

## Youth Sector

The youth sector has an important role in supporting young people in Tasmania and the work of the Tasmania youth sector to date should be applauded. Youth work is often an undervalued and underfunded profession, which can add to the confusion about what youth workers actually do. The nature of youth work is diverse and youth sector workers can work as part of a general youth service or in specific services such as youth homelessness, youth drug and alcohol services or youth justice. Youth workers are often required to deal with a variety of complex and stressful issues; these situations are often things youth workers are not specifically trained in.

Affordable and informative training opportunities to better enable youth sector workers to tackle the multiple issues they may be exposed to as part of their daily work is important to assist youth workers in their work with young people in Tasmania. It is important to ensure the youth sector is appropriately resourced in order to meet the needs of young people and the demand for services to assist young people, their families and communities. One means of achieving this is to focus on creating partnerships among organisations which can assist in resource and information sharing. Additional training opportunities and increased support for youth sector workers will assist in creating the professionalisation of the Tasmanian youth sector.

### *YNOT is committed to:*

- Promoting and educating a diverse, professional and vibrant youth sector to accommodate the needs and expectations of young people.
- Advocating for the youth sector to liaise and communicate with government on youth related policy.
- Providing support for the ongoing involvement of young people in the decision making processes of local businesses, government and organisations.
- Advocating for additional funding from government and non government bodies so the needs and expectations of young people in Tasmania can be met.



- Advocating for increased awareness of the youth sector and its workers, and their importance and contribution to the wider community.
- Promoting the need for specific roles as youth workers.
- Creating and maintaining professional networks in the Tasmanian youth sector.

### *Future Vision*

A Tasmania in which youth sector workers are supported and respected in their roles which in turn, better enables youth workers to meet the needs of young people in the Tasmanian community. Further training opportunities for youth sector workers will be a focus and a collaborative approach between government and community organisations to ensure further development in the workforce will be put in place.