and practices. This would play a critical role in achieving a sustainable future for humankind.

YANQ supports the human rights of all Australians. These include the necessities of survival; everyone's right to achieve their full potential; and their right to make choices about their lifestyle, and express their culture, without fear of penalty. Everyone has the right to meaningfully participate in their community and decisions that affect their lives.

We recognise that systemic issues contribute to a failure to meet young people's rights, and the social exclusion of groups of young people. Most young people are disadvantaged – culturally, socially and/or economically. Major social systems continue to fail the majority of young people. Further, socially excluded young people face ongoing pressure to conform to dominant Anglo-Celtic values. This generates disharmony within and across communities, making them vulnerable to prejudice and discrimination. It is only when we recognise the cultures of our First Peoples as the basis for genuine multi-culturalism, and value

the identities, contributions and rights of all Australians, that we can achieve social harmony.

Young people have the capacity to play an important part in their communities and the wider society. Young people's social role and contribution, both now and in the future, largely depends upon how they are treated. The greater the participation of young people in social decision-making, the healthier the community and society.

Community organisations provide a unique pathway to optimising young people's social participation. They can facilitate genuine participatory democracy and respond to young people's needs in an alternate, holistic way. Young people are entitled to access services which respond to their rights and needs, and freely choose whether or not to use these services. Competent Youth Workers have the values, attitudes, knowledge and skills required to work effectively with young people and their communities, using a rights-driven approach.

Australian governments are obliged to meet young people's internationally-agreed human rights. Governments should take full responsibility for meeting these obligations toward young people. Governments should value the expertise of community organisations in providing complementary services, and resource them to take the lead in addressing the rights and needs of young people within their particular community.

Ultimately, YANQ envisages a future where young people are seen as equal, active participants in Queensland society. As a result, Queensland would be a fair, equitable diverse state; a bastion of human rights. It would be a healthy society in which individuals, families and communities are inter-connected; where a culture of mutual respect generates resilience and genuine social inclusion. Its thriving youth sector would enthusiastically stand alongside Aboriginal people and young people, to continue to improve the world. The powerful voice of YANQ would be seen as an invaluable social asset.

Join YANQ and support the network that works tirelessly to lobby for, educate and develop the youth sector in Queensland..



youth affairs network qld

MEMBERSHIP / SUBSCRIPTION APPLICATION FORM

30 Thomas Street, West End QLD 4101 Ph 07 3844 7713

Regional 1800 177 899 Fax 07 3844 7731

Email admin@yanq.org.au Web: www.yanq.org.au

TAX INVOICE (on payment)

ABN 28 205 281 339

All fees are GST inclusive.

No income or funding—contact YANQ for special consideration.

Title _____ First Name _____ Last Name _____

Organisation / Department _____ Position Title _____

Postal Address _____ Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Mobile/s _____

Email _____ Additional Email address/s for YANQ Email Bulletin _____

Additional Email address/s for Multicultural Youth Network of Qld (MYNQ) _____

Do you identify as being from / Does the organisation work with — ATSI, Anglo-Celtic or other Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background. Please specify _____

MEMBERSHIP	Individuals	MEMBERSHIP	Organisations	SUBSCRIPTIONS	
(Year of Birth _____)		Community Not-for-profit		Individual (Year of birth _____)	\$ 60.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Receive Centrelink	\$ 5.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	Funding <\$100,000	\$ 55.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	Community Not for Profit	\$160.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Young Person (aged 12-25)	\$ 10.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	Funding \$101,000—\$250,000	\$ 80.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	Organisation For Profit	\$200.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Income <\$25,000	\$ 15.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	Funding \$251,000—\$400,000	\$ 120.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	Government Department / Service	
Income \$26,000—\$50,000	\$ 40.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	Funding >\$401,000	\$ 150.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	(Federal State or Local)	\$185.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Income >\$51,000	\$ 50.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	Organisation For Profit	\$ 165.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	Reciprocal (Peak Body)	NIL <input type="checkbox"/>

I _____ have read and support the objects and values summary of Youth Affairs Network Qld Inc and hereby request to become a member of the Network.

Signature _____ Date _____

If for some reason you are unable to sign the Values and Vision Statement of YANQ you are entitled to become a subscriber after submitting the relevant fee.

I enclose \$ _____ the prescribed Membership / Subscription fee (please delete whichever is not applicable).

Payment Methods

Cheque payable to Youth Affairs Network of Qld and mail to 30 Thomas Street, West End Qld 4101

Electronic funds transfer Deposit to BSB 633-000 Account # 123043259 Youth Affairs Network of Qld and email remittance advice to finance@yanq.org.au or fax to 07 3844 7731

Credit Card Master Card Visa (please indicate)

Card No _____ Amount \$ _____ Expiry Date _____

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Do you require a receipt Yes / No

Do you attend / are you a member of a youth interagency? If yes, advise Interagency Name _____

YOUTH VOICE STAND UP SPEAK OUT!

The Youth Voice project is funded by the Department of Communities and supported by Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (QPASTT).

The Youth Voice project is driven by a Steering Committee which is open to young people aged 12-25 years from all backgrounds who are keen to explore ideas and educate their peers and the broader community on social justice issues, social policy and government processes impacting on young people. We are looking for more people to join our amazing team.

Youth Voice are developing the skills to effectively engage and advocate with community leaders around issues that are important to them. Other benefits for the participants include an increased understanding and sense of control and autonomy within mainstream systems, a sense of belonging in the broader community, increased understanding of multiculturalism and diversity and the confidence to assert individual rights for access and equity.

If you are interested in being involved or know any young people who would can contribute to the incredible work Youth Voice is achieving, whilst extending their social networks and having lots of fun along the way, please get in touch with us. Also feel free to join the facebook page to keep updated on events and opportunities.

If you would like to join Youth Voice please contact Elise Barton from QPASTT at elisebarton@qpastt.org.au or by phone on 3120 1517.

Visit us on Facebook www.facebook.com/pages/Youth-Voice-Stand-UP-Speak-OUT/263986990295146