

NETWORK NOISE

Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

Quarterly Newsletter **February 2009**

Let's Shape the Future of Youth Work in Qld

It's with great excitement that YANQ can now announce that after two years of lobbying we have secured funding from Office for Youth and DETA to develop a Youth Sector Workforce Development Strategy. As the peak body for youth issues in Queensland, YANQ has been advocating for a systemic approach to the development and maintenance of the State's Youth Sector. YANQ believe that a wide ranging, well planned collaborative approach is required to ensure Queensland has a quality skilled youth sector well into the future.

Workforce development provides a framework for organisations, sectors and the government to approach sector wide development. The approach can be described as "a comprehensive systems-approach not an individually orientated approach because it focuses on the strategies required to develop an adequate workforce that extends well beyond the narrow traditional notion of 'training'. Part of the workforce development response lies in systemic and sustainable changes within key organizations and agencies such as

government, educational institutions and youth work services.

Roche (2001) suggests that changes and development should concentrate and be addressed on three separate levels:

1. Systems (legislation, policy, funding, recruitment and retention, resources, support mechanisms and incentives)
2. Current workers (formal education, training, workplace training, mentoring, on-the-job learning, on-line learning and best practice guidelines)
3. Future workforce (recruitment strategies, offers of education and training, affordable and accessible education and training, ensuring adequate service funding to employ staff and supporting and facilitating policies)

So workforce development for the youth sector is about working on these three essential levels. Firstly on a systems level, a workforce development strategy looks at the impact of legislation, policy directions in the youth sector and other areas that impact on the youth sector,

funding arrangements and requirements, recruitment and retention initiatives, and resources to support the sector. Secondly, a workforce development approach considers what is happening with current workers such as formal education and training that is being accessed, workplace training through mentoring, on-the-job learning, supervision and other practices and current best practice guidelines and frameworks for practice. Finally the future workforce is considered in terms of what will be required for effective recruitment strategies, education and training that are needed to take the sector forward including opportunities for affordable and accessible education and training, and ensuring adequate service funding to deliver quality practice.

The Youth Sector Workforce Development project which will commence shortly offers the opportunity for key stakeholders to come together and through the development of collaborative networks provide a platform to address workforce issues for the youth sector in all three of the areas outlined above.

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youth affairs network qld

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Print Post Approved PP437149/00018

ABN: 28 205 281 339

Let's Shape the Future of Youth Work in Qld cont.

Assumptions behind the project

In such a significant and important project for the youth sector in Queensland it is important for YANQ to be explicit on the assumptions it is working with about the youth sector.

- Youth Work will continue to be both an important and professional sector that provides services, resources, support and information to young people in Queensland.
- The Youth Sector will continue to attract substantial government funding to provide responsive and flexible service delivery models to young Queenslanders.

- Stakeholders are committed to collaborative and meaningful dialogue, planning and strategy to continuously improve and strengthen the Youth Sector.

The project logic at this early stage incorporates the following thinking

Target Population

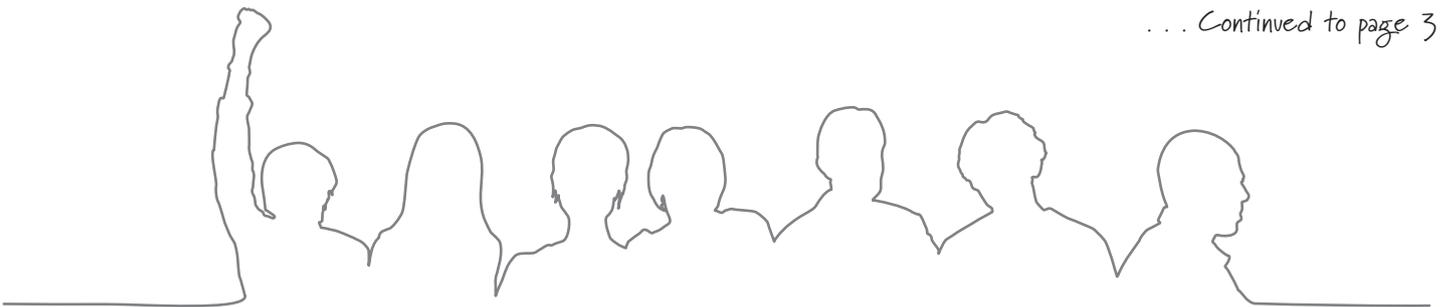
The target group population is people who work with young people across Queensland in a variety of roles and

settings as well as other key stakeholders required to develop and implement a youth sector development strategy including relevant Government Departments (in particular Department of Communities and Department of Education, Training and the Arts), training, learning and skill development providers.

Context

Research and youth sector feedback gathered by YANQ is indicating a need to revisit the definitions and parameters of the youth sector and include exploration of needs of young people, expectations of employers and necessary skill sets for

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Newsletter of the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc (YANQ) newsletter, published every 3 months.

ISSN 1320-2588

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Contributions Welcome

Ring, write, email or fax your latest news on...

- Workshops & events
- Youth programs
- Training events
- Projects
- Change of address
- Latest resources
- Research news
- Innovations



youth affairs network qld

The views and opinions contained in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of YANQ.

YANQ also does not necessarily endorse training and resources advertised in this publication.

Copy Deadline

May copy deadline is
Mid April

Let's Shape the Future of Youth Work in Qld cont.

working with young people, training and professional development needs.

To achieve meaningful long term outcomes this work needs to occur through a process of engaging all stakeholders in defining the situation, prioritising action and developing strategies.

An initial analysis of the youth sector workforce suggests consideration be given to the complex interaction between social, economic and environment factors that impact on and influence the nature of youth work as detailed below.

Social

- There is an increasing complexity of issues facing young people both those still engaged in 'mainstream' and disengaged young people
- Disengagement is becoming more common in some settings

Economic

- Levels of funding and resources available impact on ability of employers to recruit and retain highly trained and qualified staff. Disparity between non government and government sectors in employment conditions including remuneration make it difficult for non government organisations to compete for and retain staff
- The amount of public funds provided for youth work training and other related skills to improve access needs to be informed by the sector and needs to increase

Environment

- Legislative, policy and funding program changes and developments that impact on the skills and knowledge required by the sector seem to occur in an ad hoc or unplanned manner in terms of the preparation and support of the sector to be responsive to these changes

So what is needed?

- An accurate workforce profile of the sector including identification of core skills required, current training and education available and overlaps with other sectors eg, mental health, disability, alcohol and other drugs
- Workers with young people need appropriate skills and access to quality training to do their job well including a common practice framework that supports critical thinking and social analysis
- Development of viable career pathways to support recruitment and retention of workers
- Genuine collaboration and cooperation between all stakeholders in planning and implementing sector development, programs and policy

Other benefits of a collaborative workforce development approach

- Increase sector's, governments and education providers knowledge about the youth sector, who it is, what skills are required, what training and education can support this etc
- Increase the skills and aspirations of the sector and government to not only

address immediate and individual needs but also identify, analyse and address structural barriers and issues

- Change of attitudes, motivations and relationships of all stakeholders to value working in genuine collaboration for the long term outcomes and future of the sector

What the project will deliver?

Not only will the project deliver a documented workforce development plan built out of consultation with the sector and research of best practice in other Australian and overseas jurisdictions, but by the nature of the project methodology it will actively engage key stakeholders to inform and influence the development of a workforce development plan.

The importance of this approach is that to really achieve long term workforce development outcomes all key stakeholders need to work together to develop the current picture and create the plan for the future, forming crucial alliances and breaking new ground of possibilities in education, training and development.

It will be an exciting year for the sector and we invite you to take part. Look out for more information in the near future.

Roche, A. (2002). Workforce Development Issues in the AOD Field: A Briefing Paper for the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs

Roche, A. (2001) 'What is this thing called workforce development?', in A Roche & J McDonald (eds), Systems, settings, people: workforce development challenges for the alcohol and other drugs field

YANQ and Dr Lantz team up to protect kids from harmful chemicals

How toxic are your kids?



YANQ Director, Siyavash Doostkhah, Dr Sarah Lantz and Dr Bob Jacobs

Youth Affairs Network of Queensland and Dr Sarah Lantz, mother and public health researcher at the University of Queensland, have teamed up in a national campaign to educate parents and care givers of kids and young people about environmental chemicals and their hidden impact on the health and wellbeing of kids and young people.

Dr Sarah Lantz says she has grave concerns about everyday chemicals we find on our supermarket shelves and around the house and how they could be affecting our children. So concerned in fact, she has just released a book on the topic: *Chemical Free Kids – Raising Healthy Children in a Toxic World*.

There are over a 1000 new chemicals being introduced into the environment annually. This increase has been found to have a direct correlation with an increase in health problems affecting our population, especially, our children. In recent years, asthma mortality, type II

diabetes, development and reproductive disorders, and diet-related cancers have more than doubled; leukemia and brain cancer have increased in incidence; and learning disabilities and behavioural problems as well as obesity have become more widespread.

Dr Bob Jacobs J.D. and Psychologist said "Dr. Lantz's chapter on 'Parenting with Pills' exposes the child psychiatry/drug industry that tries to tell us our children are 'sick' when they don't conform, when they annoy adults or when they are simply different. As this book proves, the voice of one knowledgeable and loving parent is amazingly compelling. Parents have a real opportunity to choose to keep their children free of toxic chemicals, whether they are in a bottle of shampoo or a bottle of psychotropic drugs."

This book supports parents, care givers and practitioners of kids and young people in making informed choices over what enters their kids' bodies. It asks vital

questions about our children's health and wellbeing: What makes a chemical toxic? Why are children and young people particularly exposed and susceptible to chemicals? How do chemicals get into their bodies? How can we begin to implement health changes and practices to reduce their harmful effects?

According to Dr Lantz's research, our modern environment is toxic and we are all suffering the consequences. Topics in her book extend to ADHD, vaccination, early childhood and parenting as well as a comprehensive approach for living in wellness.

Dr Sarah Lantz will be running a number of workshops and seminars throughout Queensland including workshops with YANQ as a part of the national awareness program.

You can find further information at
www.chemicalfreeparenting.com

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How toxic are your kids?

Nine Steps for living in wellness in a toxic world

1 Take preconception care

Preconception care includes improving your lifestyle; cleaning up your environment; detoxifying; getting fit; staying positive and stress free, and using natural birth control.

2 Invest in early childhood

Children's early years of development provide the foundation for long-term physical and mental wellbeing. Practices such as co-sleeping, baby wearing, breastfeeding, and gentle discipline help establish strong bonds and enable the baby to feel loved, content and safe.

3 Conscious parenting

Try to imagine the world from your child's point of view. Children thrive on fun and connection, play, gentle guidance, physical closeness, patience, laughter, attention, warmth, a good cry, to be listened to, to be loved, nutritional food. Provide safe spaces in which kids can be themselves.

4 Create a toxic free home

Children have a special vulnerability to chemicals. The environment that we provide has a profound effect on every facet of their development. For example, read the labels on the products that you buy and avoid the ones with harmful ingredients; avoid air fresheners; use natural pet care.

5 Eat for wellness

Whenever you buy your food whether that is at a supermarket, organic wholefood shop, health food shop, farmers' market, cafe or restaurant, talk to the owners/farmers about your ethical concerns, needs and requirements. Make it known what you want and improve the quality of the food that you eat from all sources.

6 When medicating kids consider the alternatives

Our children are more drugged than ever before. Drugs have become increasingly popular for treating kids with mood and behavioural 'problems'. Before reaching for a bottle of drugs, consider that your child's 'problem' might just be that the institutions they interact with do not cope well with diversity or the gifts that energetic, exuberant or thoughtful children bring. Also consider that most drugs have side effects and look at alternatives such as a change in a child's diet, environment, or physical activity.

7 Living sustainability: our footprint on the Earth

Now we know that the earth's resources are not boundless. Today many of our forms of development are not sustainable. Consider what sort of world you want your children and children's children to live in!

8 Measure what matters

Children and adolescents and how well they are faring are the cornerstone of how healthy and sustainable a society is. Around the world there is now a growing demand to measure progress not based on Gross Domestic Product alone but also to include social and environmental factors such as health and wellbeing.

9 Contribution and activism

We all have the opportunity to take action and move towards a toxic free world. You can do this by becoming a more conscious consumer by asking questions before buying such as: Is this product made in line with my values? Does it contain hazardous chemicals? What is the impact on the environment with this product?



MYNQ Update

Multicultural youth network of queensland (MYNQ)

On 13th January, MYNQ reconvened for our first meeting of 2009. It was very well attended, with twenty of us crowding into a small room at Ahimsa House in West End. Many people were attending their first MYNQ meeting, and made some good contacts. In this year when a number of us are facing uncertain directions due to questions over funding, it is more important than ever for our networks to be strong and supportive.

With this in mind, I have been putting some work into a website for MYNQ (with technical guidance and assistance from David).

The site means that rather than just sending an email to all MYNQ members when something comes up, I can now post information on the website, where members can sign in, read it online or download it, as well as comment on it, or add information to it for all other members to see.

As well as this, members can take part in polls, the results of which I can then use to cater the website to the needs of the network. I have also posted minutes from previous meetings, as well as notices and information that regularly come to me through various networks.

This interactive format means that all members can take an active role in the network, even if they cannot attend meetings, which is great news for members in regional or remote areas.

In time, it should also begin to improve on the problem of 'cross-posting emails', as the site is used for a central information post, cutting down on the time we all spend going through multiple emails.

For details on joining and accessing the site, see below.

Registering on the MYNQ Website:

1. Go to www.yanq.org.au/mynq
2. Click on "register" at the top of the page.
3. Enter your details - Name, Email Address, Organisation etc.
4. Select which mailing lists and areas you are interested in. (There is no limit, but be sure to include MYNQ, and Promoting Multiculturalism)
5. You will receive an email containing a link to confirm your registration.
6. Click on the link, and you're all done.

When you are a registered user, you can access more benefits, including taking part in voting polls (which will help to improve the website, inform our research directions, and help us take action on important issues), commenting on blog entries, posting to the site, and more.

YANQ will Continue on the Workforce Council IRG

As the peak body representing the youth sector in Queensland, YANQ has been appointed to a further two year term on the Industry Reference Group (IRG) for Health and Community Services Workforce Council.

The IRG is responsible for providing advice on strategic policy to the Board in relation to cross sector and industry wide issues and priorities. The IRG is also responsible for recommending to the Board the establishment or disbanding of sector, geographic or issue specific working groups.

<http://www.workforce.org.au>

YANQ on the Executive Board of the New National Youth Peak body

At its first AGM since the announcement of funding for a National Youth Peak by the Federal Government last year, YANQ was appointed the Treasurer of the newly funded Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC). Negotiations are currently underway to finalise a service agreement and the National Representative Council will be appointing an interim Director and establishing a physical presence in the coming months.

<http://www.ayac.org.au>

The Road Home

The Australian government's white paper on homelessness

On 21 December 2008, the Prime Minister, the Honourable Kevin Rudd MP and Minister for Housing, Tanya Plibersek MP, released the Government's White Paper on Homelessness: The Road Home.

- The Road Home - Full Report
- Executive Summary
- Government Launches White Paper on Homelessness - Media Release by the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP

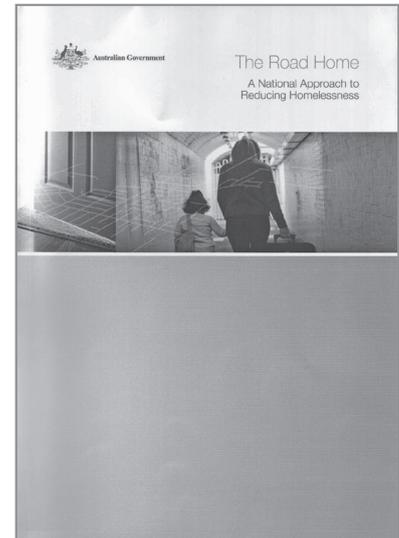
The Road Home sets the strategic agenda for reducing homelessness to 2020. Homelessness can affect anyone and reducing it is everyone's responsibility. Working together, with national leadership and towards a common goal, homelessness can be prevented. Australia's efforts to reduce homelessness have to be urgent, as well as sustained.

Specifically, The Road Home goals by 2020 are to:

- Halve overall homelessness; and
- Offer supported accommodation to all rough sleepers who need it.

Future effort and investment should occur in three strategies of:

1. Turning Off the Tap: Services will intervene early to prevent homelessness.
2. Improving and expanding services which aim to end homelessness: Services will be more connected, integrated and responsive to achieve sustainable housing, improve social and economic participation and end homelessness for their clients.
3. Breaking the Cycle: People who become homeless will move quickly through crisis system into stable housing with the support they need so that homelessness does not recur.



Please Note: To obtain a hard copy of the White Paper on Homelessness: The Road Home, please call 1800 774 055 or email homelessness@nationalmailing.com.au

Young People

Have your say about human rights protection in Australia

Did you know Australia is the only democracy without comprehensive Human Rights protections? This might be about to change for the better!

The Federal Government has started community consultations about human rights, and is asking whether we need a bill or charter to protect them. It's time for young people to have their say about this decision - because it's your right.

Working with some amazing young people, Youthlaw and the Australian Human Rights Group have put together a range of easy to use tools so you can have your say easily, safely and quickly.

There are 3 ways you can get your message to the government:

1. You can use our super easy online opinion form at <http://www.humanrightsact.tv/submission>
2. You can send an SMS to 0428 415 939 saying what human rights are important to you, or how you want them protected. Remember to include your name and post code, and we will forward it to the consultation for you. Messages cost your standard text message rate.
3. Make a videoblog, or youtube clip, and upload it at <http://www.humanrightsact.tv/submission>.

Submissions must be received by **May 29**.

You can download posters to advertise these tools at <http://www.humanrightsact.tv/poster> or <http://www.humanrightsact.tv/video>.

For more information see <http://www.humanrightsact.tv> or you can find more information about the government consultations at <http://www.humanrightsconsultation.gov.au>

Youth Disability Advocacy Queensland

(YDAQ) Update



Dr Bob Jacobs



Caroline Woods

This year YANQ has launched formal preparations to establish Youth Disability Advocacy Queensland (YDAQ). YDAQ is being developed as a comprehensive state wide service providing advocacy for young people with disabilities.

YDAQ has been established with the aim of ensuring equal opportunities in education, employment, housing and access to the community for young people with disabilities in Queensland. YDAQ's service areas will include individual advocacy, systemic advocacy, public education, information and referrals and self advocacy training.

YDAQ's current focus has been centred on recruiting interested community members to participate in the service's reference groups. To ensure that the needs of young people actively shape the service's focus one of these groups is made up entirely of young people with disabilities, whilst the other group involves adult members of

the disability sector, parents and carers. YDAQ's Steering Committee will be made up of members of these reference groups. At all times, the Committee will have a majority of members who are young people with disabilities.

Both reference groups met initially on February 16th at Brisbane Square Library. The impassioned supporters discussed YDAQ's central objectives and the current gaps existing in avenues of advocacy for disabled youth. There has been an overwhelming amount of enthusiasm for YDAQ's vision from both individuals and organisations throughout the state. We must express our gratitude to all those who have embraced this service, even in its infancy, and the ideals on which it is founded.

YDAQ and its supporters will soon embark on a Strategic Communications and Campaign Plan. This strategy seeks to enlist the endorsement of the wider

community, including both the Government and private sectors, for the service and the changes it seeks to bring about. All of YANQ's members and affiliates are encouraged to become involved in the campaign.

For further details on how you can support YDAQ please contact YDAQ Director, **Dr Bob Jacobs** (ydaq1@yanq.org.au) or **Caroline Woods** (ydaq2@yanq.org.au) at the YANQ Office.

The Disability Alliance Strategy Launch

Queensland election campaign kit

Wednesday the 28th of January 2009 saw the Disability Alliance launch its campaign strategy for the upcoming state election. Although the Alliance is apolitical and without any party leanings it has developed a key communications plan to overcome the injustices many Queenslanders with a disability currently face.

The Alliance has developed its campaign for the central purpose of "positioning disability as a mainstream issue for political parties and the wider community within the Queensland electorate".

During the launch many Alliance members reiterated the campaign's guiding principle, that is, "Queenslanders with a disability and their families and networks are tired of endless 'new beginnings from government' and are looking for some

'concrete conclusions'". The three main areas in which significant change and attention is sought include: personal care support, medical aids and equipment and appropriate community health care.

The group was eloquently addressed by speakers who shared their 'real-life' accounts of the challenges and frustrations felt by people with a disability and their families. Their stories reinforced the absolute necessity of a strong, united pre-election campaign to achieve the changes they desire.

The Campaign Kit includes tips on effective lobbying and outlines the Disability Alliance's extensive future campaign strategies. To become a supporter or download the Kit visit the Disability Alliance website: (www.disabilityalliance.org.au).

"Your participation, large or small, in the Disability Alliance campaign, will make a difference this election."

The Disability Alliance can also be contacted via:

Email: disabilityalliance@gmail.com

Phone: **0404 815 828**

Post:
Disability Alliance
PO Box 5236 West End QLD 4101

TELSTRA \$5 PHONE CARDS

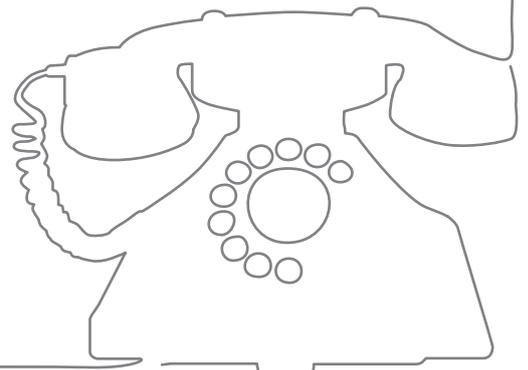
**ORDER
NOW!**

Does your service work with low income young people who rely on public pay phones for their communication? If so, YANQ still has approx 1500 five dollar (\$5.00) Telstra Phone Cards (for use in public payphones) to give to YANQ's member/subscriber services to distribute to young people.

Please read the loose leaf application form for details on eligibility criteria and how to order cards to distribute to young people that use your service.

To order cards for your service,
please fax the enclosed order form to **07 3844 7731** or
email to admin@yanq.org.au.

Please note distribution will be based on a first-come-first-served basis.



YANQ Appointed to the Ministerial Advisory Committee

on HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Sexual Health

In late 2008 the Minister for Health, the Honourable Stephen Robertson approved the appointment of YANQ Director, Mr Siyavash Doostkhah as a member of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Sexual Health for a term of three years. YANQ was also a member of the previous HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Sexual Health Advisory Committee which operated from 2002-2004.

The purpose of the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee is to provide advice to the Minister on the progress and key challenges associated with the Queensland HIV, Hepatitis C and Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategy 2005-2011
<http://www.health.qld.gov.au/sexhealth/documents/29007.pdf>.

The Committee will:

1. Analyse the outcome of the strategy consultation forums and issues arising from annual progress reports and other evaluation reports on the implementation of Queensland HIV, Hepatitis C and Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategy 2005-2011.
2. Identify and provide advice on the priorities and key future challenges for the sector.
3. Draw upon expertise within and beyond the sector through its membership and consultation processes.
4. Formulate advice for the Minister including through the establishment of working groups from the members of the Committee and seeking external advice from the sector if necessary.

YANQ members with information and/or interest in the issues of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Sexual Health are encouraged to contact YANQ's Director, Siyavash, via director@yanq.org.au.

Uni of Qld, Griffith and YANQ to Research Flexible Education

YANQ, the University of Queensland's School of Education and Griffith University's School of Education & Professional Studies are about to embark on a research project focused on 'alternative' or flexible schooling in Queensland.

The qualitative research project will investigate what makes non-traditional (aka 'alternative' or flexible) schooling successful for young people that are disengaged from traditional ('mainstream') schools.

In addition the research will seek to answer:

- What counts as a successful 'alternative' school?
- How can these schools inform practices within mainstream schools?
- What do these schools require in order to be sustainable?

The research will be conducted in six different non-traditional schools in Queensland – four in South East Queensland and two in regional areas. Interviewing in the schools will begin in late March and conclude in June.

Staff from Brisbane Catholic Education, Albert Park Flexi School and the YWCA, and two volunteers will also be assisting with the research undertaking interviews with staff and students.

For more information about this project, phone David at YANQ on **07 3844 7713** or email ndo@yanq.org.au.

Network Chatter – Top Issues of Concern

Issues Facing Young People(Top 3)

Housing/Accommodation, particularly a lack of affordable accommodation was again at the top of the list of issues of concern, with four of the six interagencies mentioning it.

Mental health was also raised by four of the six networks. The transition from the youth to adult systems, a lack of continuity of care, need for greater collaboration between services and the difficulties of teaching emotional resilience were amongst the issues raised here.

Three interagencies also discussed the difficulty that many young people have maintaining their connection to education. The concerns raised under this category included (among others): lack of family support, low literacy and numeracy levels, the damage of 20-day suspensions to young people's engagement and few options for 12-20 year olds.

Issues for Services(Top 2)

Staff Retention was the top issue of concern for services, with four of the six interagencies raising it. Within this category, uncompetitive wages and the distance workers are forced to live from work were cited as factors. The negative impact on users of services was raised as an undesirable outcome of a high turnover of staff.

Poorly targeted or unsustainable levels of funding was raised by three out of the six networks. Greater consultation with local services was suggested, as was funding specifically for the under 12 age group. The uncertainty inherent in seeking private/ philanthropic sources of funding to bolster inadequate public funding was also raised as a concern.

A range of other issues were raised by the interagencies, all of them being mentioned by at most one of the networks. The issues raised included: changing target groups; difficulty of balancing confidentiality with collaboration; accountability; and governance/Management.

What Does YANQ Do with this Information?

YANQ uses the information provided to us by interagencies regularly in our contact with government departments at both the State and Federal levels. At every opportunity we make sure that public servants and members of parliament are informed about the high priority challenges that the sector is raising with us. We also use the information to guide our decisions about which projects to focus on. For instance the Youth Services Multi-Employer.

Lastly we also make a brief response to some of the issues raised by interagencies, highlighting new resources, research or projects that might be useful to services or young people.

For more information about the Youth Consultative Network visit www.yanq.org.au/speakout or phone **David at YANQ** to discuss how your network can get involved.

BudgetLink....Discount Available for YANQ Members!!

BudgetLink has been developed by Jeff Stephenson at Accounting Addons specifically for the community sector.

It links with MYOB using the Standard Chart of Accounts (SCOA) and does all the budget analysis reports for each program (or job code), as well as the acquittals for HACC, DSQ, Dept of Communities with others in the pipeline.

This means that once the data has been entered into MYOB you just bring that into BudgetLink and go from there.

Imagine having the reports, acquittals etc at the push of a button!

Anything that reduces the amount of time spent producing reports is a good thing.

If you want to have a chat to see how it will work for your organisation, feel free to contact Kathryn Harrison B Com (Acct) Financial Consultant for the Community Sector on **0403 199 351** or send your questions to jeff@accoutingaddons.com.au

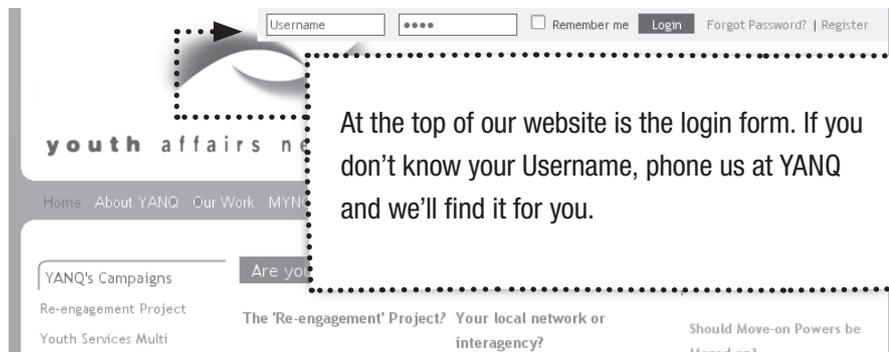
Jeff is keen to see BudgetLink be accessible to YANQ members and is appreciative of the smaller agencies financial constraints.



**Discount
for YANQ
Members!**

Web 2.0 Comes to YANQ

Translation for non-geeks: there's new stuff on our website



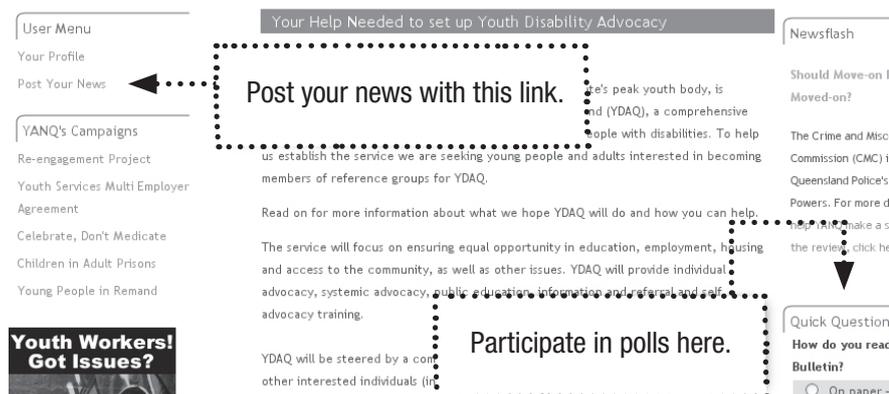
At the top of our website is the login form. If you don't know your Username, phone us at YANQ and we'll find it for you.

If you haven't logged into YANQ's website recently, you should take a few minutes and do so. Type www.yanq.org.au into your browser, then login and you might notice that the website is slowly moving into the world of Web 2.0 (characterized by greater interaction between website creators and users).

So what does this mean for you? Read on and we'll explain some of the new stuff available on the site.

Comment on and discuss new articles

At the bottom of new articles posted on our site (from February 5) you'll see a form for commenting on the item. This will give you a chance to share your views on the topic, both with the staff at YANQ and other readers of the website as well.



Post your news with this link.

Participate in polls here.

Once you are logged into the site, you will see a "Post Your News" link, in the user menu of the left hand column (underneath the 'Latest News' links).

Click on the 'Post Your News' link and you'll see a simple form that you can fill out with all the details.

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At the moment our website publishes four RSS Feeds:

- Research, reports, articles and op-ed pieces
- Events & training
- Multicultural Youth Network of Queensland Blog
- Youth Work Jobs in Queensland

Regional Queensland

Bundaberg and District Youth Forum

Contact: Bundaberg Community Development Inc
PO Box 2252, Bundaberg Q 4670
Ph: 07 4153 3066 Fax: 4151 1813
Email: info@bcd.org.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

Contact: Tanya Brooks-Cooper, Youth Development Officer
PO Box 359, Cairns Q 4870
Ph: 07 4044 3016 Fax: 07 4044 3830
Email: T.Brooks@cairns.qld.gov.au

Meets last Thursday of every 2nd month at Cairns City Library, Abbott Street, Cairns.

Contact Tanya for times for meetings as they alternate.

Cairns Drug & Alcohol Interagency Network

Convenor: Margaret Renfrey
Contact: Sue Feleleai, Addiction Help Agency Cairns Inc
211 Lyons Street, Westcourt Q 4870
Ph: 07 4051 6262 Fax: 07 4051 6890
Email: admin@addictionhelpagency.org.au

Contact Sue for meeting times and venue.

North Burnett Community Services Network

Contact: Lauren Pattie, 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.

Central West Youth Network

Contact: Peter Clark
Anglicare Central Qld Barcaldine, PO Box 47, Barcaldine Q 4725
Ph: 07 4651 2161 Fax: 07 4651 2352 Mobile: 0409 053 304
Email: pclark@anglicarec.org.au

Contact Peter for further details.

Charleville Youth Interagency

Contact: Sally Vetter
South West Healthy Communities Program PO Box 689, Charleville Q 4470
Ph: 07 4654 3055 Fax: 07 4654 3022
Email: ahpo@swhcp.org

Meets 10.30am the third Thursday of each month at Charleville Neighbourhood Centre.

Emerald Shire Youth Rep

Contact: Pamela White, Youth Development Officer
Emerald Shire Council PO Box 21, Emerald Q 4720
Ph/Fax: 07 4982 8393 Mobile 0427 820 540
Email: youthofficer@emerald.qld.gov.au

Contact Pamela for details of local youth networks.

Far Northern Youth Sector Network

Contact: Tanya Brooks-Cooper, Youth Development Officer
PO Box 359, Cairns Q 4870
Ph: 07 4044 3016 Fax: 07 4044 3830
Email: T.Brooks@cairns.qld.gov.au

Contact Tanya for meeting details.

Gladstone Youth Interagency

Contact: Andrea Hughes
Gladstone Regional Council PO Box 29, Gladstone Q 4680
Ph: 07 4976 6300 Fax: 07 4972 6557
Email: andrea@gcc.qld.gov.au

Meets first Wednesday of the month 12 noon at the Community Advisory Service, 142 Goonoon Street, Gladstone.

Hervey Bay Youth Sector Workers Network

Contact: Sue Lawler, Youth Development Officer
Fraser Coast Regional Council PO Box 1943, Hervey Bay Q 4655

Ph: 07 4197 4330 Fax: 07 4197 4303
Email: sue.lawler@frasercoast.qld.gov.au

Meets last Tuesday of each month 10.30 am.
Contact Sue for venue.

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 fourth Thursday of every second month 1pm at Parish Centre, Rankin Street, Innisfail.

Mackay Youth Connections Network Inc

Contact: Nikki Hughes, Secretary
Ph: (07) 4961 9436 Mobile: 0437 031 879
Email: ydo@mackay.qld.gov.au

Meets third Tuesday of the month 10.30am. Venue will rotate – participants will be advised at start of each month.

Maryborough Interagency Network

Contact: Debra Moore
Fraser Coast Regional Council
Ph: 07 4190 5822
Email: debra.moore@frasercoast.qld.gov.au

Meets last Thursday of the month from 9am at the Maryborough Neighbourhood Centre.

MICAT (Mt Isa Combined Action Team)

Contact: Cara Jamieson, Secretary – MICAT
Email cjamieson@isagsp.centacare.com.au

Meets twice per school term. Contact Cara for meeting details.

Rockhampton Youth Interagency Network

Contact: Laine Barclay, Youth Facilitator
St Vincent de Paul Society
Rockhampton Central Council
Ph: 07 4927 8073 Mobile 0409 495 020
Email: Laine.Barclay@svdpqld.org.au

Meets third Friday of the month 9.00-10.30 am at CQ Youth Justice Service Centre 155 Alma Street, Rockhampton.

Roma Community Services Interagency

Contact: Roma Neighbourhood Centre
PO Box 1028, Roma
Ph: 07 4624 0800 Fax: 07 4622 1448
Email: rncReception@romaregionalcouncil.qld.gov.au

Meets every six weeks on a Monday from 11.30am. Contact the Neighbourhood Centre for details.

Sarina Interagency Meeting

Contact: Margie Ward
Sarina Youth Centre PO Box 219, Sarina Q 4737
Ph: 07 4943 2962 Fax: 07 4956 1508
Email: youthcentre@mcs.net.au

Meets first Wednesday of every second month. For additional information, please contact Margie on the above details.

South Burnett Community Network

Contact: South Burnett 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-12 noon Wondai Council Supper Room.

South West Youth Network

Contact: Ingrid Reichelt, Community Capacity & Service Quality,
Department of Communities
PO Box 2427, Toowoomba Q 4350
Ph: 07 4699 4222
Email: ingrid.reichelt@communities.qld.gov.au

The group meets quarterly and covers the Darling Downs and South West Qld Region from Toowoomba south to the NSW border, west to the Northern Territory border and north to Taroom and Crow's Nest. It is made up of youth workers from non-governmental organisations, local councils and a small number of government departments. Meetings are held at a different location each time. Contact Ingrid for details.

The Youth Network NQ Inc

Contact: Clea Alcorn
Ph: 07 4728 1702
Email: clea.alcorn@thesmithfamily.com.au

Meets third Thursday of the month 9-11am in the Youth Justice Service (Bamford Lane).

Toowoomba Youth Organisations Network (TYON)

Contact: Ed Bradbury
Education Qld PO Box 38, Toowoomba Q 4350
Ph: 07 4616 9105 Fax: 07 4616 9100
Email: Edward.Bradbury@deta.qld.gov.au

Meets occasionally. Main activity through email discussion (TYON@discussions.eq.edu.au). Contact Ed Bradbury to join discussion list or for details.

Warwick Youth Network

Contact: Community Youth Worker
PO Box 26, Warwick Q 4370
Ph/Fax: 07 4661 7166

Meets quarterly. Contact Warwick Youth Service for meeting details as dates & venue vary.

Whitsunday Youth Focus Network

Contact: Wendy Olsen, Youth Services Officer
Whitsunday Regional Council
Ph: 07 4945 0216 Fax 07 4945 0222
Email: wendy.olsen@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au

Meets bi-monthly. Contact Wendy for Network details.

South-East Queensland

Beaudesert District Youth Network

Contact: Youth Support & Development Officer,
BeauCare, 44 Tina Street, Beaudesert
Ph: 07 5541 4391 Mobile 0439 787 723 Fax: 07 5541 3654
Email: youth@beaucaire.org.au

Contact Youth Development Officer for meeting details as venue, days & times vary.

Brisbane Inner Urban Youth Interagency

Contact: Ryan Foster
Ph: 07 3403 0136
Email: ryan.foster@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Meets 10-12 noon first Wednesday of the month. Contact Ryan for details.

Brisbane South Youth Interagency

Contact: Suzanne Perry
Brisbane South Youth Justice Service, 306 Ipswich Road, Buranda
Ph: 07 3406 2801
Email: Suzanne.Perry@communities.qld.gov.au

Meets quarterly, contact Suzanne for details.

Brisbane Southside Indigenous Youth Interagency

Contact: Raymond Walker or Suzanne Perry
Brisbane South Youth Justice Service
Ph: 07 3406 2801
Email: Raymond.Walker@communities.qld.gov.au or Suzanne.Perry@communities.qld.gov.au

Contact Raymond or Suzanne for meeting times and venue details.

Caloundra City Youth Services Network

AND Sunshine Coast Youth Partnership

Contact: Jody Tunnicliffe
Sunshine Coast Youth Partnerships, 6/131 Sugar Road, Alexandra Headland
Ph: 07 5479 0070 Fax 07 5479 2575 Mobile 0435 101 687
Email info@sunshinecoastyouth.com

Contact Jody for meeting times and venues.

Youth Caboolture Area Network (YCAN)

Contact: Francis Mills, Youth Planner
Moreton Bay Regional Council – Caboolture District
Ph: 07 5420 0225 Fax: 07 5420 0350

Interagency Meetings cont.

Current as at February 2009

Email: Francis.Mills@moretonbay.qld.gov.au

Meets third Wednesday of every month 12.30-2.30pm at Level 3, 33 King Street, Caboolture.

Gold Coast Youth Network

Contact: Sylvia Roylance

Gold Coast Youth Services, PO Box 740, Burleigh Heads Q 4220

Ph: 07 5572 0400 Fax: 07 5575 2607

Email: gcyouth@bigpond.net.au

Meets last Wednesday of the month 10.30am-12.30pm at Dept. of Communities Youth Justice Service Centre at Mermaid Beach.

Goodna Youth Interagency

Contact: Byron Mulligan, Project Coordinator

Ipswich Community Youth Service, PO Box 1034, Ipswich Q 4305

Ph 07 3812 1050 Mobile 0438 549 942 Fax: 07 3812 2971

Email: projects@icys.net

Meets third Tuesday of the month from 1.30pm at the Goodna Neighbourhood House, 33 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 12 noon second Thursday of the month at Inala community House Hall, Sittella Street, Inala.

Ipswich Youth Interagency Group

Contact: Nicole Turner, Youth Community Development Officer

Ipswich City Council PO Box 191, Ipswich Q 4305

Ph: 07 3810 6658 Fax: 07 3810 6741

Email: NTurner@ipswich.qld.gov.au

Meets first Tuesday of the month 12.30pm at alternate venues throughout Ipswich region.

Lockyer Service Providers Interagency

Contact (1): Neil Williamson, Laidley Community / Youth Development Worker

Laidley Shire Community Care Assoc. Inc

Ph: 07 5465 1889

Email: neil@lscga.org.au

Contact (2): Anne James, CDW/Coordinator

Lockyer Information & Neighbourhood Centre Inc (LINC)

Ph 07 5462 3355 Fax: 07 5462 4437

Email: lincgattton@bigpond.com

All meetings commence at 1.00pm.

Laidley meetings held 10th March; 2nd June; 25th August; 17th

November at Laidley Community Centre,

13 Mary Street (opp The Bus Stop).

Gatton meetings held 27th January; 21st April; 14th July; 6th

October at Gatton Baptist Church,

12 William Street (opp Police Station).

Logan Youth Networks

Contact: Courtney Gillot (Youth Planner)

Logan City Council PO Box 3226, Logan City DC 4114

Ph: 07 3412 5029 Fax: 07 3412 3444

Email: courtneygillot@logan.qld.gov.au

There are quarterly Youth Manager Meetings and quarterly Youth Info Exchange Meetings - Contact Courtney for details.

Maroochydore Youth Interagency Meeting

Contact: Jody Tunnicliffe

Sunshine Coast Youth Partnerships, 6/131 Sugar Road, Alexandra Headland

Ph: 07 5479 0070 Fax 07 5479 2575 Mobile 0435 101 687

Email info@sunshinecoastyouth.com

Contact Jody for meeting times and venues.

Nambour Youth Interagency

Contact: Lyn Harris, Youth Support Coordinator

United Synergies

Ph: 07 5442 4277

Email: nambouryouthinteragency@yahoo.com.au

Meets once each school term; dates for meetings & venues are advised prior to meetings.

Northern Sunshine Coast Interagency Network

Contact: Carol Gollschewsky

United Synergies

Ph: 07 5442 4277

Email cgollschewsky@unitedsynergies.com.au

Meets once per term in Noosa Shire.

Northern Gold Coast Interagency

Contact: Veronica Cox (Studio Village)

Ph: 07 5529 8253

Email: svcc@cirruscomms.com.au

Meets last Tuesday of every month 11am-1pm at Studio Village Community Centre, 87 Village Way, Studio Village

Pine Rivers Youth Service Providers Network

Contact: Jodie Hampson, Community Development Officer,

Moreton Bay Regional Council, Pine Rivers District

Ph: 07 3480 6469 Fax: 07 3480 6755

Email: jodie.hampson@moretonbay.qld.gov.au

Meets second Monday bi-monthly 1-4pm (lunch provided) at Unit 4A, 199 Gympie Road, Strathpine. (Moreton Bay Regional Council, Pine Rivers District, Community Development office)

Redcliffe Youth Service Providers Network

Contact: Jacqui Pedersen

Moreton Bay Regional Council - Redcliffe District

Ph: 07 3283 0285 Fax: 3883 1723

Email: jacqueline.pedersen@moretonbay.qld.gov.au

Meets second Thursday of every second month 1-3pm at Redcliffe Area Youth Space.

Redlands Youth Network

Contact: Kara Mansley or Janet Camilleri

Redland City Council

Ph: 07 3829 8233 or 07 3829 8489 Fax: 07 3829 8891

Email: kara.mansley@redland.qld.gov.au or Janet.Camilleri@redland.qld.gov.au

Meets third Monday of the month 3-4.30pm at Redland Community Centre, Loraine Street, Capalaba. Venue to be advised for April, July and October meetings. Contact Janet for meeting calendar.

Service Providers Action Group for Youth (SPAGY)

Contact: Jillian Warren, Youth Information and Referrals Officer

Picabeen Community Assn Inc, 22 Hoben Street, Mitchelton

Ph: 07 3354 2555 Mobile 0408 001 299 Fax: 07 3355 4222

Email: yiro@picabeen.org.au

Meet last Monday of each month from 2.00-4.00 pm at Picabeen but venue does rotate occasionally. Contact Jillian for meeting details.

The Hinterland Youth Services Network

Contact: Anna Heriot, Community development Coordinator

Hinterland Community Development Assn of Caloundra

PO Box 1213, Maleny Mobile 0418 720 515

Email: hcdaworker.anna@gmail.com

Contact Anna for meeting times and venues.

Tweed Shire Youth Network

Contact: Margaret Strong

Ph: 02 6670 2262

Email: MStrong@tweed.nsw.gov.au

Meets bi-monthly on 2nd Wednesday of the month 10am-2pm.

Venue rotated throughout shire. Contact Margaret for details.

North East Youth Organisations Network (NEYON)

Contact: Kelly Nelson, Coordinator

Visible Ink Zillmere Youth Team Brisbane City Council

Ph: 07 3407 8102

Fax: 07 3407 8100

Email: Kelly.Nelson@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Contact Kelly for meeting details.

Issue Based Networks

Youth Justice Coalition (YJC)

Contact: Siyavash Doostkhah, Director

Youth Affairs Network QLD

Ph: 07 3844 7713

Fax: 07 3844 7731

Email: director@yanq.org.au

The Youth Justice Coalition meets quarterly to discuss and take action on youth justice matters and in the hour prior to the State Government's Youth Justice Reference Group. Contact Siyavash for details.

Multicultural Youth Network Queensland

Contact: Daniel Walker Multicultural Development Officer

Youth Affairs Network QLD

Ph: 07 3844 7713

Fax: 07 3844 7731

Email: cald@yanq.org.au

MYNQ is a community driven state-wide network which identifies and develops actions on issues and policy affecting CALD young people. The network is composed of organisations, services and service providers committed to multiculturalism and improving the opportunities and outcomes for CALD young people in Queensland.

Contact the MDO for meeting dates and sign up to the MYNQ mailing list at <http://lists.yanq.org.au/mailman/listinfo/mynq>.

WAYWARD – Women Alongside Young Women for Action Research and Development

Contact: Jill McKay

Othila's Young Women's Housing & Support Service

Ph: 07 3847 9633

Email: manager@othilas.org.au

The Purpose of WAYWARD is to: build greater relationships within the women's/youth sector; strengthen the sector's response to the needs of young women; create social action, influence policy and advocate on behalf of young women; and collectively organize and participate in professional development and training that will support our work with young women. For meeting details contact Jill.

SAYF – Supporters and Advocates of Young Families

Contact: Kate Ellis

Young Mothers for Young Women, Micah Projects Inc

Ph: 07 3013 6000

Email: kate.ellis@merivale.org.au

SAYF has a strong focus on young parents and families – women, men and children. The network will allow for: sharing project information, resources and building collaborative relationships; and advocating for Young Parents and examining best practice. For meeting details contact Kate.

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**

y o u t h a f f a i r s n e t w o r k q l d

TAX INVOICE (on payment)

ABN 28 205 281 339 All fees are 10% 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
	(Year of Birth _____)
	Receive Centrelink..... \$5.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Young Person (aged 12-25)..... \$10.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Income <\$25,000..... \$15.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Income \$26,000—\$50,000 \$40.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Income >\$51,000 \$50.00 <input type="checkbox"/>

MEMBERSHIP	Organisation
	Community Not-for-profit
	Funding <\$100,000 \$55.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Funding \$101,000-\$250,000..... \$80.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Funding \$251,000-\$400,000 ... \$120.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Funding >\$401,000 \$150.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Organisation For Profit..... \$165.00 <input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Individual (Year of Birth _____)..... \$ 60.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Not for Profit..... \$160.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Organisation For Profit..... \$200.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Government Department / Service (Federal State or Local)..... \$185.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Reciprocal (Peak Body) NIL <input type="checkbox"/>

I _____ have read and support the objectives 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 _____

OFFICE USE ONLY: MEMBERSHIP ID _____	RECEIPT NO _____	WEB USER ID _____	WEB PASSWORD _____
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Youth Affairs Network of Queensland Inc

Who are we?

The Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ) Inc 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.

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 responsive to the needs of young people.

Your membership and support is vital in providing a voice for young people's issues in Queensland.

Who can join?

Full Membership

Membership of the network may be granted to youth organisations, Youth Workers and young people in the non-government youth sector who have agreed to support the objects and values summary of the network and paid the prescribed fee and completed the relevant application form.

Subscriber

Any other individual or organisation interested in the work of the network is entitled to become a subscriber after submitting the relevant fee.

Become a member... and make a difference!

Keep up to date

- Free newsletter quarterly, Network Noise
- Free In fact sheets distributed regularly
- Discount on other YANQ publications, such as new Transitions
- Information on-line at our website
- Access to library resources
- Free-call 1-800 line for regional members.

Make valuable contacts

- Participate in youth policy development
- Join YANQ's working parties

- Receive support and information for your regional and issues-based networks
- Contribute to our newsletter.

Access professional development

- Discounts at YANQ forums and training events
- Discount at YANQ's Biennial State
- Youth Affairs Conference

YANQ Aims

Working together to improve the quality of life of young people in Queensland and thereby improve the quality of life of society.

YANQ Objectives

- To promote the interests of the youth sector particularly the interests of disadvantaged and marginalised young people, throughout Queensland.
- To enable the participation of young people, particularly disadvantaged and marginalised young people, in the Network and wider community.
- To advocate with and for young people, particularly disadvantaged and marginalised young people.
- To lobby to achieve long term social change in the interests of young people particularly disadvantaged and marginalised young people.
- To support and encourage the development of new means of meeting the rights and needs of young people, particularly disadvantaged and marginalised young people.
- To contribute to the development of the youth sector through networking, research and information provision.
- To develop policies on issues affecting the youth sector.
- To ensure that the Network has adequate resources to properly address issues affecting the youth sector.
- To function in a manner consistent with the Values and Vision of the Network.



youth affairs network qld

Join today!

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 regional Queensland)

or email admin@yanq.org.au

or check out our website at www.yanq.org.au

Summary of our Values

At YANQ, we believe that everyone is unique. At the same time, human beings share a lot in common, and are essentially social. We envisage a society where everyone lives in harmony. For this to happen, society must both value every individual and seek the best outcome for the community as a whole. There is the same diversity amongst young people as the rest of the community; like everyone else, young people need to feel respected and valued. When young women and young men are treated as important, the rest of society will gain from their insights and experiences.

We aim to contribute to developing a society that genuinely includes all its members. That's why we are committed to promoting multiculturalism (in its widest sense), and supporting and respecting the wide range of cultures that are part of Australian society. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people always have been, and always will be, the first people of this land. Because of their special relationship with the land, indigenous culture will always have a particular significance in Australian society. Focussing on reconciliation with indigenous people is an important starting point toward creating a more inclusive society. It also provides a model for other areas of action, including strategies toward improving the situation of young people.

We believe that the most effective way to achieve constructive social change is for people to work together. Economic, social and political change is happening all the time, and it is critical that we constantly assess and reassess our strategies if we are to influence change. Both the process and outcomes of change must be fair if sustained, constructive social change is to occur.

We believe that everybody is entitled to have their basic emotional and material rights met. The central role of governments is to ensure that this occurs. Unfortunately, at the moment, governments in Australia focus on supporting global economic interests. Whilst we believe that everyone is fundamentally equal, some sections of our society do not have access to their fair share of society's resources. This includes young people, whose basic human rights are currently not being met. YANQ is committed to encouraging positive discrimination on behalf of those groups which miss out in society so that this type of social injustice will be overcome. It is only when everyone's fundamental rights are fulfilled, and each has the means to fully participate, that it will become relevant to talk about "mutual obligation" between society and its members.

We believe that a range of strategies is required to achieve constructive social change. Governments in Australia appear committed to stopping the voice of those who challenge their misplaced priorities. YANQ is responsible for being a strong public voice which lobbies and advocates on behalf of those young people who particularly miss out in society and of young people as a whole. To undertake this role effectively, it is crucial that we draw on the expertise of those working most closely with issues affecting particular groups of young people—

young women and young men themselves, youth workers and youth organisations. That's why networking is another important social change strategy; it enables the youth sector to participate in collective action.

Ultimately, YANQ's credibility is maintained by practicing what we preach. Our whole structure is designed to ensure that our values and vision permeate the organisation.

We are committed to maintaining an open, flexible, accountable, consistent, inclusive, valuing approach in all our dealings— within YANQ, and in our relations with our members and the wider community. We are committed to applying our values in everything we say, and everything we do.