

**YNOT
ANNUAL
REPORT
2017**





youth network of Tasmania

the peak body for the youth sector
in Tasmania



Tasmanian youth conference



Tasmanian youth forum



youth network of Tasmania

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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



YNOT remains strong in a year of challenges and achievements.

**Lisa Amerikanos
YNOT Chair**

I would firstly like to offer my sincerest thanks to Ann Davie, from whom I inherited my role. Ann's commitment to YNOT, previously as Chair, currently as Board Member, has set a valued benchmark for which to aspire.

The Board, like its members, are diverse, indefatigable and are found across the State. A combination of teleconference, face to face meetings and written communications scaffolds in-depth work on strategic, operational and thematic considerations of the organisation. A conviction to represent both local and broader perspectives affecting young people and the youth sector, has seen an increase in Board Members attending regional committees and reference groups on behalf of YNOT.

The Board continued its dedication to quality governance, participating in professional development, revising our strategic plan and further developing central sub-committees to deliver sustainability, advocacy and efficient administration of the organisation.

YNOT remains strong in a year of challenges and achievements. A key achievement this year has been the Tasmanian Youth Conference (TYC), held 21 & 22 June in Launceston, with the assistance of the Tasmanian Government. TYC facilitated the launch of YNOT's revised Strategic Plan as well as the report from our Respectful Relationships Consultation. A demonstration of the diligence and talent of staff and volunteers, the conference is the largest of its kind held in the State.

A key challenge for YNOT this year and moving into the next, is meeting increased demand for our expertise while facing funding challenges that has impacted upon our capacity to deliver as much as we have in previous years. Although, we have of course maintained our commitment to providing quality

work and meeting our required KPIs. I thank our members who have demonstrated the value they place on the work YNOT provide to young people and the youth sector. It is the goal of YNOT to build a stronger organisation, maintaining relevance to its members and delivering vociferous advocacy for young people.

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing productive relationship that YNOT has with the Tasmanian Government. YNOT has benefitted from the support of Premier Hon Will Hodgman MP, and Hon Sarah Courtney MP through her role as Parliamentary Secretary and appreciates their recognition of the contributions that YNOT makes to young Tasmanians.

I am confident YNOT, with the support of its members, will remain resolute in our determination to create a sustainable, endorsed organisation providing a voice for young Tasmanians and ask that you continue to support us.



Board members



Lisa Amerikanos
Chair, Individual member



Matt Durose, Vice Chair
Mission Australia



Brett Maryniak, Treasurer
TYF member



Ann Davie
Individual member



Miranda Ashby
Headspace/The Link
Youth Health



Griffin Blizzard
TYF Member



Simone Zell
Individual member



Damian Collins
Youth, Family and Community
Connections

Adam Wilson
Rural Youth Health/
Tasmanian Youth Forum



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.



Sponsorship helps to support a wide range of young people to participate in events, such as TYC.

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

Andrea Dawkins MP

Andrew Wilkie MP

Ann Davie

Anglicare Tasmania

Bitlink

Brett Maryniak

Brighton Council

Cassy O'Connor MP

Circular Head Council

City of Launceston

Clarence City Council

Coal River Coaches

Cornerstone Youth Services

Devonport North Rotary Club

Door of Hope

Elise Archer MP

Family Planning Tasmania

Glenorchy City Council

Heritage Isle

House of Anvers

Ivan Dean MLC

Jacqui Lambie, Senator

Jeremy Rockliff MP

Jonathon Duniam, Senator

Julie Collins MP

Josh Willie MLC

Justine Keay MP

Karinya Young Women's Service

Launceston City Council

The Link Youth Health

Lions Club of Huon

Lions Club of Kings Meadows

Lions Club of Hadsden South Esk

Lions Club of Ulverstone

Lions Club of Westbury

Lisa Singh, Senator

Madeline Ogilvie MP

Matthew Groom MP

Michelle O'Byrne MP

Mike Gaffney MLC

Mission Australia

MitWed Design

National Job Link

Nick McKim MP

Northern Youth Coordinating Committee

Officeworks Hobart

Pulse Youth Health

Rebecca White MP

Richard Muir Wilson

Roger Jaensch MP

Ross Hart MP

Rotary Club of North Hobart

Rotary Club of West Tamar

Ruth Forrest MLC

Scott Bacon MP

Scouts Tasmania

Sorell Big Picture School

State Tasmania

TasTAFE

University of Tasmania

Waratah Wynyard Council

Will Hodgman, Premier

Women's Legal Centre

YMCA Tasmania

Youth, Family and Community Connections

ynot members

Summary of Members by category



YNOT benefits from a diverse, active and engaged membership.

Member list 2016-17:

A Fairer World	Peter Gutwein MHA	Tasmanian Academy – Don College
Lisa Amerikanos	Hub 4 Health	The Link Youth Health Service
Anglicare Tasmania Inc.	Huon Eldercare Inc.	Unions Tasmania
Australian Red Cross	Impact Communities	Andrew Verdouw
Griffin Blizzard	Karinya Young Women's Service	Volunteering Tasmania
Senator Carol Brown	Kentish Council	West Tamar Council
Burnie City Council	Latrobe Council	Rebecca White MP
Children With Disability Australia	Launceston City Council	Working It Out
Circular Head Council	LAUNCH Youth	Youth Action (NSW)
Clarence City Council	Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania	Youth Affairs Council of South Australia (YACSA)
Julie Collins MP	Brett Maryniak	Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc (YACVIC)
Cornerstone Youth Services Inc	Migrant Resource Centre	Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia
Ann Davie	Mission Australia (TYSS)	Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ)
Derwent Valley Council	Theresa Moore	Youth Coalition of the ACT
Family Planning Tasmania Inc.	Richard Muir Wilson	Youth Futures
Flourish Mental Health	Relationships Australia Tasmania	Youth, Family and Community Connections Inc.
Ruth Forrest MLC	Rural Health Tasmania	Simone Zell
Bek Gale	Save the Children Australia	
Lara Giddings MP	Shelter Tasmania Inc	
Glenorchy City Council	Speak Out Association of Tasmania Inc.	
Matthew Groom MP		



CEO Report

During 2016-17, YNOT has continued to actively advocate for young people's needs, despite a number of organisational challenges also taking considerable time. Young Tasmanians continue to experience higher rates of youth unemployment, lower rates of educational attainment, and lower health outcomes than many of their mainland counterparts.



We strongly 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.

Joanna Siejka
CEO

YNOT has continued to consult with young people and to research these issues thoroughly, in order to establish what young people need and want. This year we have had a focus on young people, respectful relationships and family violence, as well as work to enhance young people's roles in decision making processes.

As mentioned, YNOT itself has faced a number of challenges during the past year. Due to the organisation not receiving indexation on its core grant deed, this funding has effectively depreciated year on year. This has meant it has been a challenge for YNOT to continue to maintain the same high quality of service and advocacy for young people and the sector. Advocacy for equity of funding and maintenance of funding has taken considerable

time and energy for the YNOT Board and staff, however, this is important in that without adequate funding we are unable to advocate for the needs of Tasmania's young people. This continues to be an issue for the organisation.

Throughout these pages you will see evidence of the considerable work the YNOT team produces. All of our work aligns with our strategic plan goals and we recently landed a new Strategic Plan for 2017-18. In the past year this work includes:

- Consulting with Tasmanian young people through the Tasmanian Youth Forum on family violence and respectful relationships, and technology
- Developing numerous submissions, media releases and consulting widely with the sector

- Contributing to many forums, committees and advisory groups
- Presentations to a wide variety of audiences on youth issues, as well as an increasing presence in the media and on social media
- Tasmanian Youth Conference in June 2017
- Special project for DPAC on young people on Boards and Committees
- Recognition of our expertise on youth issues, consultation and working with young people as seen in our work with The Link Youth Health and headspace Hobart, through an audit of their youth participation

Considerable strategic focus has also occurred on ensuring that YNOT's internal operations are reviewed and strengthened with our new Strategic Plan, aligning with our Business and Communication Plans.

During 2016-17 YNOT also conducted an annual member and stakeholder survey. A mixture of young people, frontline workers, team leaders, program managers

and senior managers completed the survey. A broad range of questions were asked across areas including sector development, advocacy and representation, policy development, information and communication, collaborative activities and youth participation. Respondents consistently rated the organisation's work very highly, with the lowest response being an average of eight out of ten, across all categories. Other feedback mechanisms are also utilised for young people and individual events throughout the year. The results of this survey indicate that YNOT receives very strong support from the sector it represents, despite competing demands for financial support, which has impacted upon YNOT's membership this past year.

We strongly 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, Zara Gudnason, Jo Pemberton and Alex Mummery 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 who have contributed to the work of YNOT.

Thank you also to Community, 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 Secretary to the Premier for Community Development, 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

Adam Wilson

Alan Poole

Alex Mummery

Anita O'Callaghan

Ann Davie

Brett Maryniak

Bronte Roper

Caleb Nichols-Mansell

Chantelle French

Chelsea Griggs

Chelsea Harris

Christiann McCann

Claudia Garwood

Curtis Knox

Dakoda Leary

Damian Collins

Danika Wright

Derek Pearce

Des Dusautoy

Dianne Bester

Donggin Ruan

Elisa Ryan

Eliza Haigh

Ellie Moore

Eva Mackinley

Grace Walsh

Griffin Blizzard

Harry Pham

Isabeau Keri

James Pepperell

Janette Siejka

Jayden Mansfield

Jessica Bennetto

Jo Pemberton

Jobe Boucher

Joel Imber

Johanna Le Merchant

Julie Gale

Karinya Young Women's Service

Kath Williams

Keva Coulson

Lisa Amerikanos

Laura Nichols

Maddison Hart

Matt Durose

Matt Hill

Matthew Fargher

Michael (CREATE Foundation)

Miranda Ashby

Rajeev Chakradhar

Rebekka Gale

Rhiannon Langridge

Richard Muir Wilson

Ryota Yokokura

Sandra Charlton

Sharon Wright

Simone Zell

Star Townsend

Tait Fraser

Tali Auliitia

Tilby Kitchell

Troy O'Konnah

Warde Macintosh

Zac Lockhart

Zoe Ryan

Tasmanian Youth Sector

YNOT conducts a range of 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

Established in 2005, the Statewide Youth Collaborative Group (SYC) is a forum for cross-sector collaboration. SYC members work together to improve young people's access to health and wellbeing services in Tasmania.

The Statewide Youth Collaborative Group met on 3 occasions during the 2016 – 2017 period. Our membership group has expanded and we are well represented across both Government and non-government agencies.

Guest speakers have included; Lisa Amerikanos and Danielle Conlan- Transition to Work (TTW) Program, Denise Fassett - The Health Council of Tasmania and Carole Owen - *Implementation of A Healthy Tasmania Five Year Strategic Plan* initiatives.

In 2017 the group had a very productive and positive strategic planning session where priorities were identified for the group moving forward with a focus on 5 key domain areas; Collaborate, Cross Sectoral, Strategic, Statewide and Young Peoples' health and wellbeing.

The Drug and Alcohol Referral Guide for young people was finalised and is ready for distribution across the sector.

Kat Fraser

Youth Health Officer DHHS
SYC Secretariat

Youth Action Priorities (YAP)

Youth Action Priorities (YAP) brings together a broad range of youth sector representatives from across southern Tasmania to share, learn and collaborate.



With over one hundred members currently on the register including representatives from local and state governments, peak bodies, community service providers and education providers, YAP plays a central role in the coordination and support of the youth sector in southern Tasmania.

YAP members connect regularly through an active email list and meet face-to-face bi-monthly to build networks, share resources and knowledge, discuss issues of

relevance to the sector and identify opportunities for joint action.

Recent feedback from YAP members indicated strong commitment to YAP moving forward. Broadly, members reported that the strategic, regional nature of the group was of great benefit, and that YAP provides opportunities for learning and collaborative action that are not available elsewhere.

YAP is convened and chaired by the City of Hobart's Community

Programs Unit. A number of staff changes over the 2016/2017 financial year have impacted YAP somewhat but the City of Hobart remains committed to ongoing support and facilitation of this important body and look forward to seeing increased joint action throughout 2017/2018.

Sophie Calic
Community Participation
Coordinator, City of Hobart
and 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 138 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:

- \$630 to fund a Queer Youth Ball. An event organised by Working It Out - Tasmania's gender, sexuality and intersex status support and education service, with the support of headspace Launceston. Run by and for young LGBTIQ+ people, the Queer Youth Ball was a safe and inclusive event for same sex attracted and gender diverse young Tasmanians aged 12 and 25.

- \$500 to support a Battle of the Bands in Ravenswood. The event was a joint venture between several services that are part of the Ravenswood Action Group (RAG) who's aim is to improve and increase community engagement, service delivery and client outcomes within the Ravenswood area. The event saw young representatives within the immediate and wider community showcase their musical talents at a whole of community event.
- \$750 to Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) for six Tasmanian Youth Conference delegate registrations allocated to young attendees.

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 has remained focussed on networking and collaboration opportunities for youth sector providers across the North West Coast, and is exploring opportunities to move back into strategic approaches to long standing complex issues. 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.

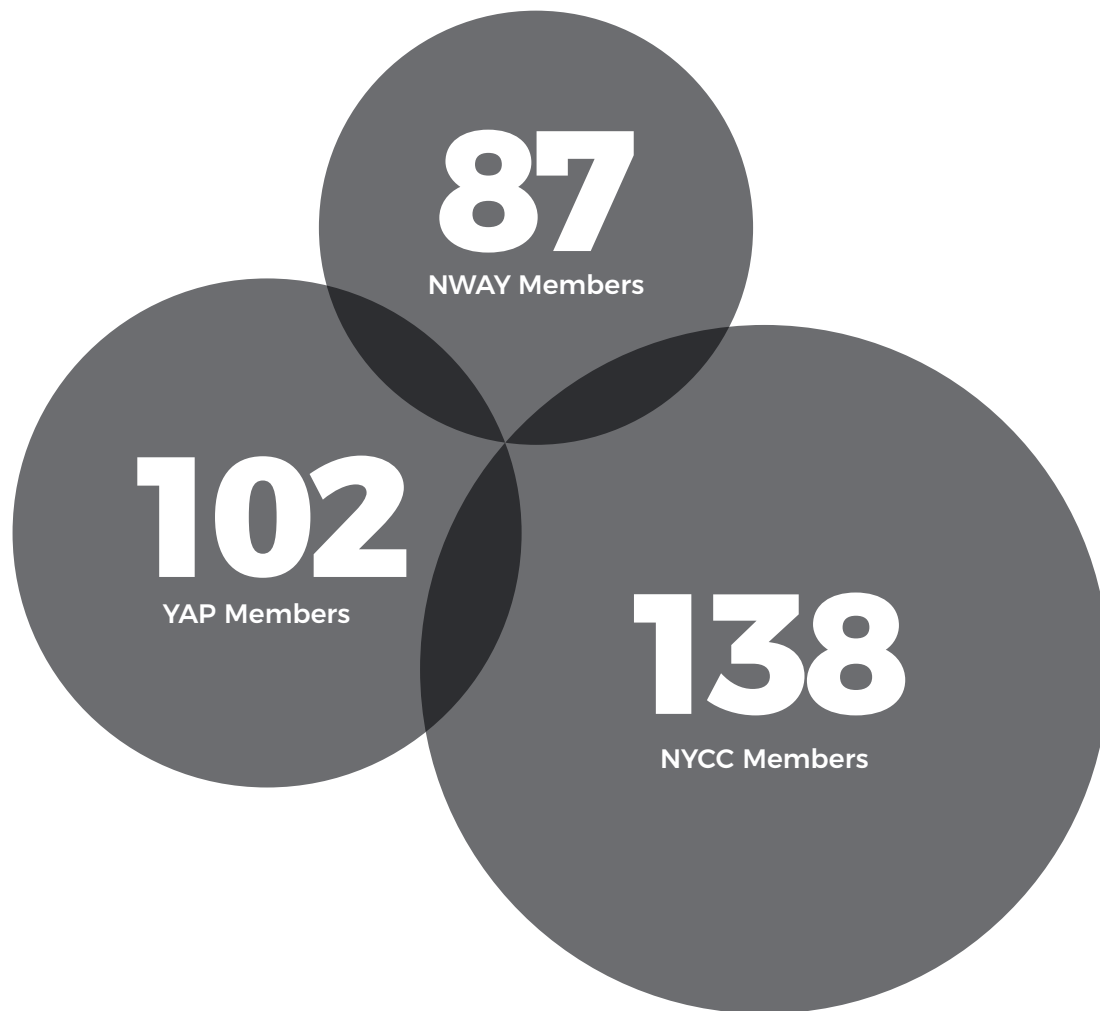
NWAY hosted a number of guest speakers throughout the year including from the National Job Link, Health Literacy (DHHS), Rural Health Tasmania, and the School Health Nurse (Department of Education).

Members attended the Tasmanian Youth Conference in Launceston and various other events such as the Working Together to Make a Difference 2016 Conference, held by member organisations and various organisations collaborating across the North West coast.

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 and have built a considerable media presence. 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 annual face to face meetings, regular teleconferences, contribution to Homelessness

Australia (HA) policy development through NYCH representation on the HA Board, 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 to the Tasmanian policy advice to NYCH.

YNOT has continued to participate in the Tasmanian Community Sector Peaks Network (TCSPN) throughout 2016-17. 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 Blueprint for the Community Sector and State Government.

YNOT has collaborated with a number of service organisations in their applications for funding and grants throughout 2016-17 for a range of key issues relating to young people.

Policy, consultations and advocacy

During 2016-17 there have been many consultations on the issues which effect 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 2017-18.

Advocacy

4

presentations

9

submissions

35

media mentions

4

media releases

3

inquiry
presentations

YNOT Submissions include:

Youth Network of Tasmania, 2016, *YNOT Submission to the Draft Transport Access Strategy*, Youth Network of Tasmania, Hobart.

Youth Network of Tasmania, 2016, *YNOT Budget Priority Statement to Treasury*, Youth Network of Tasmania, Hobart.

Youth Network of Tasmania, 2016, *YNOT Submission to Employability Skills Training Consultation Paper*, Youth Network of Tasmania, Hobart.

Youth Network of Tasmania, 2016, *YNOT letter to Federal Politicians regarding National Partnerships Agreement on Homelessness*, Youth Network of Tasmania, Hobart.

Youth Network of Tasmania, 2016, *YNOT Submission to the Joint Select Committee on Future Gaming Markets*, Youth Network of Tasmania, Hobart.

Youth Network of Tasmania, 2017, *YNOT Response to the Common Statement on Information Sharing*, Youth Network of Tasmania, Hobart.

Youth Network of Tasmania, *2016-17 State Government Budget Initial Overview for the Youth Sector*, Youth Network of Tasmania, Hobart.

Youth Network of Tasmania, *Senate Standing Committee on Community References Committee* – speech, Youth Network of Tasmania, Hobart.

Youth Network of Tasmania, 2017, *Pokies Reform Parliamentary Select Committee* – speech, Youth Network of Tasmania, Hobart.

Youth Network of Tasmania, 2017, *Submission to the Legislative Council Select Committee Tasmanian Child and Family Centres*, Youth Network of Tasmania, Hobart.

Youth Network of Tasmania, 2017, *YNOT speech to the Inquiry into Child and Family Centres*, Youth Network of Tasmania, Hobart.

Youth Network of Tasmania, 2017, *YNOT Submission of the Review of AOD Services in Tasmania*, Youth Network of Tasmania, Hobart.

Communications

Sector newsletter

YNOT prepares and distributes a Sector Update at the beginning of each month. Sector Update newsletters are presented against the YNOT 2017-20 goal areas of youth participation, youth issues, youth sector and community, strong peak body 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 currently grown to:



1835

likes on the
Youth Network of Tasmania
Facebook page



5838

likes on the
Youth Homelessness Matters Day
Facebook page



1051

Twitter followers

1988 and Personal Information
have a right to expect that
al. However, in some cases,
en desirable: there are
the limits of confidentiality are
beginning of their relationship
ould arise where the youth
believes, disclosure to police,
necessary, they have a
the young person and explain
f action.



Andrew Cummings
Training & Consultancy



Priority Project: Young People on Boards and Committees

YNOT is required to complete an annual project. This 2016/17 project was centred on generating an increased involvement of young Tasmanians' on boards and committees and built on work done previously.

Primarily, this year's project involved developing a business case centred on strategies to increase and promote the inclusion of young people on boards and committees in Tasmania, so that organisations have a resource to look at ways they can include young people more effectively.

The business case outlines the benefits, costs and barriers that affect both organisations and young people respectively when young people are involved in an organisation's leadership structure. It also examined other models and programs that have been employed both locally and internationally such as board internship and trainee programs as well as University partnership programs.

To inform this process, YNOT undertook a small-scale consultation with interested organisations to discuss the general climate in regards to the take up of young people on boards and the resources that boards and organisations would need to accommodate young people. The consultation found that most organisations would be

in favour of involving young people and viewed this involvement as beneficial for their organisation; however they were not always sure of ways in which they could attract or locate interested young people.

The business case's primary recommendations were that a traineeship or internship type model could be facilitated by organisations independently or in partnership with education institutions. These traineeships would initially be non-voting memberships and have a focus on mentoring, training and support for young people so that young people can learn and feel comfortable, and so that risks for organisations are mitigated in the initial learning and acclimatisation period.

The benefits of providing this support and building upon the strengths of young people include: expanding networks, greater accountability and harnessing young people's fresh perspective. Young people can also gain a lot of skills and resume and leadership experience when they participate on a board or committee.

As part of the project YNOT has also created a register intended to build a pool of young people interested in participating on a board or committee so interested organisations can access a wider range of interested young people. YNOT will continue to look at ways to promote the business case to organisations and the register throughout the coming year.

Full information about the project is available on YNOT's website.

Alex Mummery

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.

As part of the YNOT Annual General Meeting on 9 November 2016, YNOT held a workshop and an interactive panel presentation on the ethics 'empowerment on youth participation.'

The workshop was facilitated by Simone Zell from the YNOT Board and Tegan Pearce, TYF Policy and Project Officer. The workshop focused on how young people are empowered when they have the

opportunity to have their voice heard and take on leadership roles. It explored the different ways youth empowerment can occur through youth participation at an individual, service and program planning, and governance and the benefits of this for services and organisations.

Participants were able to hear directly from young people and about good practice examples.

The speakers for the panel presentation were:

- Miranda Ashby from Headspace and the YNOT Board
- Alan Poole from Big Picture School
- Danika Wright, Big Picture School

- Michael, Create Foundation
- Damian Collins from Youth Family and Community Connections and the YNOT Board
- Griffin Blizzard from the YNOT Board/Tasmanian Youth Forum.

The Youth Ethics Framework was also a focus of the Tasmanian Youth Conference 2017. Several workshops and sessions were held as part of the conference program on the code, including two professional development sessions by Andrew Cummings, youth work consultant. These sessions focused on the principles of confidentiality and boundaries.



TYF Policy and Project Officer Report

Young people are looking for ways to engage in their communities and have their say, with many looking to the Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) as an opportunity to do this.



We also had a record number of young people volunteering their time at events and completing placements at YNOT. The contributions our volunteers make are invaluable to support the work of YNOT.

**Tegan Pearce
TYF Policy and
Project Officer**


This year, TYF consulted with young people on the topics of respectful relationships and violence, and technology. TYF used focus groups and an online survey to consult on respectful relationships and incorporated consultation activities into the Tasmanian Youth Conference (TYC) to hear what young people had to say about technology. An online survey for the technology topic is also running into the new financial year. TYF actively encourages young people from all backgrounds and areas of the State to participate in these consultations.

Both of these consultations varied from the traditional TYF Statewide Forum structure. Despite this, young people's engagement and willingness to contribute their thoughts and ideas remained strong. However, the strength of

the TYF Statewide Forums cannot be matched by these alternative consultation methods and reinforced the value of TYF being able to engage young people in meaningful discussions through the Statewide Forums.

TYF released the *Respectful Relationships and Violence: What young people said* Report at the Tasmanian Youth Conference (TYC) in a presentation to youth sector workers about some key findings from the report and identifying ways this could be incorporated into the work of the sector.

We also had a record number of young people volunteering their time at events and completing placements at YNOT. The contributions our volunteers make are invaluable to support the work of YNOT.



In particular, we had a number of young people who took on different roles and tasks in the lead up to, and at, TYC. It was amazing to see so many young people take the opportunity to contribute to this event and demonstrate their leadership skills in different ways.

TYF has a number of ways young people can participate including coming to YNOT on work placements, being a member of our board and participating in the planning of NYW. TYF has also helped to facilitate and promote a number of other opportunities for young people with other organisations, which are outlined further in this report. YNOT's Young People on Boards and Committees project has also resulted in the development of a register to provide young people interested in taking part on a board or committee a way to find out when these opportunities are available.

TYF also conducted a survey of 32 current and past TYF members to provide a snapshot of their experiences. This included volunteers, youth YNOT Board Members, forum participants and

work experience students. Young people rated the impact TYF had on their life as 9 out of 10 with many of them providing positive experiences while being involved with TYF and said it gave them the opportunity to meet new people, try new things, learn new skills and have a say. Many also said it gave them the platform to go on and pursue other opportunities outside TYF. This information will be used to help promote future opportunities with TYF and while the survey will not be run again, TYF provides other ways for young people to provide feedback at events and consultation processes.

In order for young people to take advantage of the opportunities TYF provides and promotes, young people need to be supported to access these opportunities. There are a number of workers in the youth sector in Tasmania who support TYF in this way and we would also like to acknowledge these contributions.

All About TYF

I came to aid YNOT as an intern through my school's Big Picture program. Most of my time at YNOT was spent preparing resources for the Tasmanian Youth Conference. I did plenty of paper cutting and organising, but I also had opportunities to be imaginative when making signs.

That's not to say organising wasn't great because I am a very detail oriented person and my skills have improved as they were nurtured and valued by the wonderful people at YNOT.

Each day spent at YNOT was a step forward in improving my problem solving, creative and team work skills. Through my mistakes I've learnt valuable lessons that will benefit me for the rest of my life. When I walked into YNOT, I found working in the space challenging and I didn't know what I'd say if I had a phone call. Now that I've finished at YNOT, I can confidently say I am able to work in office environments and I'm not nearly as anxious of phone calls.

I recommend getting involved with YNOT if you care about the future of Tasmania as YNOT's role in the community is so important to me and many other young people just as it is important to the youth sector workers. The highlights of my internship at YNOT has been:

Developing important skills, meeting a variety of amazing people who value young people and being given a sponsored position to the Tasmanian Youth Conference. I feel grateful for all my experiences at YNOT and I am happy that my input has been mutually successful.

Tilby Kitchell
TYF Member

TYF 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.

Adam Wilson	Isabeau Keri
Alex Mummery	Jayden Mansfield
Bronte Roper	Jessica Bennetto
Brett Maryniak	Jess
Caitlin Gadd	Jobe Boucher
Caitlin Frost	Laura Nichols
Chelsea Harris	Michael (CREATE Foundation)
Dakoda Leary	Rajeev Chakradhar
Danika Wright	Ryota Yokokura
Des Dusautoy	Rhiannon Langridge
Dunggin Ruan	Star Townsend
Ellie Moore	Tilby Kitchell
Eliza Haigh	Zac Lockhart
Griffin Blizzard	
Harry Pham	

2016-17 by the numbers:



2

Tasmanian Youth
Forum Consultations



1

Tasmanian Youth
Conference



1

report launch



9

young people on
work experience



3

youth-led network
meetings



23

young people
volunteered at YNOT



199

young people
attended TYF and
YNOT events



308

young people
completed surveys

TYF Respectful Relationships and Family Violence Report

The Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) undertook a consultation process on Respectful Relationships and Family Violence which involved statewide focus groups and a survey.



The Respectful Relationships and Family Violence consultation by the Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) provided young Tasmanians aged 12 to 25 with the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas on these topics. During September, October and November of 2016, a statewide survey and focus groups were conducted as part of the process. The structure of consultation for this topic was changed from a statewide forum, as it was considered to be best practice in mitigating any potential risks. In continuing with best practice, how gender inequality influences the gendered patterns of family violence was used as foundation for discussion in the focus groups. Results from the survey and focus groups were combined to produce a report, communicating the ideas of Tasmanian young people and sharing some key findings based on the information gathered.

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) consulted with various academics and subject matter experts to inform the consultation process. This resulted in the selection of a number of organisations across the state to host focus groups, representing the diversity that the usual TYF consultation process provides. Various organisations across the state were able to

organise and host focus groups, which resulted in 47 young people being consulted. A survey was also developed and conducted to enable a greater number of young people across the state to participate in the consultation and have their say. The survey asked 34 questions around young people's perceptions of family violence, what behaviours they think are forms of family violence, what they think influences other young people's understanding of this and what ideas they have for addressing family violence. In total, there were 271 survey responses from young people aged 12-25 with a higher proportion of female respondents. Of the survey respondents, 6.7% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, 2.1% as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse and 4% as a young person living with a disability. The majority of respondents were southern based.

In summary, results showed young people want to have respectful relationships and prevent violence from happening at home and in their communities. Part of having respectful relationships for young people is enabling them to have their own ideas, opinions and interests considered and respected by other people. However, young people are also aware of the different expectations of men and women in society and how

this can influence experiences at school, work and home. Young people want men and women to be equal in the community and in relationships. They have ideas for how the community can support this, but need additional support to know how to contribute to working towards gender equality and seeking help if needed. The report also illustrated the potential for further exploration with young people on these topics.

The Report was launched at a session at the Tasmanian Youth Conference (TYC) for youth sector workers to discuss these findings and ways this could be incorporated into the work of the sector.

YNOT and TYF would like to thank the young people who participated in the TYF Respectful Relationships and Family Violence focus groups and survey. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the support of various academics, organisations and the Tasmanian Government for their contribution to the consultation process.

Danni Salter

YNOT Social Work Placement

TYF Information in the Digital Age Report

The Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) undertook a consultation process on Information in the Digital Age which involved activities at the Tasmanian Youth Conference (TYC) 2017 and an online survey.



Through previous TYF forums and surveys, young people had highlighted issues relating to how they access their information, online safety, digital innovation and other technology related issues. As a result, the topic of Information in the Digital Age was selected for the next TYF consultation. Similar to the recent Respectful Relationships and Family Violence consultation, the structure of consultation for this topic was changed from a statewide forum. Instead, consultation was held in conjunction with the Tasmanian Youth Conference (TYC) 2017 on 21 and 22 June 2017, at Door of Hope in Launceston.

The consultation itself was woven throughout sessions and activities at the conference and built upon the conference theme of 'powering up for the future.' To complement this form of consultation and allow for wider engagement on the topic, a comprehensive survey was rolled out. Following the close of the survey, a report will be released combining the findings of the TYC consultation and survey responses.

A youth friendly fact sheet will also be available. YNOT and TYF will then seek to meet with key decision makers to ensure the ideas of young people are heard.

An activity was set up in the foyer at TYC to enable young people to contribute their ideas about technology and the future.

A small group of young people engaged with this and data showed that the main devices of technology used are smart phones and laptops. It also highlighted they are mostly confident in using these forms of technology and find them useful, as it allows for instant communication and access to information.

It was recorded they mainly access the internet from home and predominantly use it to look for information on school work, but also to access social media and 'for just about everything'. The main issues relating to technology this group of young people had concerns about were cyber bullying, how much of a distraction it is and how it can take over their lives and privacy was another main issue that was listed.

They also felt as though technology would potentially impact their future in a way that takes away from job opportunities. Family Planning ran a workshop at TYC on sexual health and technology and YNOT will be incorporating the data recorded at this into the final report also.

Wider survey responses from young people around the state, have so far shown similar themes to those captured at TYC. A snapshot of results show a higher percentage of females than males had responded, with 2% identifying as neither gender.

There has been a reasonably even response rate from the regions across the state, with the North West providing a slightly higher response rate. Approximately 8% of respondents to date identified as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and/or living with a disability, while 5% identified as being Culturally and Linguistically Diverse.

Smart phones and laptops still appeared to be the most widely used forms of technology, however

iPads, tablets and gaming consoles also attracted high response rates.

These groups of young people were largely concerned with cyber bullying, safety and privacy but also with the judgment and exclusion of not being on social media. The main advice they would give to other young people experiencing issues online is to be careful what you share and to not be afraid to ask for help and block/delete someone.

Danni Salter
YNOT Social Work Placement

National Youth Week

National Youth Week (NYW) is Australia's largest celebration of those aged 12-25 on the youth calendar. Through various events across the week, it provides opportunities for young people to showcase their contributions and talents, have a say on issues important to them and to celebrate being a young person.

In Tasmania, NYW ran from the 31 March to 9 April 2017. This year's theme 'Imagine, Initiate, Inspire' was aimed at encouraging not just young people, but the community to imagine a bright future, to initiate change and to inspire people's minds. YNOT's role during NYW was to promote the week and the events through a range of means including social media and sector networks.

The launch of NYW 2017 in Tasmania, took place in Burnie on Friday, 31 March at 'Festive-alley' - an all-ages festival of food, music, entertainment and arts in the Burnie area. Youth Making Changes Around Burnie developed this event, with the aim of connecting young people to services and organisations. Further, it aimed to lead change in the area, showcase local talent and celebrate the contribution young people make to the Burnie community.

The entertainment and events across the state this year ranged from film festivals to light installations, youth forums and even a pop up shop. The South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation

hosted 'Learn and Capture the Beat' which engaged young people in a drumbeat workshop that culminated in the creation of a CD. Another event that was successful in the South was the 'Music at MONA' event run by the Tascare Society for Children, a highly engaging event to celebrate all abilities with music. Working It Out Inc ran two events for young LGBTI Tasmanian's that allowed them to get creative in showcasing their talents in the Rainbow Youth's Got Talent shows in Hobart and Launceston.

There were two events aimed at culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) young people. One was organised by the Sudanese Community Launceston as a follow up from the Youth Leadership Summit. This event aimed to create a focussed action plan for young CALD people to highlight and address challenges that they face in their community. The Link Youth Health Service Inc, in collaboration with the Migrant Resource Centre, also ran an event. This was a free lunch at the Migrant Resource Centre with music and

dance performed by the CALD community aimed at fostering a broader understanding of the diverse cultures in Hobart.

As the state delegate for the National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH), YNOT ran an online campaign for Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) during NYW. The campaign ran for a month leading up to the main day of action across the nation, which was Wednesday, 5 April 2017. Through the hashtag #yhmd2017, YNOT promoted YHMD by way of social media posts, providing information and opportunities for young people and their communities to have their say on youth homelessness. This included a petition to call on political leaders to commit to a national plan to end youth homelessness.

Danni Salter
YNOT Social Work Placement



Youth Homelessness Matters Day



Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) is an annual event to raise awareness of youth homelessness, with an online campaign run in the lead up to the day.

This year YHMD was held on Wednesday 5 April during National Youth Week (NYW). The aim of YHMD is to let decision makers and the broader community know why a young person may become homeless to help break the stereotypes and stigma attached to experiencing homelessness. YNOT's role as Chair of the National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH) is to coordinate the YHMD campaign. This year, YNOT had a key role in promoting the national campaign, which was supported by a number of YHMD ambassadors and supporters who liked and shared posts on social media to help raise awareness. This year the campaign had an online reach of 3 million people in 2016. There was also a high level of engagement with people creating content and sharing it across social media. This included several Tasmanian entries to the YHMD video competition.

Star Townsend
YHMD Youth Ambassador

Homeless with a Heart

Time to lay down

Cold stone pillow

Card board sheet

Nothing to eat tonight.

No brightness except the city light

Strangers walk along the street

*It frightens me, I clutch my
mother tight.*

I am currently in danger.

Morning comes

I hear drums

*My little brother trying to
make money, some laugh
and stare like it's funny.*

*I don't think they realise
we care what they say.*

*We pray god will snap out of this
dark gloomy way and give us a
place to lay our heads at night.*

I am currently in danger.

I feel angry, sad, and alone.

*My own father would rather
have thrown me out on the
streets with nothing to eat
than solve an argument*

Originally it didn't involve me.

*It all started when mum found
out dad was cheating and
meeting other women,*

*She didn't understand in her
imaginary land she was a good wife
and she was his life, even though
he'd give her beatings every day.*

*I'd sit in my room and hear screams,
I'd pretend it was just a dream.*

*I used to think to myself if
I get involved the problem
might be solved, but I was
always too scared too.*

*This time I sadly had no choice,
mum was badly hurt, burnt,
and I was really concerned.*

*I went to scream and shout
but all I could do was pout.*

I was nervous I lost my voice,

*I thought to myself this
is your last choice.*

*Dad strangled mum while her hair
dangled above her shoulders.*

I had to shove the one I love,

"Dad, get off her!"

*He yelled "you think you're so tough
I'll show you what rough is!"*

He threw my mother at me,

I screamed to my brother "hold her!"

*"I'm calling the police! And your
name is no longer dad it's Reece."*

*He looked at me and shrugged,
he said he never loved me anyway.*

That's the last I saw of my father.

I am currently in danger.

*I am currently on a list for a
shelter, but, I am still debating
whether I should go.*

*Some say if you go you
stoop to a new low.*

*Some people also say it's better to
stay on the streets, but, I am hungry
want food to eat and not to wake
up with strangers walking at my
street and being in constant danger.*

*It could be month until I get in.
For now I'm going to have to eat
out of this tin, and sleep next
to a bin, and look after my
mother and little brother.*

I am currently in danger.

Other opportunities with TYF

TYF provides and promotes a number of opportunities for young people to participate in their communities, have their say and be recognised for their contributions. These opportunities are sent through the TYF email list, social media and other networks through YNOT.

Throughout the year, TYF has supported many young people speak to the media on issues such as education, mental health and homelessness. These are important opportunities throughout the year to promote the participation and inclusion of young people in the Tasmanian community.

Young people have also been ambassadors for the Youth Homelessness Matters Day campaign and had a key role in creating and sharing content on social media to raise awareness of youth homelessness, which had a high level of engagement online.

TYF also encourages young people to participate in opportunities provided by other organisations to have their say, such as the Mission Australia Annual Youth Survey. TYF also supports organisations to connect and consult with young people. In the past year this has included a consultation with Commissioners from the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse.

YNOT actively engages young people in work of the organisation. YNOT conducted a workshop on the Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania for youth sector workers at the 2016 Annual General Meeting and this was supported by young people participating in the day and as part of a Q and A panel discussion.

Through the youth-led sector network, TYF has engaged with youth-led organisations. This included consulting with youth-leds about common issues they experience and potential options for collaboration.

TYF also promotes opportunities for young people to apply for scholarships and awards to recognise their contributions. This year, TYF supported young people to apply for a Follow Your Dream grant from the Tasmanian Leaders Program.

Tegan Pearce

TYF Policy and Project Officer



Tasmanian Youth Conference (TYC) overview

TYC17 was held on 21-22 August 2017 at Door of Hope in Launceston.

2017 was the fourth time TYC was open to young people aged 12-25 and to the wider youth sector. TYC17 attracted around 280 attendees making it one of the largest community sector conferences in Tasmania!

Workshops and presentations were divided into sessions for:

- Young people;
- youth sector workers; and
- young people and the youth sector combined.

The conference was opened by Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, and Community and Veterans' Affairs, the Honourable Sarah Courtney MP, and was hosted, for the fourth time, by local journalist, Tali Aulilitia. Over the two days, TYC included various presentations, workshops, interactive sessions, key note speakers and entertainment. Some of these included hearing from keynote speakers Orange Sky Laundry who were Young Australians of the Year in 2016, as well as activities such as a virtual

reality experience and an art exhibition provided by Youth Arts & Recreation Centre and Trinity Hill.

Hosted by the Breath of Fresh Air Film Festival (BOFA), TYC Flix was the evening event held as part of the conference this year, which showcased an Aussie made documentary called *The Opposition*. It was a chilled, pyjama themed evening of entertainment filled with pizza, paella and an expert popcorn maker! It also included a Q & A session with the producer of the film, Madeleine Hetherton.

Many organisations, in addition to sending workers along, took the opportunity to promote their services and interact with attendees in the exhibition space, with 31 stallholders representing statewide youth led organisations and the Tasmanian youth sector.

Young people aged 12-25 came from all over the state to participate, with 57% identifying as female, 43% male and approximately 10% of all young people identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Young people made their way

from as far south as Cygnet and as far north as Smithton. With the generous support of politicians and community groups, YNOT was able to offer 64 sponsored places to young people who would otherwise face barriers in being able to attend. This was consistent with the number of sponsored positions that were available in 2015. Due to the generous donations from local businesses, several prizes were up for grabs during both days of TYC, including at the conference wrap up.

YNOT would like to thank the young people, workers, volunteers and organisations who all contributed to making TYC17 a successful event. Particularly the time taken to provide conference feedback, as there had been a 42% increase in feedback responses compared with TYC15. A special thanks also to Communities, Sport and Recreation Tasmania, in the Department of Premier and Cabinet as the major funding body for YNOT, TYF and the Tasmanian Youth Conference.



143

Young People



137

Sectors



42

Presentations



5

Keynotes



64

Sponsored positions



38

Volunteers



860

Feedback forms



31

Stallholders



"I loved meeting the diverse range of people and made a few amazing friends along the way. Learning about the opportunities is amazing and I look forward to coming to TYC 2019! The presenters did a wonderful job and engaged really well with the audience."

**Young person
Woodbridge**



"I loved the information and sessions. I am so glad I had the chance to come."

**Young person
Rocherlea**



"I have enjoyed the whole thing."

**Young person
Scotchtown**



"I was surrounded by amazing people. I laughed, loved and communicated. I was inspired, given lollies and there was a queer space which is important. I am grateful for this opportunity and glad I came. At the TYC I learned some new stuff that has helped me for future goals. Peace Out."

**Young person
Glenorchy**





“The best thing about the Drumming Up Harmony session was the music and how nice everyone is. I loved this session, my favourite of the day.”

Young person



“The Sex Online session was good for learning new information, keep up the good work!”

Young person



“The best thing about the Pride in Diversity session was the support and communication between everyone. Really amazing, I learnt a lot about the people around me. Keep up the good work.”

Young Person



“The ‘Trust your instincts, believe in yourself!’ session provided an opportunity to work in teams with different and new people in a very happy environment, it was great fun.”

Young person



“The best thing about the Basic Game Development session was the support and help from people! Absolutely wonderful experience! Keep up the good work.”

Young Person

TYC working group

Ann Davie

Bek Gale

Dean Cooper

Griffin Blizzard

Joanna Siejka

Lisa Amerikanos

Rajeev Chakradhar

Simone Zell

Tegan Pearce

Troy O'Konnah





TYC young person report

The Tasmanian Youth Conference was such a great opportunity for me to discover that I am on the right path to get where I want to be in my life. A few days before I decided to attend I asked myself whether I am doing the right things to achieve my goals and finally found the answer 'YES' when I was there.

I attended the Tasmanian Youth Conference because I decided to take each opportunity that is available to me and discover the world more and more. I liked how friendly, fun and positive everyone was. I have also made two new friends Sakura and Charlotte. I also liked the film we watched there 'The Opposition' as I thought it was such a brilliant idea to teach young people how it's important to help and look after themselves and others and to always keep trying to find the way out of where we are and reach the stage we really want to be. There was also good food provided which was generous.

The presenter, Eva Mackinley, who shared her personal story on how she and her family tried to settle in Tasmania and the decision she took to 'prove' she really needed to take the opportunity that she discovered. Since then I always ask myself to prove that I want to do something or take each chance and if I could not do it then try to find something else that I can prove it to myself.

I did not have chance to attend all the sessions that were offered, however, the ones I did attend



were good and met my needs. I attended the Smart Choices workshop which was about how to control and wisely spend your money, since I have attended it, I always ask myself before I buy anything whether it's a smart choice or not. I also attended 'Real life and the law' workshop, trust your instincts and believe in yourself, Mindfulness and My dream my choice workshops.

After attending five of the workshops and watching the presentations that were available to

us I have realised that what I have been doing to achieve my goals is good, I have learned to always ask around and seek help if I am unsure about something but I know that I am on the right track.

Galia Bastoni
Youth participant

