

What is a legacy?

By Annabelle Tang, 17



It's something we leave behind for our children and our grandchildren. It's something not for us, but for the better of others. It's planting seeds in a garden we won't get to see.

When you're gone, what will be left behind are the policies you make today. The future is uncertain so you cannot put off the important decisions. You are creating your legacy right now. The influence and power you have now won't last forever so make the positive impact now.

It's the choices our government makes now.

It's the people we vote for. It's the policies we vote for.

Our future is in your hands.

Our children are in your hands.

And yet we have no say. We have no voice.

We are told we're too young to understand but we do understand. What we understand is decisions are being made now which will shape the course of our future, not yours.

We are the people who will live long after you are gone. We are the people who will live in the world of your policies. We are the people who will suffer at the hands of poor decisions made in the interest of the short term political gain. We are the people who will suffer from your greed.

This is why it's so immensely important to us that we have a say. That you hear our voices and our concerns. And more importantly, that you do something about it.

Having a voice is a freedom we should all have, regardless of age, gender or ethnicity.

In our busy world our voices are often drowned out.

Ignored.

We are your legacy.

The people who you will leave behind to tell your story.

The only thing you can control, is what story we tell.

What will your legacy be?



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YOUTH NETWORK OF TASMANIA // ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Empowering young Tasmanians

Lespecially commend and thank YNOT, the Youth Network of Tasmania, for organising the events and organising the grants programs. Tania and all her staff have done a fabulous job with Youth Week again this year. Most of all I thank all the young people involved.

— The Hon. Jacquie Petrusma MP, Minister for Sport and Recreation

Youth participation and engagement underpins the work of YNOT. During the year, emphasis was placed on providing platforms and opportunities for young Tasmanians to share their views, opinions and experiences to engage with young people through the organisations, local council groups, University of Tasmania, Australian Youth Climate Coalition and our volunteers. Young Tasmanians informed YNOT's advocacy and policy work in the areas of youth housing and homelessness, youth unemployment, pill testing, mental health, transport, political engagement, youth participation, climate change and tobacco reform.

Panel with the Pollies

YNOT hosted a series of panel discussions for young people aged 12-25 years with federal candidates and representatives ahead of the 2019 Federal election. Young Tasmanians embraced the opportunity to have their voice heard on topics important to them including; climate change, the banking royal commission, gender quotas in parliament, transparency around political donations, mental health, and renewable energy. 120 young people attended events across the State, with a total of 190 questions raised with candidates and representatives. Members from Speak Out Advocacy Service and local youth

> with event facilitation in each MC'd by a local young person. The success of these events demonstrate that young Tasmanians are politically and socially engaged and want democracy.

Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF)

TYF 2019 'Your Online Environment' attracted an unprecedented number of young Tasmanians, making this year's forum the largest event to date. A total of 520 young people participated in the forum and online survey to share their views on topics including: cyber bullying and cyber abuse, digital protection and reputation and online safety. Young people identified challenges, opportunities and solutions to the barriers they face in the online world and supported the criminalisation of cyber bullying, providing that it is clearly defined. Members from the Migrant Resource Centre Multicultural Youth Advisory Network facilitated an 'ice breaker' session, and a National Youth Commission Ambassador shared positive experiences of the online environment. Key findings are highlighted in the TYF 2019 report and have been distributed widely to key decision makers and stakeholders.

Youth Week Tasmania

Youth Week Tasmania 2019 was hugely successful with a diverse range of activities taking place across the State. The annual event highlighted the important contribution young people make to our local communities and showcased the local talent and skills of young people through a range of activities including; busking competitions, twilight markets and festivals, skate park expos and robotics workshops.

The official event launch provided a platform for two young Tasmanians to voice their opinion on issues that are important to them as well as showcasing the views and opinions of young people on a diverse range of topics including mental health, climate change, diversity through the Young Humans of Tasmania photo series.

Amplifying the voice of young Tasmanians

I thank YNOT for the incredible work it does representing young people in Tasmania no matter where they live and to recognise that YNOT provides us an excellent window into the lives of young Tasmanians and the matters that concern them.

— Cassy O'Connor, Leader of the Tasmanian Greens

Ongoing engagement of, and consultation with young people and the Tasmanian youth sector shaped YNOT's advocacy efforts during the year. YNOT continued to lobby for the strategic inclusion of young people across government including the appointment of a Minister for Youth, development of a youth strategy and the engagement and involvement of young people in policy development and decision making on youth affairs.

We worked alongside young people and our members to advocate for:

- An integrated youth alcohol and other drug service system;
- A shared understanding and clear definitions of bullying and cyber bullying;
- Lowering the non compulsory voting age to 16 years;
- An integrated youth mental health service system;
- Increased youth mental health awareness and education in schools;
- Prioritising housing solutions for young Tasmanians;
- Tailored services to support young people seeking employment;
- Raising the rate of Newstart and Youth Allowance; and
- The introduction of a pill testing trial at music festivals and events in Tasmania.

All of the attendees commented on how great it was to have someone advocating so strongly for student and youth voice. ??

— Charlie Williams, State Manager Tasmania, Teach for Australia



16

young people aged 13-22 successfully engaged with media during the report period.



6

young people presented at conferences and events



120

young people attended Panel with the Pollies



520

TYF participants



12

young people participated in the 'Young Humans of Tasmania' series



Influencing change

2018 Tasmanian Youth Forum participants identified the need for more mental health information and events to be included into the school curriculum to provide them with the tools to identify the signs and symptoms of mental ill health amongst themselves and their peers. Labor is listening.

- Rebecca White, Leader of the Tasmanian Labor Party

YNOT continued to influence decision makers and policy outcomes through responding to government inquiries, legislative reform and budget processes on issues relevant to young Tasmanians. We produced eight, evidence based submissions on a diverse range of topics including:

- Draft Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Outcomes Framework 2018
- Legislative Council Select Committee Short Stay Accommodation in Tasmania Inquiry 2018
- Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Lowering Voting Age and Increasing Voter Participation) Bill 2018
- Reform Agenda for Alcohol and Drug Services in Tasmania – Consultation Draft 2018
- Labors' Discussion Paper on Mental Health 2018
- The Next Generation of Employment Services: Discussion Paper 2018
- Tasmanian Government Budget Submission 2019–2020
- The Criminal Code Amendment (Bullying) Bill 2019

YNOT was also an active member on numerous advisory groups and committees including Labors Industry Advisory Council on Well being, Care and Community Development and the Tasmanian Governments Family Violence Consultative Group.



Unaccompanied Homeless Children Under 16

YNOT, Anglicare's Social Action and Research Centre (SARC) and the Interim Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP) continued to lobby State Government and key decision makers to respond to the needs of unaccompanied homeless children under 16 years of age in Tasmania. Collectively, we called on the State Government to invest in a policy response and a continuum of services to address the care and accommodation needs of this highly vulnerable cohort. Together, we hosted a cross sectoral forum aimed at strengthening non-statutory care for children under 16 years, briefed members of the Legislative Council and met with relevant Ministers, Advisors and Departmental Secretaries. The Tasmanian Government committed to the establishment of a Taskforce in Tasmanians Affordable Housing Action Plan 2019-23 to identify and prioritise care and accommodation needs for this cohort. The Taskforce was established in 2019.

Mental Health in Schools

Feedback from 2018 TYF participants in relation to youth mental health informed the work of the Tasmanian Labor Party during the year. Opposition Leader, Rebecca White, included feedback from young people in her 2019 Budget Reply Speech, specifically the need to include more mental health information and events into the school curriculum.

Graduated Licensing System

YNOT worked collaboratively with TasCOSS in response to the State Governments proposed changes to the Graduated Licensing System (GLS), calling on the State Government to undertake independent research into the social and economic impact of the GLS changes. Of particular concern are the unintended consequences the new GLS will have on young people/novice drivers in obtaining their drivers license. Work remains ongoing in 2019-20.





Working together

YNOT partnered with us to develop and produce the content for our 2019
State Conference program. The deliberate inclusion of young people's voices throughout our program delivered another layer of vitality, innovation and diversity to our delegates and provided insightful, heartfelt and honest communication on issues from climate to diversity and challenging and changing systems that aren't working.

— TasCOSS

Tasmanian Council of Social Services (TasCOSS)

YNOT worked collaboratively with TasCOSS to integrate the voice and opinions of young Tasmanians into the 2019 TasCOSS State Conference. Day two of the Conference was dedicated to young people with a moving welcome to country and powerful presentations on mental health, challenges for cultural youth (including settlement) and community based art projects. A young activist also engaged in a lively panel discussion on the evolution of activism with regard to climate change. The Conference provided young people with a platform to share their lived experience and challenge the systems and structures that contribute to inequality and disadvantage for young Tasmanians.



Statewide Youth Collaborative Group (SYC)

YNOT continued to Co-Chair the Statewide Youth Collaborative (SYC) Group with Public Health Services, Department of Health. SYC provides an invaluable forum to discuss and inform strategic responses to health issues for young people in Tasmania. During the year, emphasis was placed on increasing young people's mental health literacy and promoting preventative mental health and wellbeing messages through the development of a range of resources in relation to healthy mind habits.

Tasmanian Youth Housing and Homelessness Group (TYHHG)

YNOT continued to Co-Chair the Tasmanian Youth Housing and Homelessness Group (TYHHG) with Shelter Tasmania. TYHHG plays an important role in identifying issues impacting youth specialist homelessness services and young people experiencing homelessness in Tasmania. Emphasis will be placed on reviewing the terms of reference and membership in 2019-20.

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Council (ATDC)

YNOT consulted with young Tasmanians in relation to the introduction of a pill testing trial at music festivals and events in Tasmania to inform the work of the ATDC and debate in the Legislative Council. Young people shared their opinions and views on the topic and engaged with media to have their voices heard.

Regional Youth Advisory Groups

YNOT regularly attends and participates in regional youth advisory group meetings including Youth Action Priorities (YAP), Northern Youth Coordinating Committee (NYCC) and North West Action for Youth (NWAY). Attendance at meetings assists YNOT to remain abreast of regional issues, key focus areas and local solutions regarding youth affairs. Networking, sharing information and collaborating on youth projects underpins each advisory group. Regional group members have been actively involved in Panel with the Pollies, Youth Week Tasmania, Youth Homelessness Matters Day and TYF 2019.



Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC)

YNOT remains an active board member of AYAC. Despite remaining unfunded, AYAC continued to lobby the Federal Government to put young Australians back on the political agenda. Key highlights for AYAC in 2018-19 included hosting a National Summit to identify priority areas for young Australians, launching 'An Agenda for Young Australians' ahead of the 2019 federal election and securing a funding commitment from Labor and the Greens to reinstate AYAC funding prior to the federal election. The appointment of a Federal Minister for Youth can largely be attributed to AYAC's strong advocacy in the national arena.

National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH)

YNOT remains an active board member of NYCH. NYCH successfully coordinated an online Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) campaign to raise awareness of youth homelessness amongst decision makers and the community. YNOT engaged local radio personality and former My Kitchen Rules contestant, Matt Newell as the 2019 Tasmanian YHMD Ambassador. Matt produced a social media video on youth homelessness, shared statistics and social media posts about the topic and supported the online campaign on the day. The 2019 campaign was successful in generating awareness of this incredibly important issue.



Youth sector development

The youth sector requires more funding to be able to up skill and provide high quality, relevant training for the sector and young people.

— Youth Worker

Youth Sector Workforce **Development Project**

The Tasmanian Youth Sector Workforce Development Project is an initiative of YNOT youth sector. The three year project aims to identify key stakeholders in the Tasmanian youth sector, workforce characteristics and professional development needs. Phase one of the project focused on scoping the youth sector and surveying the workforce to determine workforce characteristics and the project is underway and involves analysing and interpreting survey data and producing a report outlining key recommendations.

E-Safety Training

Commissioner to provide free e-safety training to YNOT members. The training focused on how young people use technology and the risks they may be exposed to. YNOT member's received practical information to support conversations and safety measures for young people.

Cross Sector Panel on Working with Young People

YNOT organised a cross sector panel on working with young people for YNOT members at the 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM). Representatives from Government, the community sector and legal aid engaged with members to explore topics including ethical dilemmas, professional boundaries and legal responsibilities when working with young people aged 12-25 years.

Working with Young People: Supportive Practice Frameworks Workshop

YNOT members were given the opportunity to participate in a workshop on supportive practice frameworks. The workshop provided an in-depth look at how youth workers can make the best decisions for clients and themselves through exploring frameworks of practice, emotional intelligence and labour, professional boundaries and supportive practice strategies.



YN0T member satisfaction

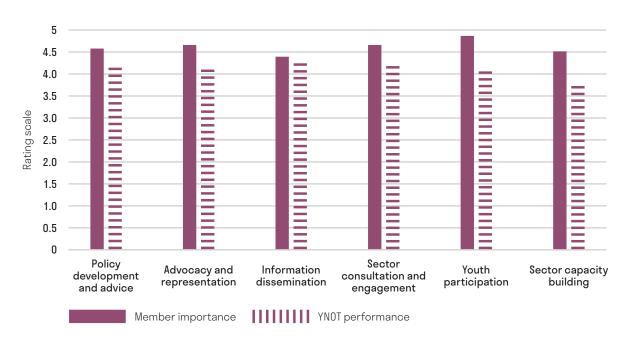


Figure 1. Members were asked to rate the importance of functions and YNOT's performance for 2018-19 on a scale from 0 (not important or satisfied) to 5 (highly important or satisfied).

Members rated an overall level of satisfaction with YN0T's performance for 2018-19 of **8.5/10**. 40% of YN0T's members completed the Member satisfaction survey.

Policy and Advocacy

90% of respondents had above average satisfaction of YN0T's advocacy and policy development work.

95% of respondents were satisfied that YNOT's policy advice to government and stakeholders accurately represented the views of young people and the youth sector.

85% of respondents had above average satisfaction with YN0Ts general representation of the Tasmanian youth sector.

Strong TYF outcome, good political lobbying, good ongoing access to young people for media, consultations etc. Good work!

Youth consultation and engagement

95% were satisfied with YN0T's stakeholder engagement, and **89%** were satisfied with YN0T's community engagement and collaboration.

78% of members rated YN0T as having above average satisfaction of the 2019 Tasmanian Youth Forum consultation, and effectiveness of engaging and supporting youth participation.

Excellent engagement of young people through the political forums.

Information dissemination

94% of respondents were satisfied with YN0T's information and communication to members, and **89%** agreed that YN0T is effectively using different communication methods to share information.

Communication

I like receiving email contact about what is going on. As an individual member I'm happy to financially support an important voice for young people.

— YNOT member

YNOT strives to communicate information to members and the broader youth sector in a timely manner. Our monthly e-news publication 'Sector News' continued to be the most effective way to share updates on youth affairs, with a new look format unveiled in 2019. Online platforms including Facebook and Twitter, provided another vehicle to communicate the work of the organisation, opportunities for youth participation, consultations and news and events.



76Media mention



12 Media releases



Social media

YNOT Facebook page

1 318

new page likes

new page followers

12,653

engagements with YNOT's Facebook posts (comments, likes, shares, reactions)

207,463 total YNOT Facebook newsfeed impressions

259 total posts

Youth Homelessness Matters Day

17 April 2019

30

new Facebook page likes

₹ 67

page engagements

2 8,216

people exposed to YHMD in newsfeed

15,065

individual posts showing in newsfeed

• 2,019

people saw the YHMD ambassador video in their newsfeed

YNOT Panel with the Pollies State-wide events

8,600

people exposed to the events in their news feed

© 697

people viewed the event page

35 posts

(V) 21

people responded yes/ interested in attending events





CEO's report

The past twelve months has been a time of significant change, challenges and success for YNOT.

During the year emphasis was placed on identifying opportunities and platforms for young Tasmanians to take centre stage to share their views on matters important to them

We strived to amplify the voice of young Tasmanians and influence decision makers through our advocacy and policy work in the areas of youth unemployment, housing and homelessness, education, mental health, transport, climate change, tobacco reform and pill testing.

Importantly, we set out to empower young Tasmanians to share their opinions, lived experiences and solutions to the challenges they face wherever possible through media interviews, presentations, forums and panel discussions.

The success of YNOT's 'Panel with the Pollies' forums during the year was a key highlight, with 120 young people attending statewide. The depth and breadth of questions from young people were extraordinary, with the sheer volume of questions raised, demonstrating that young Tasmanians are politically and socially engaged.

TYF 2019 Your Online Environment and Youth Week Tasmania 2019 were also hugely successful, providing invaluable opportunities for young people to have their say and to celebrate the achievements and contributions of young Tasmanians.

During the year, we also set out to challenge the structures and systems that contribute to inequality, disadvantage and exclusion of young Tasmanians. Our advocacy work in the area of unaccompanied homeless children and young people under 16, bullying and cyber bullying and youth mental health were key highlights.

As a small peak body, partnerships and collaboration are integral to our work. Without the support of our members, volunteers, the Tasmanian youth sector, community sector and government we could not have achieved all that we have. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everybody that has supported YNOT throughout the year.

As I reflect on our achievements during the past year, I am incredibly proud and very fortunate to be supported by the most extraordinarily talented, dedicated and passionate team – Jo and Dean. Thank you both so much for all your hard work behind the scenes, for stepping up when it counts and for putting young Tasmanians at the forefront of everything you do. As a new team, we have certainly punched above our weight and it has been an absolute privilege to work alongside you this year.

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of Frances Seen, YN0T's Youth Week Tasmania Project Officer, our wonderful team of volunteers and Tegan Pearce, who moved on from the role of TYF Project and Policy Officer in 2018. I also would like to extend my sincere thanks to YN0T's Chair Bek Gale and the YN0T Board for their support and encouragement during the year.

Tania Hunt

CEC

Having YN0T give the youth of Tasmania a voice about issues like employment, housing, mental health, that seem to just be getting worse, is beyond measure. It's comforting to know a peak body is in our corner.

— Rahnee, 21



Chair's report

This year, like every year at YNOT, has been a busy one and YNOT has continued delivering exemplary work during this time. Continuous improvement has been a focus of the Board through strengthening our governance policies and procedures. Five new board members have been recruited and inducted and we have conducted our annual board evaluation. Through this work, we are well positioned to undertake further governance work and redevelop our Strategic Plan in the coming year.

It would not be possible to deliver the work that we do without the ongoing support and participation from the youth sector, our members, young people, volunteers and the Tasmanian Government, so I would like to thank these people for continuing to recognise the value of YNOT's work. On behalf of the Board I'd like to thank the staff team of Tania, Dean and Jo for their outstanding work throughout the year and take this opportunity to thank Board members, both current and those who stepped down in the last year, for their time, commitment and expertise. It is a privilege to work with such a dedicated group of people. I have been fortunate enough to be involved with YNOT for the last six years and I continue to be impressed by the passion and commitment shown to the youth sector in Tasmania. I look forward to seeing more great work in this space over the next year.

Rebekka Gale

Chair

Current Board members

Rebekka Gale Simone Zell Glen O'Keefe Kathryn Cranny Damian Collins Gina Sidhu Ben Bromfield Nicola Jeffery Rob Haas Wayne Frost Kayla Phillips



Board members who left between 2018 -2019

Hannah Farrow Calita Gregg Miranda Ashby Troy O'Konnah Griffin Blizzard Brett Maryniak



Volunteers

Abe Shires
Annabelle Tang
Atak Ngor
Ben Bromfield
Bonnie Kikkart
Bronte Scott
Chelsea Nunn
Dakoda Leary
Elvis Martin
Frances Seen
Grace Daniels

Grace Morgan
Hannah Godfrey
Jacinta Antoniazzi
Jaspah Dunne
Jay Saward
Jessica Rist
Joshua Abeling
Madeline Wells
Magda Gamar
Mathew Etherington
Monte Boville

Niamh Chomsky Swango Nicola Jeffrey Rahnee Butterworth Ruby Bartle Sahrifah Syed-Rohan Sarah Gourley Sophie Clark Todd Tyler Banks Zoe Douglas-Kinghorn

Sponsors

Special thanks to the Tasmanian Government as the major funding body for YNOT.

YNOT has benefited from the generous support of individuals and organisations, through the provision of in-kind support through the past year.

Campbell Town
District High School
Celina Sargent
Circular Head Council
City of Hobart
City of Launceston
Derwent Valley Youth Future
Action Team (D'FAT)
Digital Ink
Don College
Emmanuel Christian School
Fae Robertson
Family Planning Tasmania

headspace Hobart
Huonville Council
Kennerly Kids
Laurel House
Mel Maddock
Migrant Resource Centre Hobart
Multicultural Youth Advocacy
Network (Australia)
Oatlands District High School
Parklands High School
Paul Cairns
Public Health Service, Tasmania

Smithton High School St Helens District High School The Link Youth Health Service The Office of the e-Safety Commissioner University of Tasmania Waratah-Wynyard Council West Tamar Council Youth Family & Community Connections Yvette Eddington

Members

YNOT benefits from a diverse, active and engaged membership.

A Fairer World Andrew Verdouw Anglicare Tasmania Inc. Annie Kenney Young Womens **Emergency Accommodation** Service Baptoare FACS Bek Gale Burnie City Council Calita Gregg Children With Disability Australia Circular Head Council Clarence City Council Colony 47 Inc Cornerstone Youth Services Inc Create Foundation Derwent Valley Youth Future **Action Team** Family Planning Tasmania Inc. Flourish Mental Health Gina Sidhu Glenorchy City Council Hannah Farrow

Hobart City Council

Impact Communities
Josh Willie MLC
Julie Collins MP
Karinya Young Women's Service
Kentish Council
Latrobe Council
Launceston City Council
Launceston City Mission
Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania
Matt Hill
Migrant Resource Centre (North)
Mike Gaffney MLC
Mission Australia
Peter Gutwein MHA
Rebecca White MP

Richard Muir Wilson Rob Haas Ruth Forrest MLC Save the Children Australia Scott Bacon MP Shelter Tasmania Inc Simone Zell Speak Out Association of Tasmania Inc. Tasmanian Academy - Don College The Link Youth Health Service Theresa Moore Troy 0'Konnah Unions Tasmania Volunteering Tasmania West Tamar Council Whitelion Inc 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 (YACWA) Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ) Youth Coalition of the ACT Youth Futures

Youth, Family and Community

Connections Inc.

66

As a young person, there is immense stress associated with finding affordable housing. The difficulty with finding a place to live is exacerbated by the lack of employment opportunities for young people. Frequently young people try to apply for job roles where 'experience is required', however they don't yet have that experience and have no way of attaining experience because more and more employers will toss aside the applications of anyone who hasn't yet worked in that field. Young people spend years at university, only to graduate and end up in the Job Seeker program because there is no work for them.

—Frances, 22

We are the peak body for young people and 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.



Suite 4a, Mayfair Plaza 236 Sandy Bay Road Sandy Bay TAS 7005

P 03 6223 5511 E admin@ynot.org.au

