

Media Release
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National Youth Week Begins: Doubt remains about event into future

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) is excited that National Youth Week for 2016 begins today, with the theme 'Following the Future', however, there are concerns that the future of the event remains in doubt.

National Youth Week (NYW) is an annual celebration of all young people aged 12 to 25 which involves events and activities being held across Tasmania for the next 10 days.

Tasmanian Youth Forum member, Griffin Blizzard, said that, "NYW provides an opportunity for all young people to share their ideas and have their say. It also provides the wider community with the opportunity to listen to young people and find out what issues are important to them."

Last year over 10,000 young people across Tasmania attended NYW events and activities.

Funding for the week long events program is provided by both the Federal Government and the State Government. In the 2014-15 Federal Budget, funding for National Youth Week was discontinued beyond 2017, making this potentially the last National Youth Week in Tasmania and nationally.

YNOT CEO, Joanna Siejka, said "NYW is one of the few opportunities for young people to show the community what they are capable of. There are many positive outcomes for all the community if our young people feel valued and engaged, including them wanting to stay in Tasmania. If National Youth Week does not continue we are very concerned about what this will mean for the public perception of our young people."

Young people are involved with planning, developing and organising of NYW events, and the week also creates an opportunity for the contributions of young people to be celebrated in the community.

Many organisations around Tasmania, including local councils and schools, will host events and activities across the State for NYW 2016.

National Youth Week will run from Friday April 9 to Sunday April 17. Details of events and activities can be accessed from the NYW Tasmania website nationalyouthweek.tas.gov.au.

YNOT is the peak body for young people and the youth sector in Tasmania. A key initiative of YNOT is the youth consultative body, the Tasmanian Youth Forum.

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ynot is the peak body representing the voice of Tasmanian youth