

No increase in funding leaves peak youth organisation to reconsider future direction

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) is today considering its future direction, following the absence of additional allocations in the State Budget, to repair the imbalance between the rising costs and the decrease of resources received.

Lisa Amerikanos, YNOT Chair, said that “YNOT has maintained the same level of core funding for seven years, without any allocation of indexation. In real terms this means that the organisation receives less funding now than it did in 2010.

YNOT is a real asset to the Tasmanian Government as it is unique within Australia, and internationally, in that it enables young people with the mechanism to inform Government what they need to address the key issues affecting them, such as education and employment, mental health and housing.”

YNOT is the peak body for the 87,000 young people in Tasmania and the wider youth sector, which includes over 70 members, and through its regional networks, over 300 sector workers working in all areas of youth welfare across Tasmania.

YNOT serves an important function in the community through research, policy, advocacy, consultation, coordination, capacity building and information dissemination.

“YNOT welcomes the announcement today from Tasmanian Labor that they will provide indexation to the Department of Premier and Cabinet funded peak bodies, in their alternative budget.

We have alerted the State Government to our predicament. However, the organisation has serious concerns about its operations beyond the end of this financial year, and is considering additional cuts that need to be made if funding is not allocated to fill the gap,’ said Ms Amerikanos.

YNOT will now work its members, and other stakeholders, to identify a way forward, and will continue to raise these issues with the State Government.

Considerable cost cutting measures, strategic partnerships, outside revenue streams, and support from volunteers are already a key factor in the organisation’s operations.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Lisa Amerikanos
Chair, Youth Network of Tasmania
Ph 0419 511 335



Suite 4a, Mayfair Plaza, 236 Sandy Bay Road, Sandy Bay Tasmania 7005
p 03 6223 5511 f 03 6223 2255 m 0458 235 511
admin@ynot.org.au www.ynot.org.au abn 37 078 758 651

Background information on YNOT and its projects

- YNOT represents the 87,000 young people in Tasmania.
- We have consulted with thousands of young people at over 20 statewide consultations on a wide range of issues including housing, employment and education. Those consultations have been directly reported to government to inform policy decisions.
- For over 20 years YNOT has facilitated a primary connection between young people and government. YNOT works with Tasmania's young people and the youth sector every year to prepare a Budget Priority Statement to keep key youth issues squarely on the Government's agenda.
- YNOT has over 70 members which including individuals, organisations and associate members. YNOT broadly support, through its regional networks, over 300 sector workers working in all areas of youth welfare across Tasmania.
- YNOT is a leader in developing best practice in the youth sector, including the development of the Youth Ethics Framework, Youth Participation and Leadership resources, SYC Top Ten guides on youth consultation as well as key guides on resource access and youth consultation.
- YNOT is extraordinary in its connection to regional Tasmania, being a member of a number of regionally-based working and consultative groups.
- Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) is recognised internationally for its expertise in youth participation and engagement. It is unique for its ability to connect with a large number of diverse young people.
- TYF skilfully uses technology to communicate and engage young people in the issues that affect them most.
- There is no other youth forum in the state which matches the scope, engagement and participation level of TYF.
- TYF has engaged thousands of young people at forum events.
- Tasmanian Youth Conference (TYC) is Tasmania's premier youth conference with exceptional input from national and international speakers.
- Young people who attend TYF say that the forum has helped them to gain confidence, learn new skills and to have a say on issues they wouldn't have otherwise had the opportunity to communicate.
- Many young people who participate in TYF go onto leadership roles and learn to become active in their community.