

Youth Network of Tasmania
Suite 4a, 236 Sandy Bay Road
SANDY BAY TAS 7005E:
CEO@ynot.org.au
M: 0427 466 189
W: www.ynot.org.au



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Youth Peak applauds State Government on establishing Inaugural Premier's Youth Advisory Group

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) applauds the Tasmanian Government for establishing the inaugural Premier's Youth Advisory Council.

YNOT CEO, Ms. Tania Hunt said "Tasmania remains one of the few states in Australia without a Minister for Youth, Office for Youth or dedicated youth strategy. Today's announcement is a great first step in providing young Tasmanians with a vehicle to connect with government and to have their voices heard on matters that are important and relevant to them".

"This announcement recognises that it is essential for good government in our State that Tasmania's young people have formal opportunities to connect with the people that represent them. Young people have valuable contributions to make in policy debates that impact their lives. The Premier's Youth Advisory Council puts in place a formal mechanism for this wealth of experience and ideas to be captured and integrated into decision making." Ms. Hunt said.

Young Tasmanians are facing stubbornly high youth unemployment rates, underemployment, a lack of affordable and available housing options, challenges transitioning from education to work, financial stress and for some geographical isolation. Young people are experts in their own life and their lived experience, their views and opinions, are vital in solving the challenges they face.

"It is inconceivable that systems and policies can be designed to successfully improve outcomes for young Tasmanian, without involving young people in their development. For policies to be most effective they must be relevant to the lived experience of the people they are designed to target." said Ms. Hunt.

Young people must be imbedded in political processes across all levels of government to inform policy and decision making on issues that affect them. The Premiers Youth Advisory Council is a significant and welcomed step forward in the right direction." Ms. Hunt said.

YNOT's state-wide *'Panel with the Pollies'* Forums held in March were highly successful and demonstrated that young Tasmanians are politically and socially engaged and want to take part in our democracy.

ynot is the peak body representing the voice of Tasmanian youth



YNOT looks forward to being a part of the Council and working with the Tasmanian Government and Council members to achieve positive outcomes for all young Tasmanians.

Ends

For more information

Ms. Tania Hunt, CEO, YNOT, 0427 466 189