



ynot

youth network of Tasmania

2017-18

Annual Report



youth network of Tasmania

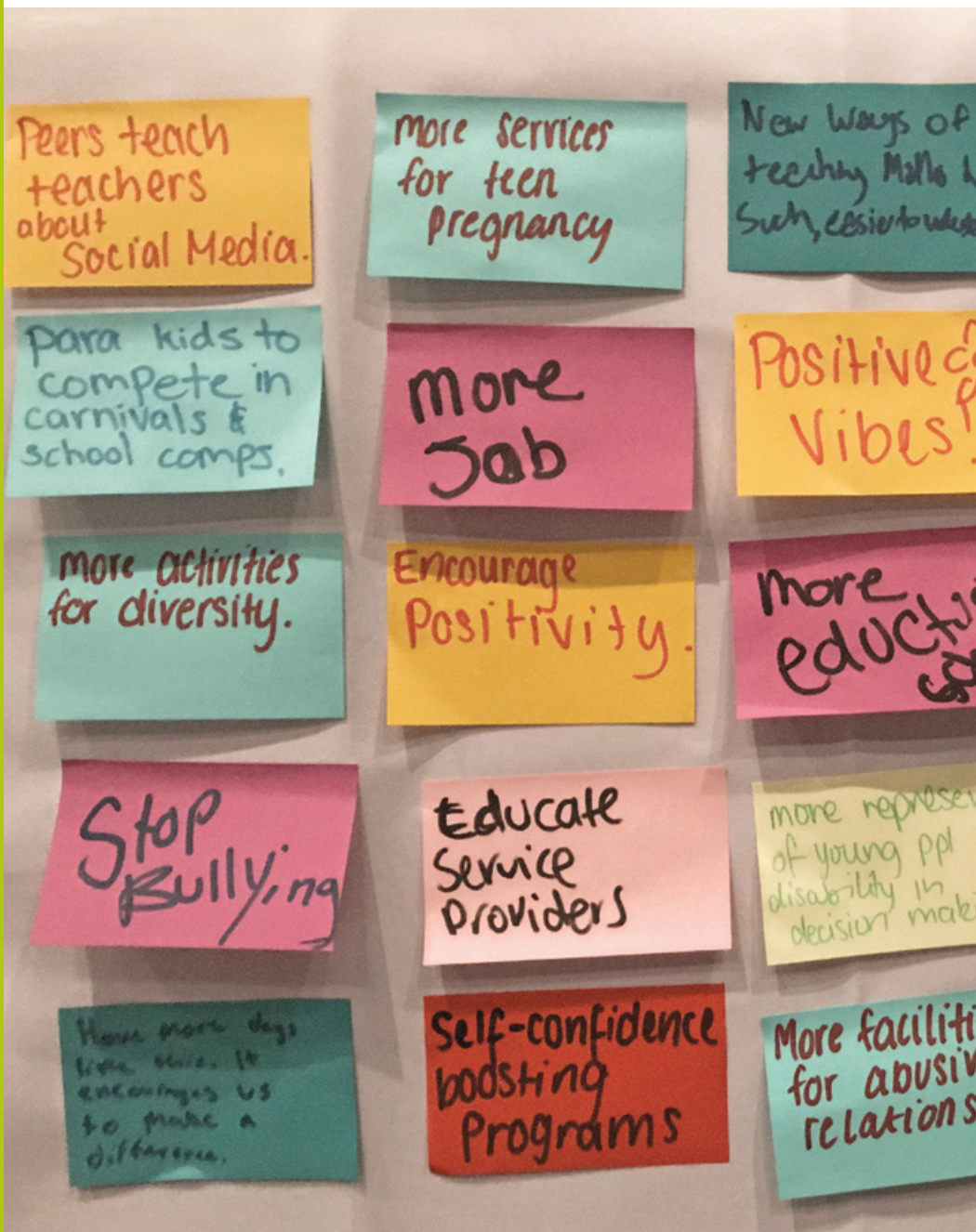
the peak body for
the youth sector
in Tasmania

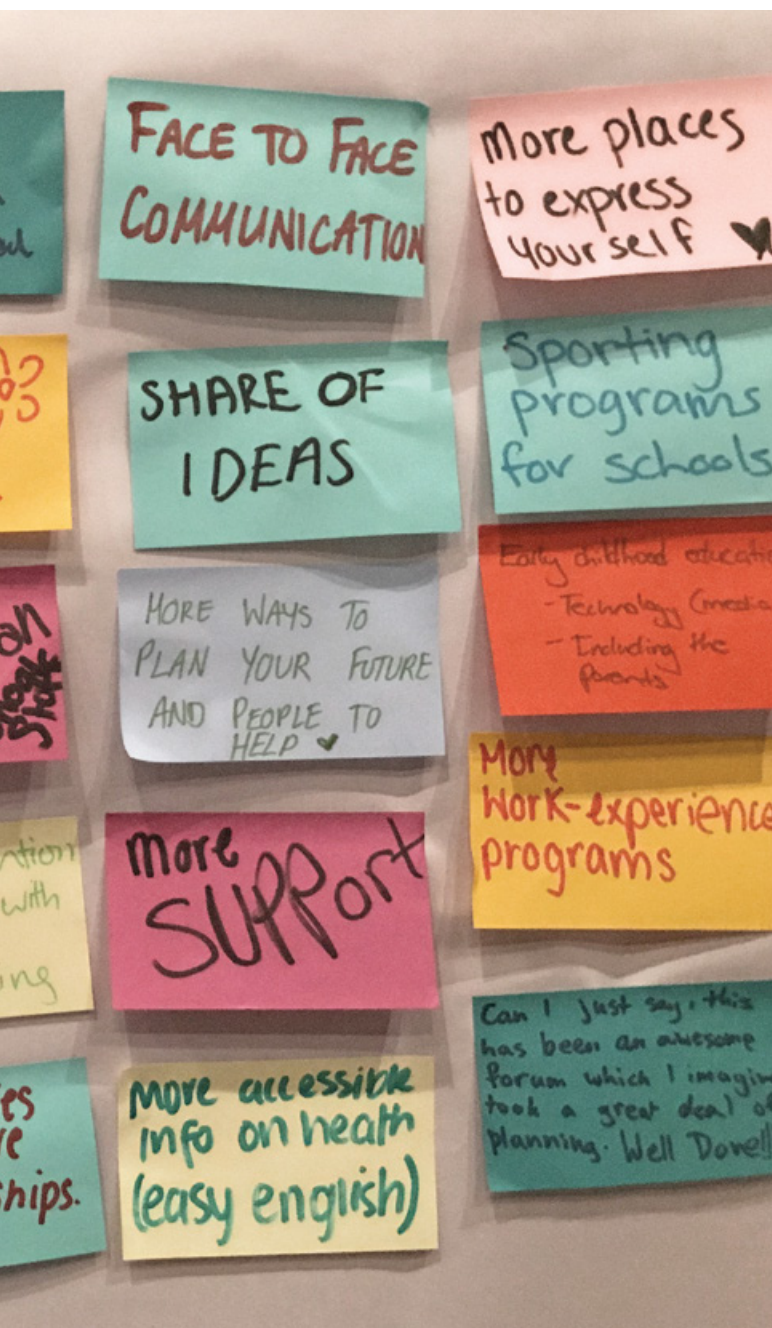
vision

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.





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Chair's Report



The year has been a year of change for YNOT. We have pulled together to work with the challenges and have celebrated the successes and look forward to what the following year brings.

YNOT has continued its policy and advocacy work throughout the year, and has represented the Tasmanian Youth Sector and young people at both state and national levels. Once again, YNOT contributed to the national campaign of Youth Homelessness Matters Day raising awareness around young people experiencing homelessness. The 2018 Tasmanian Youth Forum focused on the topic of Health and Wellbeing and it was great to see so much interest in this topic, making it the biggest TYF to date.

The Board has continued its commitment to ensuring a strong governance structure through a combination of face to face and teleconference meetings. This year the YNOT Board has conducted an extensive piece of work into auditing all policies and procedures to ensure continuity and alignment between the documents and has begun implementing the new YNOT Strategic Plan.

YNOT remains committed to delivering the high standard of work we have previously produced while acknowledging we are still facing the challenge of increased demand for our expertise and advice.

During the year the way peak bodies are funded changed and YNOT is pleased to have signed a new Grant Deed, allowing YNOT to continue its work with young people and the youth sector. I would like to acknowledge the ongoing relationship with the Tasmanian Government and thank them for the continued support and recognition of the contributions YNOT makes to young people in Tasmania.

The staff at YNOT has always been a strength of the organisation. I'd like to acknowledge the hard work, commitment and expertise of Tegan Pearce and Dean Cooper who have gone above and beyond this past year while the organisation has experienced many changes to ensure the quality of work and

service delivered has remained at the high standard we strive for. Thank you Tegan and Dean.

This year YNOT said farewell to Jo Siejka who lead the YNOT team as CEO for eight years. Jo played a vital role in building the organisation into what it is today through her dedication, passion and commitment to young people and the youth sector. I'd like to thank Jo for her contribution to YNOT and wish her all the best in her new role.

Tania Hunt joined the YNOT team in the role of Chief Executive Officer in early 2018. Tania had previously worked in the youth sector for a number of years and brings with her a lot of experience working with young people and the youth sector. Welcome to the team Tania.

I'd also like to thank Danni Salter and Stuart Roberts for their work at YNOT over the year, particularly their work in the coordination of the Youth Week Tasmania events. Thank you Danni and Stuart.

The diversity of members and range of expertise of the Board is invaluable and I'd like to thank the YNOT Board members for their time and commitment to the organisation over the year. I stepped into the role of Chair this year and would like to thank my fellow Executive Committee members Brett Maryniak and Miranda Ashby for the support they have provided to me as Chair throughout the year.

This year saw many changes at a board level and I'd like to thank exiting members Matt Durose, Ann Davie, Karinya Young Women's Service, Dudley Billing and Lisa Amerikanos for their contributions during their time on the Board. Over the course of the year the Board has welcomed new members Kathryn Cranny, Hannah Farrow, Calita Gregg and returning board member Troy O'Konnah.

Finally, I'd like to thank the young people, the youth sector and our members who have consistently demonstrated they value the work YNOT provide to young people and the youth sector in Tasmania. Moving forward we hope to build our membership base and continue our work as the peak body for the youth sector and young people in Tasmania.

Rebekka Gale
YNOT Chair

Board Members



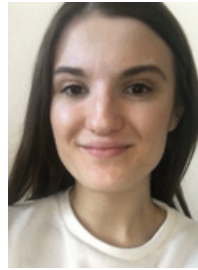
Rebekka Gale
Chair, Anglicare
Tasmania



Miranda Ashby
Vice Chair, The
Link Youth
Health Service/
headspace
Hobart



Brett Maryniak
Treasurer,
Individual
member



Hannah Farrow
TYF member



Griffin Blizzard
TYF Member



Simone Zell
Individual
member



Calita Gregg
Rural Health
Tasmania



Damian Collins
Youth, Family
& Community
Connections



Kathryn Cranny
Mission
Australia



Troy O'Konnah
National
Joblink

Sponsors and Supporters

Special thanks to the Tasmanian Government as the major funding body for YNOT and TYF. YNOT has benefited from the generous support of organisations and individuals, particularly through the provision of in-kind support throughout the past year.



Alcohol, Tobacco and Other
Drugs Council

Andrew Cummings

Anglicare Tasmania

Carers Tasmania

Cassy O'Connor MP

Circular Head Council

City of Launceston

Clarence City Council

Crawn Motors

Department of Education

Digital Ink

Door of Hope

Don College

Elise Archer MP

Enterprize Hobart

Glenorchy City Council

Karinya Young Women's Service

Karen Slade

Lara Giddings MP

The Link Youth Health

Love Tasmania Tours

Michael 'Mo' O'Meara

Mission Australia

Mental Health Council
of Tasmania

MitWed Design

National Job Link

Northern Suburbs
Community Centre

Rural Health Tasmania

Sarah Courtney MP

Subway

Waratah Wynyard Council

West Tamar Council

Working It Out

Youth, Family and
Community Connections

YNOT Members

YNOT benefits from a diverse, active and engaged membership.

A Fairer World

Ann Davie

Lisa Amerikanos

Anglicare Tasmania Inc.

Rebekka Gale

Brett Maryniak

Burnie City Council

Children with Disability Australia

Circular Head Council

Clarence City Council

Colony 47 Inc

Cornerstone Youth Services Inc

Julie Collins MP

Family Planning Tasmania Inc.

Ruth Forrest MLC

Glenorchy City Council

Griffin Blizzard

Hobart City Council

Matt Hill

Matthew Groom MP

Peter Gutwein MHA.

Impact Communities

Karinya Young Women's Service

Kentish Council

Latrobe Council

LAUNCH Youth

Launceston City Mission

Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania

Migrant Resource Centre (North)

Mission Australia

Mission Australia (TYSS)

Theresa Moore

Richard Muir Wilson

Rural Health Tasmania

Save the Children Australia

Senator David Bushby

Shelter Tasmania Inc

Speak Out Association of
Tasmania Inc.

Tasmanian Academy - Don College

The Link Youth Health Service

Unions Tasmania

Andrew Verdouw

Volunteering Tasmania

Rebecca White MP

Working It Out

Youth Action (NSW)

Youth Affairs Council of South
Australia (YACSA)

Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc
(YACVIC)

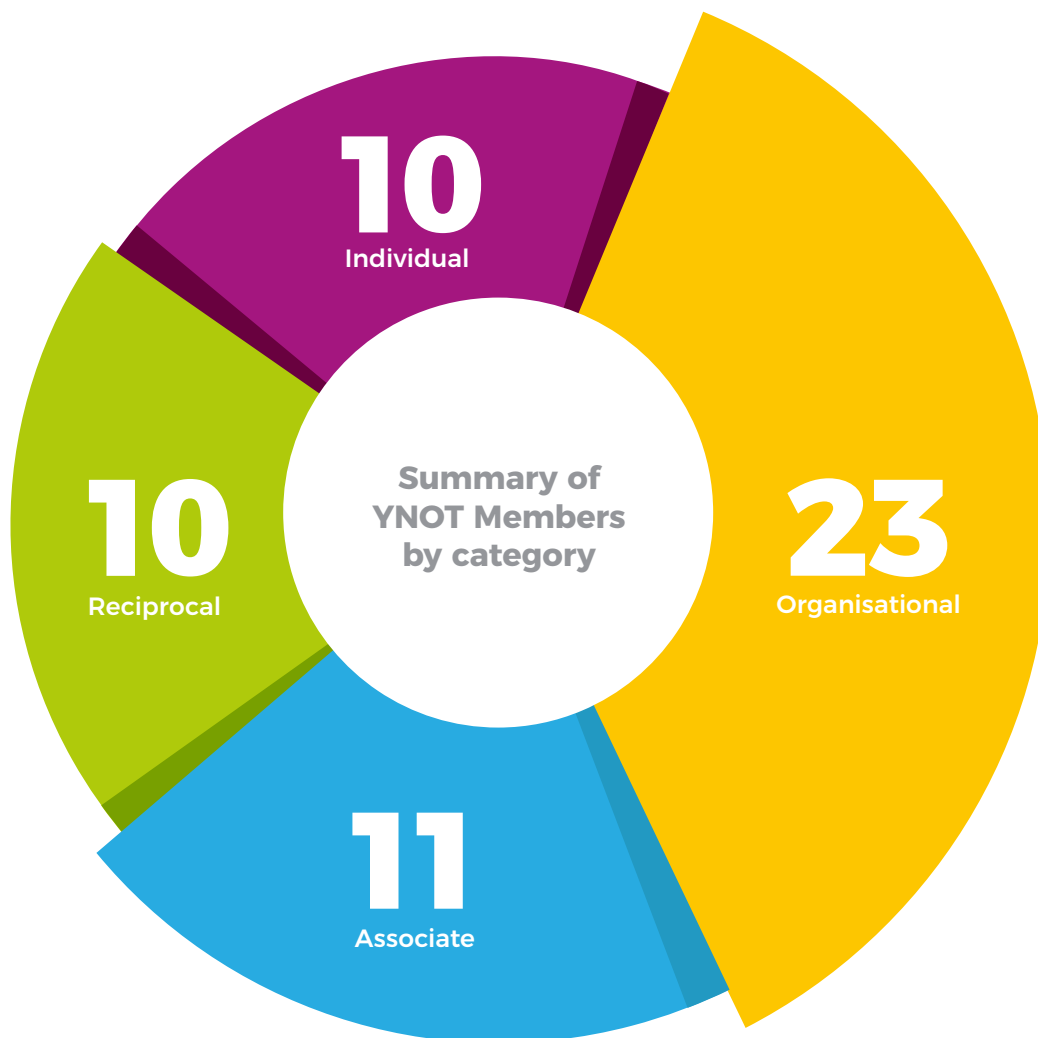
Youth Affairs Council of
Western Australia

Youth Affairs Network of
Queensland (YANQ)

Youth Coalition of the ACT

Youth, Family and Community
Connections Inc.

Simone Zell



CEO's Report



Throughout the year YNOT continued to raise the profile of youth issues in Tasmania through our advocacy and policy work.

During the past year, YNOT has experienced significant change, challenges and success.

The Chief Executive Officer, Jo Siejka, left the organisation to pursue other opportunities and for several months the staff and Board at YNOT fulfilled the role. During this time the organisation maintained its focus on representing the needs and interests of young people and the youth sector.

A significant achievement during this period was the production of YNOT's 2018-19 annual budget submission to the Department of Treasury and Finance.

Throughout the year YNOT continued to raise the profile of youth issues in Tasmania through our advocacy and policy work. Consultation with young people and the sector helped shape our policy and advocacy efforts in the areas of youth homelessness, youth unemployment, health and well being and youth participation.

During the 2017-18 financial year significant achievements for YNOT included:

- 2018 Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) on health and well being attracting over 150 young people state-wide.
- Coordinating inaugural Youth Week Tasmania 2018.
- Hosting a forum on unaccompanied homeless children in Tasmania in partnership with the Commissioner for Children and Young People, Anglicare's Social Action and Research Centre

(SARC), and the Australian Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY).

- Producing a comprehensive Budget Submission to the Department of Treasury and Finance, informed by young people and the sector, with key recommendations adopted by State Government in 2018.
- Participation in round tables on education for young people with disabilities and youth unemployment.
- Media representation on topics including youth unemployment, youth homelessness and youth participation.

This year marked a State Government election in March. In the lead up to the election YNOT played an active role in encouraging young people to vote and advocating for the interests of young people and the youth sector. In consultation with members, we prioritised key areas to inform our discussions with political parties with a focus on youth homelessness, youth unemployment, education and training, health and wellbeing and organisational sustainability.

It was pleasing to see that the re-elected Liberal Government honoured their election commitment to apply indexation to core funding for peak bodies from 2019-20 as well as additional funding for equal remuneration order (ERO) costs. YNOT has advocated strongly across these two areas in previous years to ensure organisational sustainability. This was necessary to ensure that we are well positioned to represent the interests of young people and the Tasmanian youth sector into the future.

YNOT also welcomed the State Governments investment in much needed funds for child protection however, we will continue to advocate for additional investment in the areas of youth homelessness, youth unemployment and education and training. While there are initiatives in these areas, a more coordinated and targeted approach in addressing the needs of young people is required.

Our member and stakeholder survey conducted in 2017 provided an opportunity for young people and the sector to provide feedback on the work of the organisation

through an online survey. Survey respondents continued to rate the work of the organisation highly in the areas of advocacy, policy development, information and communication dissemination, TYF consultation processes and youth participation. Whilst sector development activities rated highly, survey respondents identified this as an area that they would like to see more activity. Unfortunately, YNOT did not receive ongoing funding to deliver the Tasmanian Youth Conference (TYC) in 2019. We will continue to explore sector development opportunities moving forward.

During the year, YNOT continued to inform and provide feedback on youth issues to sector organisations and collaborative groups including the regional coordination committees Youth Action Priorities (YAP), Northern Youth Collaborative Committee (NYCC) and North West Action for Youth (NWAY). YNOT continued to Co-Chair the State-wide Youth Collaborative Group (SYC) with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and facilitated the Tasmanian Youth Housing and

Homelessness Group (TYHHG) in partnership with Shelter Tasmania.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our members, the broader youth sector and the fantastic young people that we work with for your ongoing support of YNOT. We couldn't do it without you.

I would like to acknowledge my predecessor, Jo Siejka, for her outstanding contribution to the work of the organisation and thank the YNOT team - Dean, Tegan, Stu and Danni - for working tirelessly to represent the needs and concerns of young people and the youth sector. Also, a big thank you to our volunteers and work experience students who have contributed to the work of YNOT during the year.

Finally, thank you to the YNOT Board for your support and encouragement over the past five months as I transitioned into my new role and to Communities, Sport and Recreation in the Department of Communities Tasmania for your ongoing support during this past year.

Tania Hunt
Chief Executive Officer





Volunteers

Allyson Byrne
Andy Beeston
Andrew Badcock
Anne Berends
Alex Mummery
Ann Davie
Brett Maryniak
Brittany Szlezak
Brigid Thompson
Calita Gregg
Cathie Neeve
Claudia Garwood
Chantelle French
Charlotte Cook
Dakoda Leary
Damian Collins
Danielle Salter
Danielle Gibbons
Franny Dorney
Gus Lincoln
Georgia Axton
Grace Walsh
Griffin Blizzard
Hannah Farrow

Jackie Hallam
Jacinta Antoniazzi
Jarrah Jones
Jasmin Dunn
Jen Cole
Jodie Saville
Jess Rist
Kathryn Cranny
Karinya Young Women's Service
Lisa Amerikanos
Lisa Marsh
Matt Durose
Miranda Ashby
Rebekka Gale
Rebecca Smith
Ruth Davidson
Simone Zell
Stuart Roberts
Shelagh Curtain
Simone Favelle
Tilby Kitchell
Troy O'Konnah
Anthony Barratt



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 2017 - 2018 period and welcomed Tania Hunt as the new co-chair. The focus during this time has been on defining roles and responsibilities of the group and ensuring the priorities of SYC are cognisant of the Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing framework.

The introduction of a new co-chair has led to a fresh review of membership and plans to target under represented marginalised groups. The use of video conferencing has increased the representation from the north and north-west and strengthened the state-wide approach. Member participation continues to be high and members report to valuing the group as a forum to discuss and inform strategic responses to health issues for young people.

Le-ella Doyle
Co-Chair, SYC

Youth Action Priorities (YAP)

Throughout 2017-2018, Youth Action Priorities (YAP) continues to bring together a broad range of youth sector representatives from across southern Tasmania to share, learn and collaborate. With just over one hundred members 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.

The past year has seen the development and delivery of a major collaborative Youth Week Event by YAP members as well as partnership on initiatives for Mental Health Week, Homelessness Week, Wear it Purple Day and more.

Key focus areas for YAP in 2017-2018 have been the Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework and associated outcome measures;



housing and homelessness for young people and transport needs of young people.

YAP continues to be convened and chaired by the City of Hobart's Inclusive, Resilient and Creative Communities Unit with support from the Youth Network of Tasmania.

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 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:

- \$600 sponsorship Queer Youth Ball; a celebratory event aimed at LGBTI young people between the ages of 13 and 25. Working It Out service will provide young people the opportunity to gain skills in coordinating an inclusive socially responsible, safe and accessible community space and event.
- \$800 sponsorship for Little Bird Resilience Building programs at Invermay Primary School and Ravenswood Heights Primary School.
- \$100 sponsorship for a Migrant Resource Centre Youth Group member to attend the Australian Youth Climate Coalition Power Shift Conference in Melbourne.
- \$800 sponsorship for Putting the Y in Youth Week. An event hosted by YMCA with involvement from committee members and respective young people that showcased and celebrated youth in music, performance, creative business, digital technology, sport and wellbeing.

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 members have also been exploring 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, along with young people's involvement and contributions in meetings.

Members ran a number of events over Youth Week, attended Statewide Youth Collaborative Group (SYC) meetings and approached and lobbied with particular focus on the lack of adequate funding of mental health services, the 'backing up' of pediatric services with under resources medical positions, and various other areas covering issues such as professional development for youth workers, housing, employment, transport and diversity.

Dave Fregon
NWAY Secretariat

Summary of Sector group



Collaborations: Policy, Advocacy and Communications

Sector Collaborations

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition

YNOT is a member of the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) Board of Governance. Throughout the year AYAC has continued to represent the issues and interests of young people at a national level despite losing core funding in 2014. AYAC has contributed to national conversations on youth issues through enabling debates on key issues, providing youth informed policy advice, preparing submissions and media releases. During the year AYAC called on the Federal Government to appoint a Minister for Youth, commit to funding a national youth affairs peak body and reinstate national youth week funding. The work of AYAC would not be possible without the support of a volunteer Board, members and friends.

National Youth Coalition for Housing

In 2017-18, YNOT has continued its role as the Tasmanian representative on the National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH) Board of Governance. NYCH aims to end youth homelessness and create housing solutions for young people. Participation in NYCH includes annual face to face meetings, regular teleconferences and coordinating a successful online national awareness campaign, Youth Homelessness Matters Day. NYCH is one of three founding members of Homelessness Australia (HA).

National Youth Peak Network

During the year, youth peak organisations from across Australia and New Zealand formed a Network to collaborate on areas of mutual interest, share relevant resources and undertake joint advocacy. Youth Justice, youth development and youth participation mechanisms were identified as common areas of interest. YNOT is a member of the Network and has participated in teleconference meetings on a quarterly basis.

Tasmanian Youth Housing and Homelessness Group

YNOT remains an active partner with Shelter Tasmania in facilitating the Tasmanian Youth Housing and Homelessness Group (TYHHG). TYHHG works collaboratively to ensure that young Tasmanians under 18 years of age have access to appropriate housing, support and early intervention. Membership consists of specialist homelessness services, support services, consumer representatives and peak bodies from all regions of Tasmania.

Priority areas identified by the group throughout the year include accommodation for young people under 16 years of age, NDIS implications for young people including service issues and gaps, youth at risk strategy implementation, election policy platform and post election priorities and action. TYHHG plays an important role in supporting YNOT to provide Tasmanian policy advice to NYCH.

Tasmanian Community Sector Peaks Network

YNOT remains a member of the Tasmanian Community Sector Peaks Network (TCSPN) however the group has not met on a regular basis during the year. TCSPN membership consists of key members from Tasmanian peak bodies.

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Council (ATDC) 2018 Conference Organising Committee

YNOT was a member of the ATDC 2018 Conference Organising Committee. YNOT played an active role in shaping the conference program and advocating for a focus on youth alcohol and other drug issues. YNOT Chaired a plenary session at the State Conference 'Shaping Our Future' held in Hobart in May. The session 'Ordinary Magic: finding resilience in the real life experiences of kids who turn to drugs for answers' was presented by Dr. Andrew Bruun, CEO of Youth Support and Advocacy Service (YSAS) and Director of The Centre for Youth AOD Practice Development in Victoria.

Policy, consultations and advocacy

Consultation and input from young people and the youth sector is fundamental in assisting YNOT to provide proactive leadership and advocacy on issues affecting young Tasmanians. YNOT undertakes a range of consultation processes to inform our work including meetings, teleconferences, online surveys, forums and written submissions. Evidence based research underpins our advocacy and policy work.

Advocacy

3



presentations

34



media mentions



5

submissions



6

media releases

YNOT Submissions include:

Youth Network of Tasmania, 2018-19, *YNOT Budget Priority Statement to Treasury*, Youth Network of Tasmania, Hobart.

Youth Network of Tasmania, *2018-19 State Government Budget Initial Overview for the Youth Sector*, 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.

Youth Network of Tasmania, 2018, *YNOT Submission to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training on Training Product Reform*.

Communications

Sector newsletter

YNOT continued to produce and distribute Sector Updates at the end 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:

1968

likes on
the Youth
Network of
Tasmania
Facebook
page



6461

likes on
the Youth
Homelessness
Matters Day
Facebook
page



1147

Twitter
followers

TYF Policy and Project Officer Report



The Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) has continued to receive great responses from young people who have participated in our events.

The TYF Health and Wellbeing Forum was held in June to provide an opportunity for young people to share what health and wellbeing means to them and their ideas for how it can be supported. There were approximately 200 young people registered for this event and we were able to supply an additional bus to meet demand, making it one of our largest TYF events.

This level of support for TYF has been fantastic and young people consistently tell us at these events they want more opportunities like this to have their say on the issues that affect them.

TYF Reports which combine the thoughts and ideas from hundreds of young people across Tasmania following a consultation continue to be a valuable resource for YNOT's work in advocating for young people. The Reports are consistently referenced in discussions with stakeholders, politicians, government department workers long after they have been launched.

This year, TYF launched a Report combining consultation with young

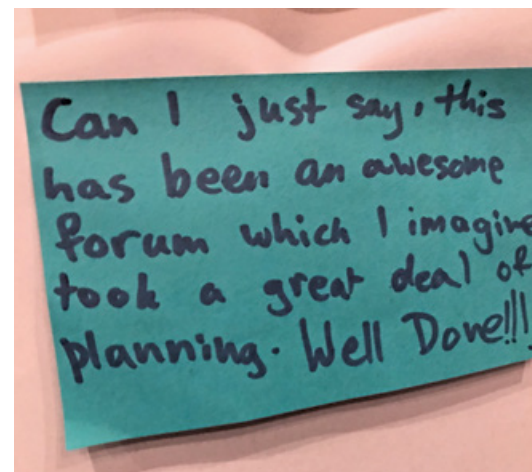
people on the topic of technology at the 2017 Tasmanian Youth Conference and a separate survey. This has already contributed to YNOT's work in advocating for the needs of young people, particularly in policy submissions.

Ensuring the voice of young people is captured in policy and program development is important for ensuring solutions meet the needs of young people. TYF recognises the value in promoting other opportunities for consultation and participation and continues to do this through social media and email distribution lists. This has included a variety of consultations, workshops, forums and surveys by governments and organisations over the past year.

TYF will continue to consult with young people, promote opportunities for participation and contribute to advocacy for young people, and work with those to champion the voice of young Tasmanians.

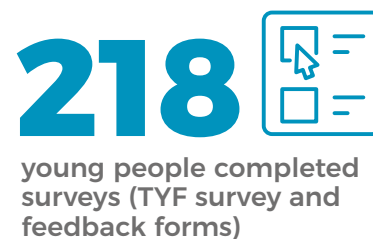
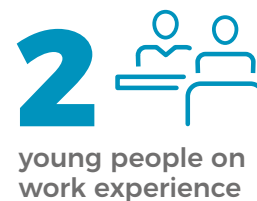
Tegan Pearce

TYF Project and Policy Officer



All About TYF

Snapshot of Engagement of Young People



TYF Health and Wellbeing Forum – Young Persons Report

The 2018 Tasmanian Youth Forum focused on health and wellbeing in young people.



They did activities focused around different factors that can affect a young person's physical, mental health and wellbeing. The Forum helped young Tasmanians look at

factors such as accommodation, schooling, transport, and other factors that can affect a young person's health and wellbeing. This was explored through activities and people talking about their personal experiences. One main activity involved was inviting everyone into groups with no-one that they knew, from different schools, area and ages to discuss the matters. The group would work together and create a 'collage' to show what health and being looked like to them, with the use of pictures from magazines, craft, pipe cleaners and the like. Another activity was where people were again sorted into groups with people that they did not know and look at an issue and

look at what is currently being done well, what needs improvement and practical steps on how to improve them. This was an effective activity as it allowed for people from different ages and backgrounds to come together and look at what effects them and then work out solutions. I found this is especially good since young people often feel that they are not being heard, whereas this event allows them to be heard.

For me, I found that the day was well set out whilst allowing me to gain perspective on issues that affect other people and how. It also made me more aware of what services are around me that offer support, as well as current issues. The Tasmanian Youth Forum invited us to come up with solutions that would be passed on which I felt as though it gave everyone a sense of accomplishment. I would recommend all Tasmanian young people to get on board in 2019.

Jacinta Antoniazzi
TYF Member

TYF Volunteers

TYF is supported by young people who volunteer in various ways. These are our TYF members and we would like to thank them for their contributions they have made over the past year to TYF.

Alex Mummery

Brigid Thompson

Dakoda Leary

Charlotte Cooke

Grace Walsh

Griffin Blizzard

Hannah Farrow

Jacinta Antoniazzi

Jess Rist

Stuart Roberts

Tilby Kitchell

Anthony Barratt

Youth Week Tasmania 2018



Following the end of National Youth Week in 2017, Youth Week Tasmania (YWT) was established to celebrate the significant contribution of young people in our local communities.



In its first year, YWT provided an important platform for young people aged 12-25 to showcase their talents and take the floor on the issues affecting them.

YWT festivities ran from Friday, 13 April – Sunday, 22 April with events ranging from rock festivals and art exhibitions, to youth forums and even a performing arts boot camp.

Devonport Regional Gallery's Reclaim the Lane Festival kicked things off in the north-west, with live mural painting, circus performers and youth action groups discussing solutions to a future waste crisis.

Meanwhile, a mammoth collaborative effort from Clarence, Hobart and Glenorchy youth advisory committees launched things in the south, with outdoor games, projected art works, live music, and slam poetry at Hobart Town Hall.

Over the week, young Tasmanians had the opportunity to attend more than 20 youth-focused events across the state, encompassing all interests and abilities.

We had a series of events hosted by the Derwent Valley Youth Future Action Team, Music@Mona by the Tascare Society for Children, and the Burnie Youth Festival organized



by Youth, Family and Community Connections, just to name a few.

Rounding out a very busy week, the Meander Valley Council hosted a special pop up café in Deloraine on April 22, with fresh deserts, barista style coffee and wait service all organised and prepared by young Tasmanians from the Meander Valley area.

Leading on from the strong legacy of National Youth Week, YWT was clearly embraced by the youth sector and young Tasmanians with event attendance consistently exceeding expectations.

This year, YNOT's role in YWT was to provide promotional support

through a range of channels including traditional public relations, website content development, sector networking, advertising and social media marketing.

Working directly with grant recipients, non-funded event organisers, local councils and DPAC, YNOT established a detailed online calendar of events, developed regular and youth-driven content for the YWT Facebook page and promoted events extensively through local media outlets.

In the month of April, YWT received over 23 individual media mentions through Tasmanian media outlets, including seven individual interviews with YNOT CEO, Tania Hunt.

As for social media engagement, YNOT posted 25 times from March 22 - April 22, receiving a total of 30,500 Facebook impressions. With total page likes now listed at 1,176 the Facebook page now exists as an extremely valuable resource for the future of YWT.

The inaugural YWT was made possible through a Tasmanian Government grants program coordinated by Communities, Sport and Recreation (CSR) in the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Stuart Roberts

Youth Week Tasmania
Project Officer

Youth Homelessness Matters Day



Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) is a national campaign that aims to raise awareness of youth homelessness amongst decision makers and the wider community.

YHMD was held on Wednesday, 18 April during Youth Week Tasmania. As a member of the National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH), YNOT led the online component of the campaign, which included the development of campaign resources, social media content and management of social media pages. This year's campaign called on political leaders to commit to a national plan to end

youth homelessness and reached over 3 million people online.


YHMD attracted considerable media attention and featured in a 10 minute segment on the national television program, *The Project*. A range of high profile ambassadors and supporters, including Tommy Little from *The Project*, shared campaign messages and raised awareness.

To mark YHMD, YNOT in partnership with the Commissioner for Children and Young People, Anglicare's SARC and the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) hosted a free forum for those committed to ending homelessness for unaccompanied children in Tasmania. Dr Catherine Robinson provided an overview of key issues, including the challenges that unaccompanied children and service providers face, as well as information about programs and services in other jurisdictions. The forum provided attendees including government representatives, service providers and frontline staff with an opportunity to share their ideas and concerns and raise the profile of this highly vulnerable group of young people.

L-R, Dr Catherine Robinson, Social Research and Analysis, Anglicare's Social Action and Research Centre (SARC), Tania Hunt, CEO YNOT, David Clements, Interim Commissioner for Children and Young People



Youth Homelessness Matters Day



Will you stand
with the one in six
young people who
have experienced
homelessness and
support the need
for change?



YHMD – A Young Person's Perspective

Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) is an annual event to raise awareness of the issue of youth homelessness in Australia. With one in six young people experiencing homelessness, now is the time to act.

Raising awareness of youth homelessness is important. Young people are our future and the system often lets down our most vulnerable young people. When a young person does not have access to safe housing it affects every part of their life. Their education. Their family. Their friends. Their health. We need to do more to support those experiencing youth homelessness and shed light on this issue.



In early 2016 I found myself at a pivotal moment in my life. A moment in which making the right choice felt like a punishment. What little security I had was gone and I experienced homelessness for the first time. It was a situation I had never thought was a possibility and I didn't know where to turn for help. More than two years on, I have found a community of people to call on for support when I need it. I now have somewhere to call my home but I still have the same passion for this issue as the day I became homeless. This passion is to advocate for those who are or have been homeless and encourage others to do the same.

In 2018 YHMD gained attention through multiple media outlets and publications. The Tasmanian housing crisis also brought light to the growing need for more houses, housing services as well as early intervention support working to prevent homelessness. This media representation, along with ongoing advocacy around the housing crisis, provided a platform for enough hands to be waved in the air for it to be acknowledged it's time to make a change. We now have the stage to make much needed changes.

So I ask you, will you stand with me? Will you stand with the one in six young people who have experienced homelessness and support the need for change?

Grace Morgan
YHMD Volunteer

Other opportunities with TYF



It is important young people have the opportunity to have a say on the issues that affect their lives and the chance to positively contribute to their community.

TYF directly offers opportunities for young people to participate and contribute through volunteering at events and work placement opportunities. Young people are also encouraged to participate as ambassadors in the Youth Homelessness Matters Day campaign, which YNOT has a role in coordinating. The support of our TYF members is essential in the work of YNOT.

There have also been opportunities for young people to speak to the media on issues such as youth homelessness and health and wellbeing when YNOT has been approached by the media. This has provided an important platform for the broader community to hear directly from young Tasmanians.

TYF has a limited capacity to directly offer opportunities to young Tasmanians but consistently promotes opportunities for young people to have their say, be supported to participate and recognised for their contributions

that are provided by other organisations and stakeholders.

This has included the Mission Australia Annual Youth Survey and a survey by the Tasmanian Government on how they can deliver digital services. Scholarship opportunities TYF has promoted over the past year have included the Cancer Council Tasmania Seize the Day Awards, 2018 MYAN Refugee Youth International Leadership Scholarship and Carers Australian Young Carer Bursary Program.

It is also important young people have the opportunity to be recognised for their contributions. TYF promotes opportunities for young people to enter awards, including the Tasmanian Young Achiever Awards and Human Rights Week Tasmania Awards.

This year, YNOT was funded to coordinate the promotion of Youth Week Tasmania. This included promoting various events across the State that provided young people with the opportunity to plan events and participate in their local community. Opportunities were also promoted for other weeks including Mental Health Week, Carers Week, Anti-Poverty Week and Homelessness Week.

TYF also connects with other organisations and members

to provide advice on how to include young people in events and consultations. This included working with the Department of State Growth to inform and promote their Young Driver Symposium.

Other programs and workshops have been promoted to young people, including those offered by the Tasmanian Youth Parliament and Rural Youth Tasmania.

TYF also developed an email register for young people interested in finding out about leadership opportunities in their community. This was part of a small project within YNOT's funding but limited capacity has meant this project has not been progressed further.

TYF also supports the work by other organisations that promote the voice of young people. This includes Create Foundation and Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Tasmania, who both launched significant projects this year.

TYF would like to thank young people who participated in opportunities with TYF and the organisations who continue to provide opportunities to highlight the voice and participation of young Tasmanians.

Tegan Pearce

TYF Policy and Project Officer

Young people are seen but not heard

hobartobserver.com.au/?s=youth+week+tasmania

Appoint youth minister, establish youth office, peak body YNOT urges politicians

Sean Ford

Young Tasmanians
peak youth body sa

Homelessness in spotlight

More young people in need of shelter

BY MATT MALONEY

Speaking ahead of a Youth Homelessness Week, Youth Network of Tasmania chief executive Tania Hunt said the system as it was had failed young people and there was a need for a strategic plan to address the problem, backed by adequate funding.

According to the last Census results in 2016, 3622 Tasmanians were categorised as homeless and almost four in 10 homeless people were aged under 25.

Ms. Hest said young people were the fastest growing cohort of homeless people in the state, highlighting Anger's research that 340 children between the ages of 10 and 17 years presented to homelessness services for help.

She said there was a misconception young people chose to leave homes and decisions were mainly linked to family violence or relationship breakdowns.

"Family reunification is not always possible," Ms. Hest said.

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS FACTS



Young people are the fastest growing cohort of homeless people in Tasmania;





youth network of Tasmania

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