



ynot

youth network of Tasmania

annual report



Ynot

youth network of Tasmania

the peak body for the youth sector in Tasmania



tYC

Tasmanian youth conference



tYf

Tasmanian youth forum

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vision

A Tasmania where young people are actively engaged in community life and have access to the resources needed to develop their potential.

mission

To work with young people, the Tasmanian youth sector, the community and all levels of government to increase the participation and contribution of young people in the state.

chair's report



Ann Davie, YNOT Chair

“It has been invaluable having representatives with different backgrounds and experiences within the Tasmanian youth sector.”

The past year has seen growth and strengthening within the YNOT Board and our strategic focus. The Board membership is geographically, professionally and age diverse, with representatives in the south, north and north west, and from service, academia and policy areas, and three young people as Board members.

An ongoing commitment of the Board is to ensure YNOT's governance structure and its supporting policies are up to date and reflect the needs of the organisation. To this end, we have implemented a rolling review of our governance policies at each Board meeting where the CEO reports against the usefulness and application of selected organisational policies. This allows the Board to see the impact that good governance has on YNOT's operations.

The Board has also reviewed the YNOT Constitution and plans and strategies to ensure consistency and accuracy across these documents, and to ensure that the organisation's values and goals are embedded in the organisation's planning. This has helped to streamline reporting and to ensure that all activities can clearly demonstrate connections to the outcomes laid out in YNOT's Grant Deed and the future plans for the organisation.

YNOT values the range of expertise within the Board, with members involved in sub-committees addressing specific needs of the organisation, such as remuneration, budget review and governance policies. In our face-to-face meetings, held two to three times per year, members have the opportunity to discuss issues in more depth. We have taken the opportunity at such times to discuss strategic and business planning. It has been invaluable having representatives with different backgrounds and experiences within the Tasmanian youth sector.

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing positive and productive relationship that YNOT has with the Tasmanian Government. YNOT has benefited from the support of Premier Hon Will Hodgman MP, and Hon Guy Barnett MP through his role as Parliamentary Secretary as well as incoming Parliamentary Secretary Sarah Courtney MP, and appreciates their recognition of the contributions that YNOT makes to young Tasmanians. We have also continued to have excellent relationships with those working in Communities, Sport and Recreation.

board members



Ann Davie, Chair
Individual member



Matt Durose, Vice Chair
Mission Australia



Brett Maryniak, Treasurer
TYF member



Miranda Ashby
Hearspace/The Link Youth
Health



Damian Collins
Youth, Family and Community
Connections



Kate Cross
Rural Health Tasmania



Troy O'Konnah
National Job Link



Griffin Blizzard
TYF Member



Simone Zell
University of Tasmania



Dominique Smith
Cornerstone Youth Services
(Nov 2015 – May 2016)



Collective members
Karinya Young Women's Service



sponsors and supporters

Special thanks to Communities, Sport and Recreation, in the Department of Premier and Cabinet, as the major funding body for YNOT, TYF and the Tasmanian Youth Conference.



YNOT has benefited from the generous support of many sponsors, donations and in-kind support throughout the past year.

Adriana Taylor MLC
Andrew Wilkie MP
Ann Davie
Ashgrove Cheese
Brett Maryniak
Bryan Green MP
Cassy O'Connor MP
Coal River Coaches
Colony 47
Cornerstone Youth Services
Crawn Motors
Elise Archer MP
Exact Media Services
Glenorchy City Council
Greg Hall MLC
House of Anvers
Ivan Dean MLC
Jacquie Petrusma MP
Jeremy Rockliff MP
Julie Collins MP
Kristie Johnson (Mayor of GCC)
Lara Giddings MP
Launceston City Council

Leonie Hiscutt MLC
The Link Youth Health
Lions Club of Brighton
Lions Club of Deloraine
Lions Club of Forth Valley
Lions Club of Kentish
Lions Club of Kingborough
Lions Club of Kings Meadows
Lions Club of Wynyard
Lush Australia
Madeline Ogilvie MP
Matthew Groom MP
May Shaw Health
Michelle O'Byrne MP
Mike Gaffney MLC
National Job Link
Nick McKim MP
Northern Youth Coordinating Committee
Officeworks Hobart
Rebecca White MP
Red Herring Surf Launceston
Richard Muir Wilson

Roger Jaensch MP
Rosemary Armitage MLC
Rotary Club of Bellerive
Rotary Club of Hobart
Rotary Club of Ulverstone
Ruth Forrest MLC
Scott Bacon MP
Senator Lisa Singh
Sorell Big Picture School
Southern Midlands Council
Tasmanian Leaders Program
Vanessa Goodwin MLC
Waratah Wynyard Council
Youth, Family and Community Connections

ynot members



YNOT benefits from a diverse, active and engaged membership.

YNOT updated our Constitution during 2014–15, and presented it at the 2015–16 AGM. Changes included the introduction of three year Board terms and the stipulation of at least two young people as Board members. These changes were accepted and have now been implemented.

Member list 2015-16:

A Fairer World	Kentish Council	Southern Midlands Council
Amanda Street	Lara Giddings MP	Speak Out Association of Tasmania Inc.
Andrew Verdouw	Latrobe Council	Tasman Health & Community Service
Anglicare Tasmania Inc.	Launceston City Council	Tenants Union of Tasmania Inc.
Anita O'Callaghan	Launceston City Mission	Theresa Moore
Ann Davie	LAUNCH Youth	Troy O'Konnah
Annie Kenney Young Women's Emergency Accommodation Service	Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania	Unions Tasmania
Bek Gale	Lisa Amerikanos	University of Tasmania
Brett Maryniak	Matthew Groom MP	Volunteering Tasmania
Burnie City Council	Meaghan Harvey	West Tamar Council
Children With Disability Australia	Migrant Resource Centre (North)	Whitelion Inc.
Circular Head Council	Migrant Resource Centre (South)	Working It Out
Clarence City Council	Mike Gaffney MLC	Youth Action (NSW)
Colony 47 Inc	Mission Australia	Youth Affairs Council of South Australia (YACSA)
Cornerstone Youth Services Inc	Mission Australia (TYSS)	Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc. (YACVIC)
Derwent Valley Council	Peter Gutwein MHA	Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA)
Don College	Pulse Youth Health	Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ)
Family Planning Tasmania Inc.	Rebecca White MP	Youth Coalition of the ACT
Flourish Mental Health	Relationships Australia Tasmania	Youth, Family and Community Connections Inc.
Glenorchy City Council	Richard Muir Wilson	Youth Futures
Griffin Blizzard	Rural Health Tasmania	
Hobart City Council	Ruth Forrest MLC	
Hub 4 Health	Save the Children Australia	
Impact Communities	Scott Bacon MP	
Julie Collins MP	Senator Carol Brown	
Karinya Young Women's Service	Senator David Bushby	
	Shelter Tasmania Inc.	



Joanna Siejka, CEO

“We value our hardworking and inclusive team at YNOT. We have fantastic people working with us and this means we can do some really meaningful work that achieves positive impacts.”

In the past year, YNOT has done considerable work advocating for young people’s needs on a wide range of issues. Young people continue to face additional challenges in our society, such as high rates of youth unemployment, low levels of educational attainment and barriers to affordable housing.

However, YNOT has been proactive in establishing what young people need and want on these issues through research and consultation. This has enabled us to provide insight on a range of contemporary youth issues and provide input into policy and decision-making on behalf of Tasmanian young people.

Throughout these pages you will see evidence of the considerable work the YNOT team produces. In the past year this work includes:

- working to support and launch the first Tasmania Youth Suicide Prevention Plan
- holding Tasmanian Youth Forums and publishing reports: Education and Housing and Homelessness
- developing numerous submissions and media releases, and consulting widely with the sector
- contributing to many forums, committees and advisory groups
- presenting to a wide variety of audiences on youth issues, as well as having an increasing presence in the media and on social media

- holding the Tasmanian Youth Conference in August 2015
- completing a special project for DPAC on population, held in partnership with the Tasmanian Leaders Thinkbank
- doing consulting work that uses our expertise on youth issues, consultation and working with young people, such as for the NDIA, and forming mutually beneficial partnerships with other stakeholders.

Considerable strategic focus has also occurred on ensuring that YNOT’s internal operations are reviewed and strengthened with our Business Plan, Communication Plan and Sustainability Plan all being reviewed and implemented, in line with our Strategic Plan.

We value our hardworking and inclusive team at YNOT. We have fantastic people working with us and this means that we can do some really meaningful work that achieves positive impacts.

Thanks to Dean Cooper, Tegan Pearce and Bek Gale for being part of the core of YNOT – and to all of the YNOT Board for supporting us. We have also hosted numerous work placements, work experience students, interns, as well as benefited from the assistance of numerous volunteers throughout the year, all of whom have contributed to the work of YNOT.

Thank you also to Communities, Sport and Recreation in the Department of Premier and Cabinet for their support during this past year. We also appreciate the positive working relationship we have with the Premier, Will Hodgman, and Parliamentary Secretaries to the Premier for Community Development, Guy Barnett and Sarah Courtney for their support of our work.

YNOT's work is very much dependent upon the support of our membership base, and the many organisations and individuals who support us to achieve our collective goals for Tasmanian young people. Thank you for your support of Tasmanian young people.

volunteers

Alan Poole	Emma Quinn	Mel Gunn
Ald Danny Gibson	Eva Mackinley	Miranda Ashby
Amy Robertson	Farah Ashikin	Naomi Marsh
Anita O'Callaghan	Griffin Blizzard	Natasha Nesnit
Ann Davie	Heidi La Paglia	Obsa Abdulmajid
Bekah Hayes	Heidi Marie Lyte	Rajeev Chakradhar
Ben Waterworth	James Pepperell	Rebekka Gale
Brett Maryniak	Jamie Hollands	Rhiannon Langridge
Caitlin Gadd	Jayden Mansfield	Richard Muir Wilson
Caleb Nichols-Mansell	Jess Gilroy	Samia Provan
Catherine Robinson	Jessica Bennetto	Sandra Charlton
Chelsea Griggs	Jo Murray	Sharon Wright
Chris Patterson	Jobe Boucher	Simone Zell
Claudia Garwood	Joel Imber	Tait Fraser
Dakoda Leary	Juliah Fraser	Tali Auliitia
Dana Hicks	Julie Gale	Tamara Clark
Danika Wright	Katalin Madden	Troy O'Konnah
Danis Chong	Kate Lynch	Warde Macintosh
Danni Murfet	Kelly Deane	Zac Lockhart
Derek Pearce	Kelvyn Linton	Zoe Jay
Des Dusautoy	Lawrence Gino	
Dianne Bester	Lisa Amerikanos	
Dominique Smith	Mark Joseph	
Eleni Xepapas	Matt Durose	
Elisa Ryan	Matt Hill	
Ellie Moore	Matthew Fargher	

A photograph of a group of young people, likely at a music event or rehearsal. In the foreground, a young woman with curly brown hair, wearing a red shirt and a necklace with two large white circular pendants, is singing with her mouth open and eyes closed. She is holding an acoustic guitar. To her left, another young woman with long brown hair, also in a red shirt, is smiling and looking down. In the background, a young man with dark hair, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt, is looking upwards and singing. The background is slightly blurred, showing a wooden wall.

Tasmanian Youth Sector

YNOT delivers peak services to the Tasmanian youth sector including advice, advocacy, research, policy and workforce development support. During the past year, YNOT has continued to play a role in supporting key Tasmanian youth sector stakeholder groups, in partnership with local and state government.

Statewide Youth Collaborative (SYC) Group

The Statewide Youth Collaborative Group has continued to meet quarterly in 2015 -16. We have had good representation from a number of government agencies and the community sector, with some changes and additions to the group as the sector has continued to grow.



Guest speakers have included Tony Kemp (Children and Youth Services, DHHS), and Narelle Butt (Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Directorate).

This year saw the creation of the "Alcohol and Drug Referral Guide", review and update of the "Mental Health Referral Guide" and beginning work on a "Homelessness and Housing Referral Guide". SYC also reviewed its Terms of Reference and recruited several new members from across government and the community sector to attend the group.

Kat Fraser
SYC Secretariat

Youth Action Priorities (YAP)

Youth Action Priorities (YAP) provides an ongoing forum for youth services from southern Tasmania to network across the region, identify resources, goals and issues that have an impact on the lives of young people and to advocate on behalf of their communities.



Facilitated by Hobart City Council's Youth Programs area, YAP activities and discussions are driven by members who include representatives from health, social, educational, recreational and cultural organisations at a community, local and state government level.

Along with NWAY and NYCC, YAP provides an opportunity for YNOT to identify patterns across the state and to coordinate responses accordingly.

YAP members collaborated to host a combined National Youth Week event and hosted speakers from multiple youth-focused agencies and support programs. YAP look forward to hosting further presentations in the coming months and working together on joint initiatives for the benefit of the group and for young people.

Rebecca Taylor
YAP Chair

Northern Youth Coordinating Committee (NYCC)

The Northern Youth Coordinating Committee (NYCC) is a special committee of Council as defined in the *Local Government Act (TAS) 1993*.

The primary purpose of NYCC is to provide an opportunity for federal, state and local government and non-government youth service providers to come together to achieve a more coordinated approach to addressing youth issues across Northern Tasmania. It aims to provide a way for services to work cooperatively on youth issues in order that agencies can share resources to provide the best range of appropriate services to young people.

The committee is chaired by Alderman Danny Gibson and convened by the City of Launceston's Youth Development Officer, with membership being approximately 130 members. Meetings are well attended with four regular meetings held this year. Meetings include round table discussions, guest speakers, funding applications, and regular reports from youth committees, councils and groups in Northern Tasmania. NYCC creates a forum for organisations to network and share information relating to youth issues and achievements relevant to Northern Tasmania.

The NYCC annual budget provided funding towards the following NYCC member projects this financial year:

- \$1500 to fund a Men's Health Week event run by Cornerstone Youth Services. The event was held at a local Tasmanian State League Football match to a targeted group of 12-25 year-olds. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness, remove the stigma and promote men's health and wellbeing through providing educational resources and information.
- \$500 to support an intergenerational film project by the Migrant Resource Centre. The project involved young people interviewing an older person in their life and making a short video of this. This allowed young people to hear a short story of something that is or was memorable in the older person's life. The video includes something from their country of origin or refuge, or something they have experienced while living in their new home of Launceston.



NYCC member Dominique Smith with Claudia Garwood

Through collaboration with Council of the Ageing, the video is planned to be shown in aged care facilities and at Breath of Fresh Air Film Festival.

Claudia Garwood
NYCC Convenor

North West Action for Youth (NWAY)

The North West Action for Youth Group (NWAY) continues to be a solid platform for information sharing within the youth sector.

The group focuses on networking and collaboration opportunities for youth sector providers across the North West Coast. Activities and discussions are driven by members who include representatives from health, social, educational, recreational and cultural organisations at a community, local and state government level.

NWAY hosted many guest speakers throughout the year including from the Australian Red Cross

Save a Mate program, Lions Club's Leo Program, Anglicare's Child and Youth Mental Health Program, Mission Australia's Disability Employment Service and Relationships Australia Aboriginal Community Connections service.

From February 2016, NWAY adopted a new model which involves the host Council also chairing the group. NWAY will continue to move around the North West, and the Secretariat support will also

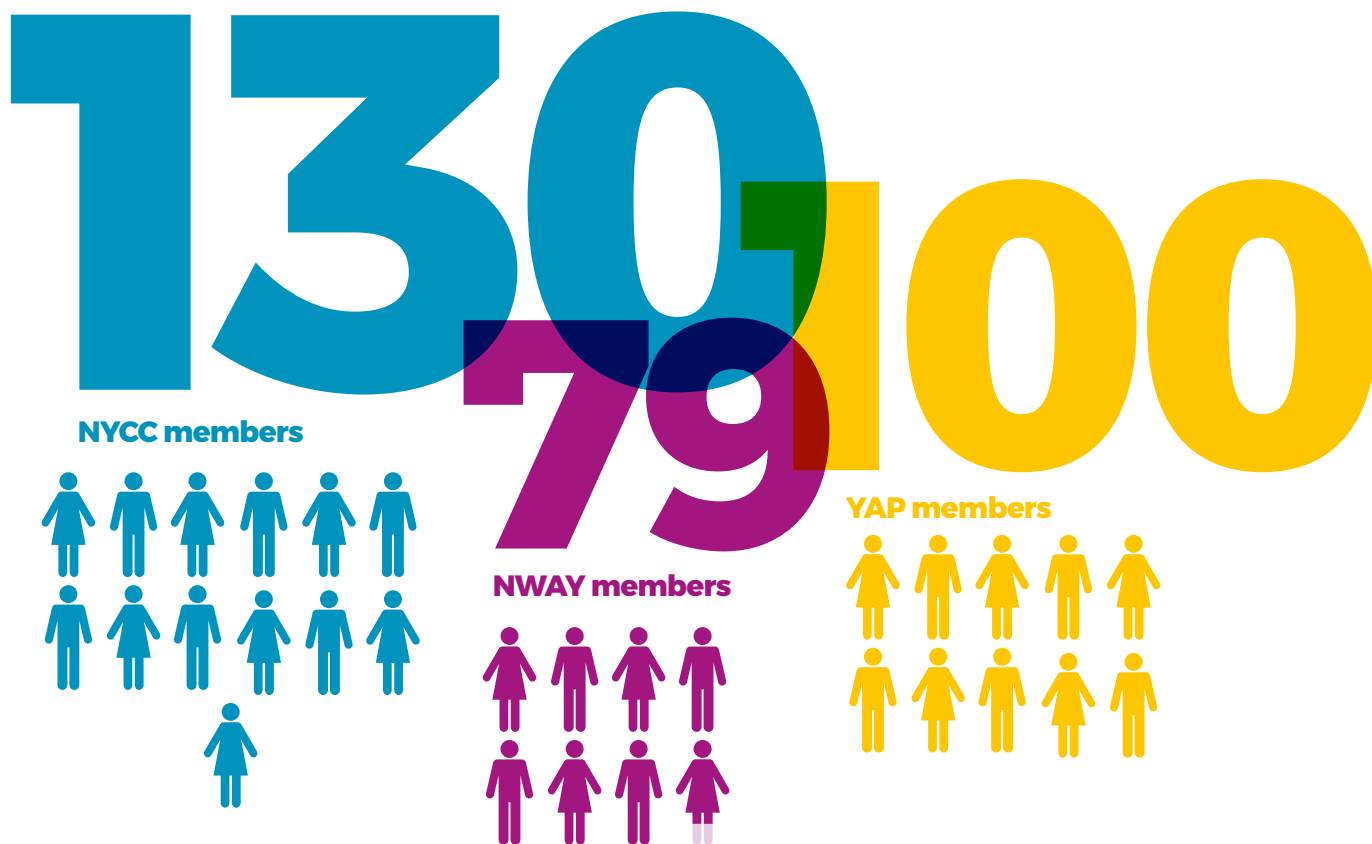
continue to be maintained by Burnie City Council.

NWAY and YNOT thank Alderman Sandra French for her many years of leadership and support of NWAY in her role as Chairperson. Her contribution to the group has been appreciated and will be missed.

Dave Fregon
NWAY Secretariat



Summary of sector group members



Collaborations: policy, advocacy and communications

Sector collaborations

During this past year it has continued to be a challenge to put youth issues on the national agenda with the funding for youth peak bodies not being reinstated. Despite losing core funding in 2013, the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) has continued to operate, through the support of its voluntary Board and with contributions from the national youth sector. In spite of these many challenges, AYAC has been able to contribute to national conversations on youth issues through being present at the Australian Federal Budget Lock-up, considerable media presence, and the development of a national election campaign and policy platform. YNOT is represented on the AYAC Board.

YNOT is the Tasmanian representative and the current Chair on the National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH), which is the peak youth homelessness group in Australia. Participation in NYCH includes biannual meetings in

Canberra, regular teleconferences, contribution to Homelessness Australia policy development and the coordination of the national awareness campaign, Youth Homelessness Matters Day. YNOT is a member of Shelter Tasmania's Tasmanian Youth Housing and Homelessness Group (TYHHG), which provides a key mechanism for contributing Tasmanian policy advice to NYCH.

YNOT has continued to be an active participant in the Tasmanian Community Sector Peaks Network (TCSPN) throughout 2015–16. This network enables YNOT to collaborate with a broader range of community sector organisations that deliver services to young people. The TCSPN meets regularly with the Government, through the Peaks Network and Government Strategic Forum. During the past year, YNOT has contributed to the Annual Report for the Partnership's Agreement between the Community Sector and State Government.

Policy, consultations and advocacy

During 2015–16 there have been many consultations on the issues which affect young people on a local, state and national level. YNOT's policy development framework involved consulting with young people and the youth sector, as well as researching key issues. YNOT's consultation processes can involve meetings, phone interviews, online surveys, written submissions and forums. YNOT has conducted a number of consultations with young people and the sector across the state in the last year.

This has included formal consultations for the development of the YNOT Budget Submission to Treasury 2016–17.

Advocacy work

9

presentations

10

submissions

41

forums,
committees
and advisory
groups

64

media
mentions

11

media
releases

Communications

Sector newsletter

YNOT prepares and distributes a Sector Update at the beginning of each month. Sector Update newsletters are presented against the YNOT 2013–16 goal areas of youth participation, youth issues, professionalisation of the workforce, strong peak body, community and government.

Social media

Social media provides an additional way for YNOT to communicate with members and young people about opportunities, consultations, information, news and events. This year YNOT has continued to increase its reach on social media platforms which has grown to:

1581

likes on the Youth Network of
Tasmania Facebook page

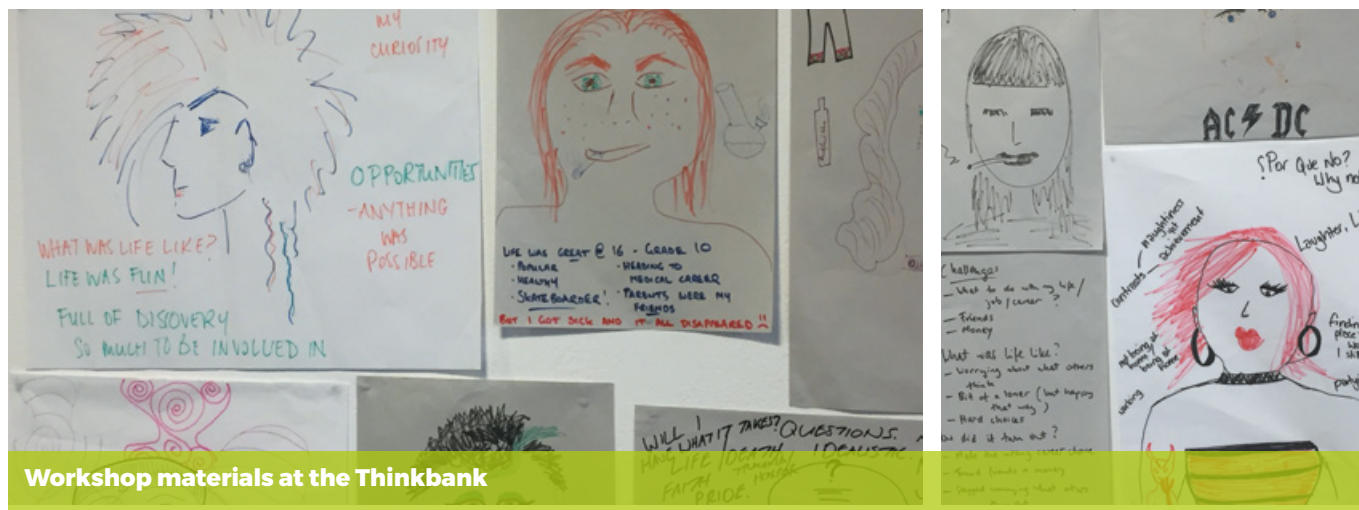
4944

likes on the Youth Homeless
Matters Day Facebook page

1158

Twitter followers

YNOT Priority Project



YNOT completed a second priority project for DPAC this year to build on the *Youth Participation and Leadership Resources for Organisations and Young People*, which were developed and released last year.

The project involved YNOT presenting a full-day workshop at the Tasmanian Leaders Program (TLP) Thinkbank, which was an intensive two-day workshop on the topic of 'Tasmanian youth issues' held on 5-6 June 2016.

This provided a unique opportunity to work with a cross-section of leaders from across the state from different sectors and industries to develop ideas for addressing issues young Tasmanians face, particularly related to education, employment and living in a regional area. Thinkbank participants were asked to identify actions and

scope for change that Tasmanian organisations, businesses and individuals could take to develop opportunities for youth participation and leadership.

YNOT facilitated discussions with participants to explore the ways young people are perceived in the community and the issues they face. This included getting participants to reflect on their experience as a young person, discussing the issues or challenges they faced and whether they thought young people would face similar challenges today. YNOT then placed these discussions in

the context of what is currently being done to address these and what young people have said in consultations focusing on employment and education.

Participants developed some practical ideas, including a small grants and mentoring program to support young people with an interest in creating their own business, and peer-assisted learning at school to support career and education planning. YNOT will continue to refine these ideas and look at how they could be implemented.

Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania

Launched in December 2012, the *Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania* was developed by a group of sector representatives from across Tasmania who represent various parts of the Tasmanian youth sector. The framework aims to support the role of workers in meeting the needs of young people in Tasmania.

Since this time, feedback from organisations and individuals within the Tasmanian youth sector expressed interest in training for further support in implementing the framework into their practice.

On 5 August 2015, Andrew Cummings collaborated with YNOT to hold a Tasmanian Youth Conference pre-conference professional development workshop on *Developing Ethical Youth Work Practice*. The feedback from the participants of this workshop stated that further training would be beneficial. On 18 November 2015, YNOT, again with Andrew Cummings,

provided the *YNOT AGM and Youth Ethics Training: Implementing the Framework*, focused on implementing and applying the Youth Ethics Framework in practice.

Andrew ran two professional development training sessions. The first session focused on the principles in the framework and explored what they mean for those who work with young people. The second session looked at ways to understand and apply the principles in working with young people, with colleagues and with other stakeholders. This meeting also featured the launch of several Youth Ethics for Tasmania

Case Studies from organisations and workers currently using the framework in their practice.

The Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania Timeline states that YNOT will continue to assist organisations in the youth sector to implement the framework and will continue looking into further training. YNOT will also continue to work towards the development of a full training package for the Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania.

Eliza Haigh
YNOT Intern



Sector members at the YNOT AGM



TYF member Dakoda Leary, event guest Adriana Taylor and TYF Policy and Project Officer Tegan Pearce

Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) report



Tegan Pearce,
TYF Policy and Project Officer

"Young people have told us they value the opportunity to meet young people from across the state and have a space to discuss their thoughts and ideas on topics that matter to them."

TYF has consulted with young people on education, housing and homelessness over the past year. These have been complex issues, but young people have been highly engaged and willing to share their thoughts and ideas.

Young people have told us during these consultations that they have high aspirations and goals they want to achieve; however, they recognise that there are barriers that can get in the way for them and other young Tasmanians. Young people have continued to amaze us with the practical ideas they have for how these barriers can be overcome so they can be better supported, particularly in regard to accessing education and housing.

We have had some great feedback from young people who have been engaged with TYF over the past year too, particularly through the TYF statewide Youth Forums. Young people have told us they value the opportunity to meet young people from across the state and have a space to discuss their thoughts and ideas on topics that matter to them.

Following each consultation process, a report is developed to communicate these thoughts, ideas and feedback to key decision-makers to discuss, and to feed into policy development and reform at a state and national level. These reports have remained an important way for capturing and documenting what young Tasmanians think.

Young people also participate in a number of other events, consultations, committees and media appearances with TYF throughout the year to ensure young people are heard. TYF relies on this participation of young people as well as support from volunteers, sector workers, YNOT staff and Board. I'd like to thank everyone who has participated or supported TYF over the past year to ensure there is a platform for young Tasmanians to have a say and be heard.

all about TYF



Danika Wright,
TYF Member

I came to volunteer at the Youth Network of Tasmania at the beginning of March. My first job was to prepare for Youth Homelessness Matters Day.

I helped organise a number of activities, such as the iPad competition. Since then I have helped with work on the TYF report by entering data in the system and categorising them into groups for the report. I have also proofread documents to make sure they were easy for young people to read.

I have attended three Youth Forums in total, all of which have been really great for everyone who had the chance to go. Having the opportunity to voice your opinion, have your opinion heard, then put into a report of the day so people can read it and see what young people have to say on the selected issue has a great impact on the youth of Tasmania, which is what TYF is all about.

I have learnt so much from YNOT, things as little as seeing how an office operates to learning new people skills, writing up reports and how to time manage. These are all great life skills that I will never forget, and more people should get involved with TYF and YNOT. Anyone can do it and would find that it's a great way to get a feel for a work environment.

TYF members and volunteers

TYF is supported by a number of young people who volunteer throughout the year, particularly for TYF events. We would like to thank these young people for the contributions they have made over the past year and for supporting TYF.

Brett Maryniak	Jayden Mansfield
Caitlin Gadd	Jess Gilroy
Caleb Nichols-Mansell	Jessica Bennetto
Chelsea Griggs	Jobe Boucher
Chris Patterson	Juliah Fraser
Dakoda Leary	Kate Lynch
Dana Hicks	Kelly Deane
Danika Wright	Kelvyn Linton
Danis Chong	Lawrence Gino
Danni Murfet	Obsa Abdulmajid
Des Dusautoy	Rajeev Chakradhar
Ellie Moore	Rebekka Gale
Eva Mackinley	Samia Provan
Farah Ashikin	Tait Fraser
Griffin Blizzard	Zac Lockhart
Heidi La Paglia	Zoe Jay

2015-16 by the numbers:



TYF Learning and Education Report

The Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) undertook a consultation process on learning and education with young people which involved a forum and a survey.

The TYF Learning and Education Forum took place in Launceston on Wednesday 4 November 2015. Around 100 young people from across Tasmania gathered to discuss their experiences of learning and education, what can have positive and negative impacts on their learning and to brainstorm how young people can be supported to learn now and in the future.

Young people participated in a number of activities and were asked to discuss what encourages them to learn, what helps them to learn and what challenges they may face with learning, with the majority of the participants saying a good support network is important. The main focus for the day was to create opportunities for young people to share and create ideas in small discussion groups centred on different topics, there being eleven topics in total which were created from the responses of young people collected prior to the forum. Groups were asked about what they would retain, change and create in relation to their discussion topic and learning and education more broadly. The guest speaker for the forum was James Riggall, founder of BitLink, and he talked about his learning experiences and how they had led

him to where he is today.

At the end of the day, the participants had the opportunity to provide feedback on the forum, including what they enjoyed and what could be improved for next time. Young people said they enjoyed being able to have the opportunity to voice their thoughts on learning and education, hear other young people's opinions and meet other young people from different parts of the state.

The forum and survey results were combined in a report to communicate the ideas of young people and included some key findings. This included that young people are making decisions about their learning and education from an early age; not knowing what to do after Year 12 can be a barrier to young people continuing training or study; young people want opportunities to gain practical experience; and young people want supportive networks and environments for their learning.

YNOT and TYF would like to thank the young people who participated in the TYF Learning and Education Forum and Survey. We would also like to thank the workers who were involved with us to ensure young



**Minister Rockliff and YNOT CEO
Joanna Siejka with the TYF
Learning and Education Report**

people were able to participate and to our TYF members, volunteers and sector workers who volunteered their time in the lead-up to the forum and on the day. We would also like to acknowledge our sponsors, Communities, Sport and Recreation in the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) and Launceston City Council.

Eliza Haigh
YNOT Intern

Housing and Homelessness Report

The Youth Housing and Homelessness Forum began at 10am in Launceston. At the beginning of the forum we were welcomed and introduced to Mo, who was our facilitator for the day.

To begin with, everyone participated in some ice-breaker activities, which led to us all separating into groups and were given a box and materials to create a home with. This included making tables, chairs and beds out of paper and pipe cleaners, and putting in whatever else we thought a home should have. After that, two people per group explained to everyone else what their group thought a home was and why. Many of the groups said they thought a home was a place where you could feel safe and comfortable.

After a small recess, everyone together brainstormed issues, which was accompanied by a small presentation that included facts and figures to do with youth housing and homelessness.

Following this we moved on to our first solution groups. Everyone picked a table with an issue that interested them. The issues included 'Managing Money', 'Buying or Renting a Place to Live' and 'Homelessness'. In our groups we discussed what we would like to retain, things we would like to change and lastly things we would like to create in relation to our chosen topic. We recorded any and



every idea that people had in our groups on large sheets of paper.

We had a lunch break, which was followed up by our guest speaker Zac Lockhart, who gave an informative and moving speech on his journey as a young homeless person and the process of how he overcame homelessness. At the end of his speech, he gave people the opportunity to ask questions, which people took advantage of.

We then had our second solution groups, which were the same issues but gave people the chance to discuss a different topic. Everyone then moved to view the wall where all the group ideas from the day were hung up, and one or two people per group per session went

up front and talked about the final ideas that their group had decided on. This gave everyone the chance to see ideas other than their own and the solutions for the issues they did not participate in. The day concluded at 3.15pm.

The consultation data from the forum and the survey will be developed into a report for YNOT to use to take to key decision-makers.

We would also like to acknowledge our sponsors, Communities, Sport and Recreation in the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) and Launceston City Council.

Caitlin Gadd
TYF Member

National Youth Week

National Youth Week (NYW) is Australia's largest celebration of those aged 12-25 on the youth calendar. The 2016 NYW ran from 8-17 April, the theme this year being *Following the Future*, which focused on young people following their dreams, creating their own paths to success and highlighting the important contributions of young people in Tasmania.

NYW is designed to give the wider community an opportunity to listen to the concerns of young people and promote a community focus on the issues raised. It gives young people the chance to be acknowledged and celebrated for their achievements. Most importantly, it provides the young people involved with an opportunity to express their ideas and views, raise issues that concern them, react to issues which affect their lives, and be able to do all this while creating and enjoying a range of entertainment and events.

The entertainment and events this year included a photography competition, a Colour Run, a number of festivals, music and dance workshops, an outdoor movie night, a skate competition and information sessions, to name a few.

As part of NYW, YNOT hosted Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) on Wednesday 13 April 2016. Held in the Elizabeth Street Mall right in Hobart's city centre, a number of activities took place for young people to enjoy. A number of



other services were also involved in the event including The Link Youth Health Service, Headspace Hobart and Youth, Family and Community Connections. Activities included a photo booth, a meme competition, lots of giveaways and a treasure hunt through the mall. Zac Lockhart, 2016 Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year, was involved in the event as a guest speaker by sharing his experience of homelessness,

talking to young people and community members. YHMD also provided an opportunity for young people to raise awareness of youth homelessness and discuss their points of view on this issue with a number of politicians who attended the event.

Eliza Haigh
YNOT Intern

Youth Homelessness Matters Day

Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) is an annual national campaign that aims to raise awareness of youth homelessness in Australia.

Run by the National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH), chaired by YNOT, the campaign focused on using social media to reach as many people as possible including politicians, decision-makers in communities and community members, as well as encouraging organisations to host their own local events. This year, the hashtag #YHMD2016 trended on Twitter in Australia and reached over 6 million social media users internationally. Key to the success of YHMD each year are the YHMD ambassadors who support the campaign by liking, sharing and acting.

YHMD Ambassador Report

The 13th of April 2013 saw thousands of people take to social media, to the streets, and to the media to talk about youth homelessness. The campaign was well-received, and I know I am not speaking alone when I say I felt inspired and empowered by YHMD 2016.

Last year, in 2015 I spoke about our determination and strength to bring the issues out of the shadows. This year reinforced that further. Having the opportunity to speak to so many people, both face to face and through media outlets, was truly extraordinary. To see interest from so many people in the issue, and to see people taking action on it was so very powerful. Also very powerful was to speak to many politicians both in government and opposition about the issue, and seeing all sides of politics take a keen interest.

I am of the firm belief that homelessness should be treated like a pandemic. Not in the sense that it is infectious, or that you should quarantine homeless people, but in the sense that when you see a pandemic break out, like swine flu, for example, there is extensive work done to treat those who fall victim to it; while at the same time there is extensive research and work done to prevent it. Eventually they invent a vaccine, as well as advocate ways to prevent it, such as cooking meat thoroughly and washing hands well. If only youth

homelessness, and indeed all homelessness, could be treated with the same priority, to help those suffering from it, and to work extensively to prevent it, until it is cured. Isn't that a nice thought?

The campaign in 2016 proved to be extensive, and has had an impact on people's thinking. I often get asked how someone can best help those young people who are homeless. I have always said that the first step forward is to talk about it. Isn't it common in fixing a problem that the first step is to acknowledge that there is one? So please, at home, at work, at school, everywhere. Have the conversation and bring it to the forefront. That is the most important thing that the everyday person can do, to become the everyday hero. YHMD will unfortunately continue to be a necessity for many years to come, but year by year, and person by person, lives will be changed and action will be taken.

On behalf of the other YHMD ambassadors, and on behalf of young people in Australia who have been homeless, or who are experiencing it now, I'd like to thank everyone who has helped or contributed to the campaign in some way; and I urge you to continue your support for YHMD 2017!

Zac Lockhart

YHMD Ambassador and TYF Member
2016 Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year

Other opportunities with TYF

TYF provides a number of opportunities for young people to have their say, develop their skills and participate in the community. TYF uses a mailing list and YNOT social media pages to promote these opportunities for young people, including workshops, volunteer opportunities, scholarships, and information relevant to young people.

Over the past year, young people have volunteered with TYF by speaking at the launch of the TYF Learning and Education Report, participating in consultations on issues such as youth participation and mental health, running workshops at the Tasmanian Youth Conference, running activities at National Youth Week, being ambassadors for Youth Homelessness Matters Day and supporting projects at YNOT.

In addition to these opportunities with TYF, young people have contributed to consultations run by YNOT and other organisations such as YNOT's State Budget Submission survey, Mission Australia's Annual

Youth Survey, consultations with the Department of Education on the Education Act Review, consultations with the Department of Health and Human Services on Youth at Risk Strategy and consultations with Cornerstone Youth Services #switchitround project.

TYF has also continued to engage with youth-led organisations to determine ways the youth-led sector network, which is facilitated by TYF, can support these organisations.

TYF supports young people to advocate on issues that are important to them. One of the ways this is achieved is by providing opportunities for young people to

speak to the media, which over the past year has included commenting on issues such as National Youth Week, youth homelessness, education, employment, mental health, gender and sexuality.

TYF also nominates young people for awards, and supports young people who are nominated, to recognise the contributions they make to our community. This year, Zac Lockart was awarded the Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year 2016 and Dakota Leary was awarded the Human Rights Week Tasmania Youth Award for 2015.

Tegan Pearce

TYF Policy and Project Officer

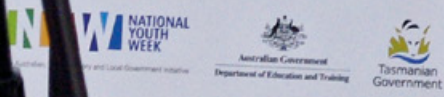


Following the Future

NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK
8-17 APRIL 2016

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#NYWTAS2016

Zac Lockhart, 2016 Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year speaking at YHMD 2016



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