



making a difference
for the young people
of Tasmania

annual report
2013-14

Ynot
youth network of Tasmania



youth network of Tasmania

the peak body for the
youth sector in Tasmania



Tasmanian youth forum



Tasmanian youth conference

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 Greek philosopher Heraclitus is credited with the quote “change is the only constant in life”. It is a particularly apt quote to describe the last twelve months in Tasmania. In September last year we swore in a Federal Coalition Government after seven years in opposition along with a contingent of Palmer United Party members. In March we saw an end to the Labor–Green accord as Tasmanians voted in a majority Liberal Government for the first time since 1998. We are seeing the potential for significant changes to income support, a reduction in funding to homelessness services, proposed significant reform of the delivery of employment services to young people and the de-funding of the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC). In the midst of this – in the eye of the storm so to speak – a remarkably stable Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) team continued to advocate for the needs of all young Tasmanians.



Matt Durose, YNOT Chair

As I reflected on the past year I was again struck by the amazing work that the small team at YNOT produces under the dynamic leadership of CEO, Joanna Siejka. To highlight just a few of YNOT's achievements this year:

- *The breadth of subject matter addressed when advocating for Tasmania's young people* – this year alone YNOT contributed to consultations ranging from police searches to reproductive health to body art to working with vulnerable people checks to multicultural policy. I am very proud of the team's ability to pull together quality submissions on such wide ranging topics – a truly impressive effort.
- *Tasmanian Youth Forums (TYF)* – two TYF forums were delivered this year. The first – ‘Should I Stay or Should I Go’ examined the issue of young people leaving Tasmania and identified factors surrounding employment and education as being key influencers on the decision-making of young people. The second forum – ‘Your Vote Counts’

– gave the opportunity for around 100 young people to engage directly with local politicians. The second forum was not without some challenges but offered up some impressively intelligent questioning from the young people who attended. Thank you to Nick McKim MP, Elise Archer MP and Alderman Sharon Carnes for contributing your time and energy to make the forum a great success.

- *The YNOT Youth Affairs Policy Platform* – the Policy Platform has been a major piece of work over the past year. YNOT developed platforms relating to 26 key issues facing young people in Tasmania. YNOT was able to elicit some great input from young people and our community partners in developing each policy platform and I thank all who contributed to the process. I would also like to pass my particular thanks to Rebekka Gale for her outstanding commitment to bringing this project to completion – well done Rebekka!

- *The expanding influence of YNOT as a voice for Tasmania's young people* – clearly the key role of a peak body is to ably represent the needs and desires of its constituents. YNOT, I believe, fulfils its role with increasing effectiveness with each passing year. It has been particularly pleasing to see the value placed on YNOT's work from members of all political persuasions and also to see YNOT increasingly contacted by local media outlets to provide comment on youth issues in Tasmania – both are testament to the success of YNOT as the peak body representing young people in Tasmania and a reflection of Jo's leadership of the organisation and influence at a local and national level.

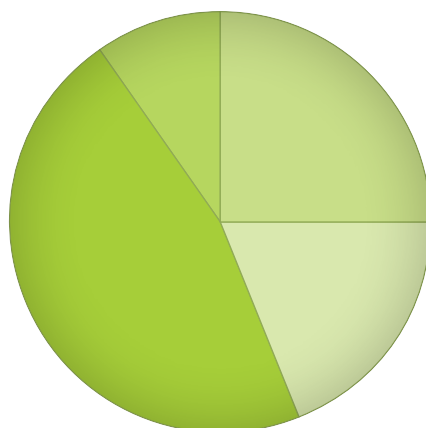
Finally I would like to thank all our valued partners in this work (and apologies in advance for those I may miss).

I will begin by thanking our most valued partners – the young people who have volunteered their time and efforts for YNOT this year – Alice Clarke, Amelia Anderson, Brett Maryniak, Briar Walker, Caitlin Frost, Chelsea Griggs, Chris Edwards, Codie Graham, Dakota Leary, Danis Chong, Danni Murfet, Dean Wyman, Dylan Jarvis, Farah Ashikin, Georgie Baines, Griffin Blizzard, Hani Provan, Holly Shephard, Jacinta Schweimann, Julia Fraser, Kate Lynch, Kimberley Scanlan, Laura Kay, Lisa Clarke, Lydia Gorniak, Megan Lennon, Metika Claxton, Naomi Marsh, Naomi Searle, Natasha Harback, Rebekka Gale, Rob Hortle, Suzzane Clarke, Tait Fraser, Taylor Mart, Tom Bain, Tom Marshall, Zac Lockhart, Zeinab Eldayar, and Zoë Jay.

I would like to thank both the former Minister for Community Development, Cassy O'Connor MP and current Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, Guy Barnett MP for their active and ongoing commitment to the future of young people in Tasmania. I would also like to thank our partners from Communities, Sport and Recreation Tasmania in the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Director Nick Evans, Anthony King and Georgie Hill for your willingness to work with us to continue the valuable work of YNOT.

Thank you to our YNOT members and the many others who work with us and alongside us to advocate for a better future for Tasmania's young people.

We have had some changes at the Board level and I would like to thank exiting



YNOT Members

- 21 Associate members
- 16 Individual members
- 39 Organisational members
- 8 Reciprocal members

Thank you all! Together we can make a difference and together we are making a difference for the young people of Tasmania – even in the midst of ever-changing times...

members Alysha House (Board member since 2010), and Cedrick Malumba (Board member since 2012) for their significant contributions to the Board and their tireless work for YNOT. Your passion, time and effort given to the work of YNOT has been greatly appreciated. Change brings challenges but also opportunity and we were pleased to be able to welcome Zoë Jay, Griffin Blizzard and Matt Hill to the Board over the course of the year.

And finally thank you to the team – Jo, Tegan, Dean, Rebekka, Brett, Sophie and Jess, my fellow Board members and my Vice Chair, Ann Davie, who has regularly stepped into

the Chair's role throughout this year and done an excellent job. YNOT could not function, let alone succeed, without the significant contributions each of you make to our work.

Thank you all! Together we can make a difference and together we are making a difference for the young people of Tasmania – even in the midst of ever-changing times...

Matt Durose
YNOT Chair

YNOT Members 2013-14

A Fairer World – The Tasmanian
Centre for Global Learning

Andrew Verdouw

Anglicare Tasmania Inc. (North)

Ann Davie

Anna Reynolds

Annie Kenney Young Women's
Emergency Accommodation Service

Australian Red Cross

Baptcare Family and Community Services

Burnie City Council

Burnie Youth Accommodation Service

Chris Edwards

Circular Head Council

Clarence City Council

Colony 47 Inc

Communities, Sport and Recreation
Tasmania, Department of Premier
and Cabinet (Formerly Community
Development Division)

Cornerstone Youth Services Inc.

Darren Robinson

Debbie Hindle

Derwent Valley Council

Devonport City Council

Dianne Bester

Dick Adams

Dorset Council

Family Planning Tasmania Inc.

Glenorchy City Council

Griffin Blizzard

Girl Guides Tasmania

Healthy House

Hellyer College

Hobart City Council

The Hon Jacquie Petrusma MP

Cr James (Migloo) Graham

The Hon Julie Collins MP

Karinya Young Women's Service

Kentish Council

Kingborough Council

Lara Giddings MP

Latrobe Council

Launceston City Council

Launceston City Mission

Lisa Amerikanos

The Hon Matthew Groom MP

The Hon Michael Ferguson MP

Migrant Resource Centre

Migrant Resource Centre (North)

The Hon Mike Gaffney MLC

Mission Australia

Mission Australia (TYSS)

Oak Tasmania

Pathways Tasmania – Launch Youth

Peer Support Foundation Ltd

The Hon Peter Gutwein MP

Pulse Youth Health

Rebecca White MP

Relationships Australia Tasmania

Richard Muir Wilson

Robert Meredith

Sandra French

Scott Bacon MP

Senator Carol Brown

Senator Christine Milne

Senator David Bushby

Shelter Tasmania Inc

Sorell Council

Southern Midlands Council

Speak Out Association of Tasmania Inc.

Tasmania Police & Citizens Youth Clubs

Tasmanian Academy – Don College

Tenants Union of Tasmania Inc.

The Link Youth Health Service

Theresa Moore

Verity Tunevitch

Volunteering Tasmania

West Tamar Council

Whitelion Inc.

Working It Out

Youth Action & Policy Association NSW Inc.

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 Inc. (YANQ)

Youth and Family Focus Inc.

Youth Coalition of the ACT

Youth Futures

Zoë Jay



Supporters and Sponsors 2013–14

Special thanks go 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.



Ald Sharon Carnes	Mission Australia
Anglicare Tasmania Inc.	Nick McKim MP
Andrew Wilkie MP	Pathways Tasmania – Launch Youth
Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies	Pulse Youth Health South
Australian Youth Affairs Coalition	Rosebery Community House
Beacon Foundation	Rural Health Tasmania Inc.
Colony 47	Tasmanian Council of Social Service
Cassy O'Connor MP	The Link Youth Health Service/Headspace
Cr. James (Migloo) Graham	Senator Ann Urquhart
Dick Adams	Senator Carol Brown
Digital Ink	Senator Christine Milne
Eric Hutchinson MP	Senator the Hon Eric Abetz
The Hon Elise Archer MP	Senator Helen Polley
Flourish Mental Health – Action in Our Hands Inc.	Senator the Hon Lisa Singh
Hobart City Council	Rebecca White MP
Homelessness Australia	Youth, Family and Community Connections
The Hon Jacquie Petrusma MP	
Launceston City Council	
National Job Link – Youth Connections	

Board Members



Matt Durose
Chair
Mission Australia



Ann Davie
Vice Chair
Australian Clearinghouse for
Youth Studies



Mark Joseph
Treasurer
Hobart City Council



Ros Atkinson
Youth, Family and
Community Connections



Alysha House
Circular Head Council



Lisa Amerikanos
National Job Link



Griffin Blizzard
TYF Member



Zoë Jay
UN Youth Tasmania/TYF
Member



Dianne Bester
Individual member



Cedrick Mulumba
TYF Member



Matt Hill
Derwent Valley Council

CEO's Report

In the past year there has been much discussion about the high levels of vulnerability within Tasmania's population, particularly among our young people. Much of what is reported and discussed in the mainstream community and media points to a high likelihood of poor education and employment outcomes for Tasmanian young people. There have also been extensive reporting and discussion about the many policy changes that have been proposed or which have already occurred, and the related impacts on young people, such as the proposed changes to the welfare system and the reintroduction of Work for the Dole.



Joanna Siejka, YNOT CEO

The Youth Network of Tasmania's (YNOT) role is to recognise and promote the valuable and considerable work that is done by the youth sector workforce in Tasmania, and to improve the outcomes for young Tasmanians, as well as increase the contribution that young Tasmanians make to our community. YNOT's role is to also raise these concerns in forums, consultations, the media, policy submissions and with decision makers. To do this we draw on sector experience, the voice of young people through the Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF), and evidence based research. We believe we have done this effectively but know we have more work to do, and it is through the youth sector workforce's support of YNOT that we are able to identify and contribute solutions, whilst continuing to raise awareness of our concerns.

Throughout 2013-14 the consultations that members have contributed to, formally and informally, through attendance at regional sector groups has meant that YNOT has been able to provide a voice for the sector in this complex and changing environment.

Your contributions have led to the development of the YNOT Youth Affairs Policy Platform, a platform stating our position on 26 key issues affecting Tasmanian young people. This Policy

Platform is for all of us to use and draw upon, including workers, decision makers and the wider community sector. We have already found it to be an invaluable resource and we thank you for your support in its development.

YNOT benefits from a wide membership base, a large group of dedicated supporters and many individuals who donate their time to assist us in achieving our goals for young people.

The YNOT Budget Submission to Treasury for 2013-14 included the views of many of you in the sector. Many of the recommendations made in this submission were drawn upon by political parties during the 2014 Tasmanian State Government election, and resulted in funding to projects such as the extension of the Youth Health Nurse Project and the Tasmanian Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy and Plan.

Along with our YNOT members, TYF members, volunteers and students, the YNOT Board must be recognised for their commitment to supporting the strategic vision and oversight of the organisation.

In the past year we have enjoyed the assistance of YNOT Research Officer, Rebekka Gale, whose legacy is the YNOT Youth Affairs Platform and the work she completed to promote the Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania. Rebekka also completed many submissions and responses in her six months with us.

We have also welcomed Tegan Pearce to the role of TYF Policy and Project Officer. Tegan has brought new connections in addition to her fresh approach to the statewide youth forums, and enthusiasm to make a difference.

Dean Cooper, our Finance and IT officer, continues to provide reliable and steady support to YNOT and TYF.

YNOT benefits from a wide membership base, a large group of dedicated supporters and many individuals who donate their time to assist us in achieving our goals for young people. Thank you to all of you for your ongoing support.

Joanna Siejka
CEO

Volunteers

Alice Clarke
Alphonse Toussaint
Amelia Anderson
Anthony King
Ben Waterworth
Blake Tatafu
Brett Maryniak
Briar Walker
Caitlin Frost
Carol Swards
Cathy McClure
Cedrick Mulumba
Chelsea Griggs
Chris Edwards
Codie Graham
Dakoda Leary
Danis Chong
Danni Murfet
David Perez
Dean Wyman
Darren Robinson
Dylan Jarvis
Farah Ashikin
Fiona Richardson
Gary McMurtrie
Gavin Riley
Geoff Holloway



L-R Tait Fraser, Dakoda Leary, Tom Spaulding, Dean Wyman, Danis Chong

Georgie Baines
Georgie Newton
Griffin Blizzard
Hani Provan
Holly Shephard
Isabelle Crompton
Jacinta Schweimann
James Graham
Jas Dunn
Jill Chisholm
Juliah Fraser
Kate Lynch
Kate Wilson
Kim Johnson
Kimberley Scanlan
Kelly Elliot
Laura Kay
Lisa Amerikanos
Lisa Clarke
Lydia Gorniak
Matt Hill
Megan Lennon

Metika Claxton
Naomi Marsh
Naomi Searle
Natasha Harback
Rebekka Gale
Rick Marton
Rob Hortle
Sebrina Brennan
Simone Zell
Steven Park
Susan Dickson
Suzzane Clarke
Tait Fraser
Tali Auliitia
Taylor Mart
Tom Bain
Tom Marshall
Wendy Newton
Zac Lockhart
Zeinab Eldayar
Zoë Jay

Statewide Youth Collaborative (SYC) group

The Statewide Youth Collaborative Group (SYC) is a forum for cross-sector collaboration that responds to issues affecting young people's health and wellbeing in Tasmania. SYC is co-chaired by Population Health Services – Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT).

The Statewide Youth Collaborative group has continued to meet quarterly in 2013 – 2014. We have had good representation from a number of Government agencies and the community sector. Guest speakers have included Petrina Nettlefold, Project Officer Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Directorate, Tony Kemp, Deputy Secretary for Children of Children and Youth Services, Mercia Bresnehan, Deputy Secretary Disability, Housing and Community Services, and Christy Measham, Senior Education and Health Promotion Officer with Family Planning Tasmania.

In September 2013 we launched the *Top 10 SYC Tips for Young People involved in Consultation* at Parliament House with Jacque Petrusma MP, now the Minister for Human Services. The *Top 10 Tips* will assist young people to gain a greater



SYC's Top Ten Tips: A Guide for Consultation poster and brochure

understanding of what they need to know when participating in a consultation. The *Top 10 Tips* is the second in a series and follows on from *Top Ten Tips: SYC's Guide for consulting with Young People*, which was launched in 2012.

SYC also provided a comprehensive response to the *Personal Searches of Young People in Custody in Custodial Premises* consultation paper in November 2013.

Kat Fraser
SYC Secretariat

Youth Action Priorities (YAP)

Youth Action Priorities (YAP) continues to provide a valuable forum for youth services from southern Tasmania to network across the region, identify resources, goals and issues that have an impact on the lives of young people and to advocate on behalf of their communities.

Facilitated by Hobart City Council's Community Inclusion Unit, YAP 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 NYCC and NWAY in the North and North West, YAP provides an opportunity for YNOT to identify patterns across the state and to coordinate responses accordingly. This included providing valuable feedback in the development of the City of Hobart's Youth Strategy as well as providing comment on YNOT's Budget Submission. New YAP members for 2014 include representatives from National Joblink, Oak Youth Pathways as well as a number of individuals working with young people and communities.

Mark Joseph
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*, s. 24.

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 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.

During the 2013-14 financial year, NYCC membership grew to approximately 130 members. Chaired by Alderman Danny Gibson and convened by the City of Launceston's Youth and Community Officer, Wendy Newton, NYCC held five regular meetings, two special National Youth Week meetings, and three further special meetings to respond to the Department of Health and Human Services Discussion Paper *A Continuum of Care to Prevent Youth Offending and Re Offending*, to respond to the State Government Consultation Paper, *Personal Searches of Young People in Custody in Custodial Premises*, and to determine potential impacts on youth services and young people due to the Federal Budget. In addition, NYCC provided a response to the Youth Network of Tasmania's Sector Policy Platform.

NYCC was successful in receiving a regional National Youth Week grant of \$5,000 towards the *Eyes up, Eric!* project. The campaign likens the danger of mobile phone distraction while driving to other risky situations, such as surfing with sharks, juggling fire and tightrope walking. Students created the character Eric to communicate the message about risk and to encourage each other to make a pledge not to use their phones while driving.



With an annual budget of \$2,500, NYCC provided funding towards several key member projects over the year, including:

- \$900 to Fusion for the *Uluru Pilgrimage*. This funding supported three Brooks High School students towards their airfare. The project develops ambassadors for reconciliation as they continue to build future young leaders for northern Tasmania;
- \$500 to the Young Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Service for *Art Attack*. This project involved working with young at-risk Aboriginal clients to develop art works, jewellery and multimedia pieces addressing current social trends, self-perception and cultural disconnection within the northern Tasmanian Aboriginal community;
- \$600 to National Joblink to engage 12 young people in the *Tas Mud Run*. Young people who are currently disengaged from education and employment engaged in activities that include fitness, socialisation, team building and motivation, increasing awareness of issues that affect young people and greater connection to the Launceston community; and
- \$500 to Fusion for their Youth Leadership Program.

Wendy Newton
NYCC Chair

North West Action for Youth (NWAY)

The North West Action for Youth Group (NWAY) continues to be a solid platform for information sharing and a sounding board for all things Youth related.

The group focuses on networking and collaboration opportunities for youth service providers across the North West Coast.

A number of topics were raised for discussion at NWAY meetings this year, with particular focus on impacts of social media on young people, and sexual health.

NWAY is involved in organising the National Youth Week Regional Expo which is available to all Year 9 Students who live on the North West Coast. Over 700 students from the area participated in the Expo which was held in Ulverstone. The event is delivered through collaboration and assistance from Circular Head, Waratah-Wynyard, Burnie, Central Coast, Kentish and

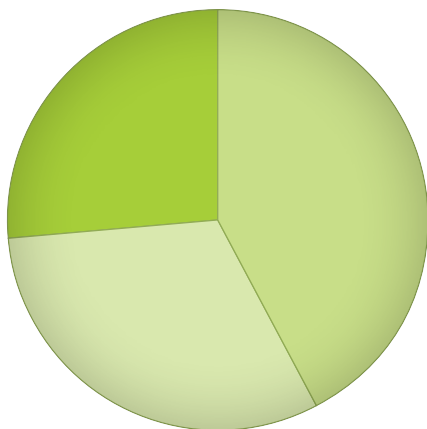


NWAY workers at the YNOT AGM

Devonport Councils. The Expo gave the students an opportunity to engage with the many diverse Youth related organisations from across the regions and focused on topics including mental health, drugs and alcohol, sexual health and general health and wellbeing.

Special thanks must go to Alderman Sandra French for her continued support of NWAY as the Chairperson.

Katie Smith
NWAY Secretary



Regional sector group members

- 130 Workers on the NYCC group
- 96 Workers on the YAP group
- 80 Workers on the NWAY group

Collaborations, Policy, Advocacy and Communications



NYCH members, April 2014

Sector Collaborations

It has been a challenging year for the national youth affairs peak body, the **Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC)**, with a period of uncertainty regarding its funding. This was followed by defunding in the Federal Budget, which resulted in the development of, and subsequent move to, a new organisational model. Despite these challenges, AYAC has continued to be an active voice with a national perspective, and at a time when the youth sector and young people need it most. In the past year, AYAC has developed a national definition of youth work, enabled national discussion on a national code of ethics, launched a crowdsourcing campaign and held a national three day conference for the wider youth sector. Throughout 2013-14, YNOT contributed information about Tasmanian youth and the youth sector through AYAC's Policy Advisory Council, and in the development of submissions, reports and policy positions. YNOT is also an AYAC Board member, and has supported AYAC through the changes in the past year. This has involved assisting with media, the supervision of the workplan and with planning for the organisation's future.

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. NYCH participation includes biannual face to face meetings, teleconferences, participation in Homelessness Australia policy development, and coordination of the national awareness raising campaign Youth Homelessness Matters Day (for more information on this event please refer to page 24). YNOT participates in the group led by Shelter Tasmania, the **Tasmanian Youth Housing and Homelessness Group (TYHHG)**, as well as consulting with youth sector stakeholders throughout the year to represent their concerns, and the needs of young homeless people at NYCH. YNOT is also a member of the **Homelessness Australia Board**, which provides an additional mechanism for Tasmanian youth sector and young people to have input into national policy development processes.

YNOT continued to be involved in the **Tasmanian Community Sector Peaks Network (TCSPN)**. Through this network, YNOT can collaborate with a broader range of community sector organisations that deliver services to young people. Partnering

with TasCOSS, the TCSPN provided input into the development of the Community Sector Workforce Development Audit. The TCSPN also meets regularly with Government through the **Peaks Network and Government Strategic Forum**. During 2013-14, the Partnerships Agreement between the Community Sector and State Government provided considerable focus for the work of the group, including the first Annual Report Card on the Partnerships Agreement and a number of working groups worked to progress the priority areas identified in the Partnerships Agreement.

Policy and Consultations

During 2013-14 there has been considerable consultation on issues affecting young people at both a State and Federal level. YNOT has a policy development process which involves consultation with young people and the youth sector in addition to research on each issue. With reference to the time allowed for each submission process, YNOT's consultation processes can involve online surveys, phone interviews, meetings, the collection of written submissions and face to face forums. As such, YNOT has conducted a number of

Homelessness is more than not having a bed

First-time voters prepare to have their say

Push for young people to be given a go

Youth jobs crisis

Some of the headlines from media articles YNOT has featured in during 2014

consultations with young people and the youth sector across Tasmania during the past year.

In the past year, YNOT conducted formal consultations for the development of the **YNOT Budget Submission** to Treasury for 2014-15 and for the development of the **YNOT Youth Affairs Policy Platform** (for more information please refer to page 24). YNOT also facilitated a variety of consultation opportunities for the wider youth sector and young people, to encourage contributions to policy development throughout the year. YNOT also coordinated policy information briefings for the sector, including sessions outlining the proposed changes in the Federal Budget and the potential impacts of these changes for Tasmanian young people.

Submissions

In 2013-14 YNOT contributed a significant number of submissions in response to consultations as part of the policy development processes for community organisations and the State and Federal Governments, on behalf of the Tasmanian youth sector and young people. YNOT was also responsive and proactive in raising issues of concern to the youth sector and young people through the development of position papers. These submissions and papers include:

- Migrant Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN) Youth Settlement Framework
- YNOT letter advocating for the extension of the National Partnerships Agreement Homelessness
- YNOT letter raising concerns regarding proposed changes to the Amendments to the Racial Discrimination Act 1975
- YNOT letter raising concerns regarding the defunding of Youth Connections
- YNOT letter regarding the Transition into Independent Living Allowance
- YNOT Policy Platform Consultation Outcomes Paper
- YNOT Submission to the Legislative Amendment Review Reference Committee for Advocacy for Children and Youth in Tasmania - Consultation Paper
- YNOT Response to the Tasmanian Government Framework for Community Engagement
- YNOT letter raising concerns to the changes to the Transitioning to Independent Living Allowance
- YNOT Submission to the 'Review of the Liquor Licensing Act 1990' Discussion Paper 2013
- YNOT Submission to the Tasmanian Legislative Council Reproductive Health (Access to Terminations) Bill 2013
- YNOT Response to the Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2013
- YNOT Budget Submission to Treasury for 2014-15
- YNOT Response to the Police Offences Amendment Bill 2013 – Tattooing, Body Piercing & Body Modification of Youth
- YNOT Submission to "Many Voices" – A Discussion Paper on the Tasmanian Multicultural Policy
- YNOT Submission to the Personal Searches of Young People: In Custody and in Custodial Premises
- Letter to Tasmanian candidates on youth housing and homelessness needs, with Shelter Tasmania
- Contribution to AYAC's Commission of Audit Submission
- Contribution to AYAC's TAFE Submission.



YNOT CEO and NYCH Chair, Joanna Siejka, with NYCH Vice Chair, Michael Coffey, December 2013

YNOT also participated in a considerable number of meetings, public forums, consultation sessions and media interviews to further these important issues.

Presentations

'Youth Homelessness Matters' (Australian Youth Affairs Coalition national conference, Adelaide)

'Advocacy and youth affairs' (presentation to youth work students)

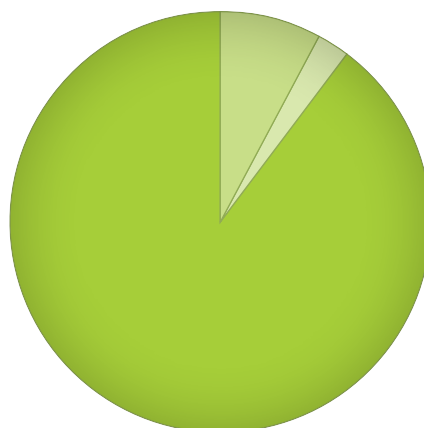
'Youth Ethics' (Presentation to youth work students)

'Youth Homelessness' (Presentation to Youth Homelessness Matters Day youth ambassadors)

Forums, committees and advisory groups

- AYAC's National Definition of Youth Work Lockdown
- Australian Youth Affairs Policy Advisory Group

- Australian of the Year Awards Panel
- Child Rights Taskforce
- City of Hobart Social Inclusion Strategy consultation
- Community Housing Forum
- Consultation with the National Commissioner for Children
- Consultation on Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage and Indigenous Expenditure Reports
- DHHS Purchasing Outcomes Framework Workshops
- Disability Care Australia not for profit Roundtable
- Expert Reference Group of the Review for Advocacy for Children and Young People in Tasmania
- Human Rights Week Steering Committee
- National Children Youth and Law Centre consultation
- National Rural Law and Justice Alliance
- National Youth Housing Coalition
- National Youth Week Awards Panel
- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse Forum
- Southern Cross Young Achiever Awards Panels
- TasCOSS Regional Council
- Tasmanian Medicare Local Consultation regarding access to health services for young people
- Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman Consumer Services Consultation
- Trinity Hill Design Workshop
- Tasmanian Community Sector Peaks Network
- Tasmanian Community Sector Peaks Network and Government Strategic Forum
- Tasmanian Youth Housing and Homelessness Group
- Youth Parliament Reference Group
- Youth Positive Mental Health Group (through SYC)
- Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy Steering Committee.



Consultations

- 16 Sector consultations
- 5 Sector surveys
- 179 Workers completed surveys

Communications

Sector newsletter

YNOT prepares and distributes a Sector Update at the beginning of each month. Sector Updates information is reported against the YNOT Strategic 2013-16 goal areas of youth participation, youth issues, professionalisation of the workforce, strong peak body, community 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 grown to:

- 531 likes on the Youth Network of Tasmania Facebook page
- 1,318 friends on the Tasmanian Youth Forum Facebook profile
- 450 twitter followers.

This includes people from other parts of Australia and other countries who engage with YNOT's social media platforms. YNOT has active followers across these platforms with tweets and posts actively clicked on up to 85 times for each tweet. This level of engagement allows YNOT to have a greater reach with members and young people by providing them with opportunities to contribute to consultations and provide feedback to inform the work of YNOT.

Media Releases

YNOT released 8 media releases during 2013-14:

Why do young people leave Tasmania? Statewide survey launched, 9 October 2013

Community peaks urge Tasmanians to enrol to vote, TasCOSS and YNOT joint release 30 Jan 2014

Engaging vulnerable kids in education must be a political priority, Colony 47, TasCOSS and YNOT joint release, March 2014

The voice of young Tasmanians makes an impact, 4 April 2014

YNOT congratulates youth award winners, 4 April 2014

Launch of New Youth Consultation Resource, 7 April 2014

Young people unfairly targeted by Federal Budget, 14 May 2014

Young people asked for their solutions on youth unemployment, 30 June 2014.

Media mentions

These 33 media stories are just some of the stories that YNOT has been involved in during 2013-14:

Women in business recognised for contribution to Tasmania's future, The Mercury, 12 September 2013

Should I stay or should I go? Question faces most Tasmanians as they finish school or study, The Mercury, 11 October 2014

Forum throws spotlight on Tasmania's youth exodus, ABC, 22 October 2013

Call for more appropriate care for our kids, with no teen mental health unit in the state, The Mercury, 1 Nov 2013

Housing prices pushing youth into homelessness, ABC Radio, December 2013

Youth aim to leave 'for work options', The Examiner, 6 December 2014

Response to age report, ABC, 12 Dec 2013

Issues affecting young people, The Mercury, January 2014

Happiness and Boys, ABC 936, January 2014

Sex Education, The Examiner, January 2014

Community peaks urge Tasmanians to have your say, enrol to vote, The Examiner, 30 January 2014

OECD Report, ABC 936, February 2014

The ageing population and youth opportunities, ABC 936, February 2014

TYF 'Y Your Vote Counts' Forum promotion, ABC 936, February 2014

Y Your Vote Counts, Edge Radio, 12 February 2014

Lowering the voting age, ABC 936, 19 February 2014

First time voters prepare to have their say, The Examiner, 19 February 2014

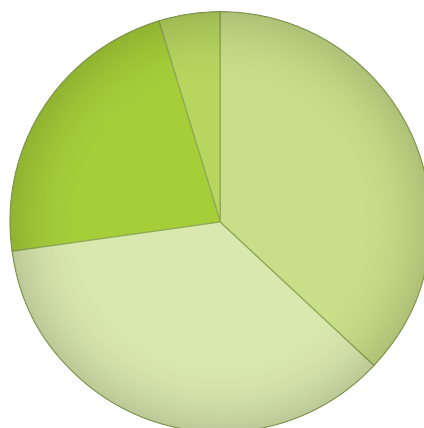
Parties Pledge to pursue anti-bullying laws after March 15 Poll, The Mercury online, 21 February 2014

McKim cops an earful, The Mercury, 22 February 2014

A day in the life of Nick McKim, The Mercury, 22 February 2014

Youth Jobs Crisis: Push for Young People to be given a go, The Examiner, 24 Feb 2014

School Nurses to return under Libs, The Examiner online, 26 Feb 2014



Advocacy

■ 33 Media mentions

■ 16 Forums, committees and advisory groups

■ 39 Submissions

■ 8 Presentations

The Tasmanian State Election 2014: Young Voters, ABC 936, 26 Feb 2014

Youth unemployment, ABC 936, March 2014

Y Your Vote Counts, ABC 936, 13 March 2014

Tassie youth disillusioned by formal politics, The Examiner, March 14 2014

Five minutes with...Joanna Siejka, Homelessness Australia, 25 March 2014

Premier-elect Will Hodgman opens slimmer Liberal Cabinet, The Mercury, 31 March 2014

National Youth Week promotion, ABC 936, April 2014

Youth gear up to make an impact, The Examiner, 2 April 2014

National Youth Week promotion, Edge Radio, 8 April 2014

Youth Homelessness Matters Day, National Media, 9 April 2014

Youth Homelessness Matters Day, The Examiner, 10 April 2014

Launch of New Youth Consultation Resources, Local Government Association of Tasmania, 11 April 2014

Youth unemployment and welfare, ABC South Australia Radio, 8 May 2014

Youth unemployment and underemployment, ABC Northern Tasmania, 13 May 2014

Budget no help to young people, The Examiner online, May 15 2014

PM defends tough youth welfare measures in Tasmania, The World Today, 22 May 2014

Billions in budget cuts may 'destroy' social safety net, ACOSS warns, ABC news, May 23 2014

Billions in budget cuts may 'destroy' social safety net, ABC News Online, 23 May 2014

PM comments on young people in Tasmania should move for employment, The Mercury, May 24 2014

Abbott's remarks on youth attacked, The Examiner online, May 24 2014

Friday Forum, ABC 936, 25 May 2014

Job-shy Yoof reluctant to leave their comfort zone, The Examiner, 29 May 2014

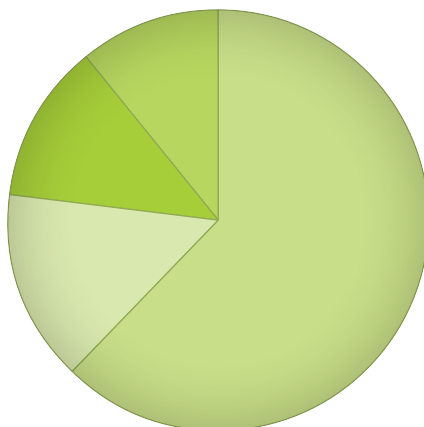
YNOT Youth Affairs Policy Platform

Finally, after many months of research, consultation and drafting, YNOT has a Youth Affairs Policy Platform!

The *Youth Network of Tasmania's Youth Affairs Policy Platform* was developed to outline YNOT's views and opinions on key issues affecting the interests of young people, and the youth sector, in Tasmania. The two year process to develop the *YNOT Youth Affairs Policy Platform* included:

A forum to consult with young people about the issues they felt should be included;

- Consulting with youth sector workers and organisations about specific issues affecting young people;
- Research regarding the impact of issues and best practice to inform the policy development;
- Analysis of the content and structure of policy platforms guiding other states; and
- Surveys and submission feedback from young people and the youth sector before a draft was finalised.



The completed *YNOT Youth Affairs Policy Platform* consists of 26 individual policy platforms, each focusing on a specific issue or cohort, combined in one document, to guide and inform the work of YNOT. It is also hoped that other organisations will find the platform useful in their work with young people.

The *YNOT Youth Affairs Policy Platform* is a living document based on research, consultation and best practice. In order to best reflect the changing needs of young people and the youth sector it will be reviewed on a biannual basis

Policy Platform Development

- 150 Emails
- 36 Survey responses
- 29 Phone consultations
- 26 Policy platforms

and updated accordingly.

YNOT would like to acknowledge the young people, youth sector workers and organisations who assisted in the development of the *YNOT Youth Affairs Policy Platform* and thank them for their contributions and ideas.

The YNOT Youth Affairs Policy Platform is now available on the website: www.ynot.org.au/policy-and-publications

Rebekka Gale
YNOT Policy and Research Officer

Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania in 2013–14

The Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania was launched in December 2012 in Hobart.

YNOT have now been conducting research into potential training options which would promote the use of the Youth Ethics Framework throughout Tasmania. As a result of this research a training plan is being developed.

The Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania was devised by a group of sector representatives, led by YNOT, from all across Tasmania and who represent various parts of the youth sector. The framework aims to support the role of workers in meeting the needs of young people in Tasmania. Since the launch it has been indicated through feedback and consultation

in the form of surveys and interviews that many youth sector workers support the framework but are unsure of how to implement and use it in their daily work. YNOT received 57 survey responses and of these 63% were YNOT members.

Of these, 73% had heard of the Framework, 90% believe it is relevant to their work and 79% wanted to know more about it. YNOT has been working to encourage youth sector workers and policy makers to use the *Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania* to inform their work with, or on behalf of, young people. This is still a priority for YNOT, however it has now been paired with the task of developing a training package to accompany the *Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania* to better inform and support the Tasmanian youth sector in using the framework.



Rebekka Gale, YNOT Policy and Research Officer

YNOT have been consulting with organisations and individuals regarding the requirements of a training package and have developed a communication and implementation plan for a training package for the *Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania* within the future. Stay tuned!

Rebecca Gale
YNOT Policy and Research Officer

YNOT AGM and Sector Forum

During November 2013 YNOT held its annual AGM and Sector Forum in Launceston. It was pleasing to have many YNOT members and representatives from the wider youth sector workforce able to attend the annual AGM and Sector Forum this year, and to be involved in welcoming new YNOT Board members Griffin Blizzard, Matt Hill and Zoë Jay.

This year YNOT was fortunate to have Aaron Garth, Director of Operations, Ultimate Youth Worker, run a workshop for participants. Aaron shared his knowledge of and experiences in the youth sector and spoke about the importance of self care in the profession. Self care as a concept was explored in depth, and linked to the *Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania*.

The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) Executive Director, Gabi Rosenstreich, also spoke about the new national definition of youth work and the work being done by other peak bodies around Australia, in addition to AYAC's priorities.



YNOT Chair, Matt Durose with YNOT member Jill Chisolm



L-R AYAC Executive Director, Gabi Rosenstreich, Commissioner for Children, Elizabeth Daly, and YNOT Board member, Griffin Blizzard

TYF Policy and Project Officer's Report

Young people have continued to demonstrate over the past year that they want their voice heard by key decision makers. At a time when there is a lot of discussion about the vast range of issues that affect young people, young people have been discussing what can be done and how we can move forward.

This year, TYF has benefited from an increasing amount of young people who have been keen to get involved and share their ideas. I would like to thank all of the young people who have contributed their ideas over the past year through consultations, surveys and in particular, the TYF Forums.

The TYF Forums are continuing to grow in size and we are constantly working to make them bigger and better. Over the

past year we have had 'Should I Stay or Should I Go' and 'Y Your Vote Counts' which generated a lot of discussion and ideas. We have developed surveys to run in conjunction with the Forums so that more young people get to have their say. We have also created a new way of reporting on the Forums and surveys to make it easier to communicate the key findings to young people and key decision makers. These reports have received some great feedback from young people, and key decision makers are continuing to refer to the reports months after they have been released.

This year we have been fortunate enough to have a number of young people volunteer with TYF through internships, placements and other volunteer opportunities. These young people help to support the work that TYF does at events, at forums and behind the scenes. All of the hard work that they have put in over the past year has been greatly appreciated.

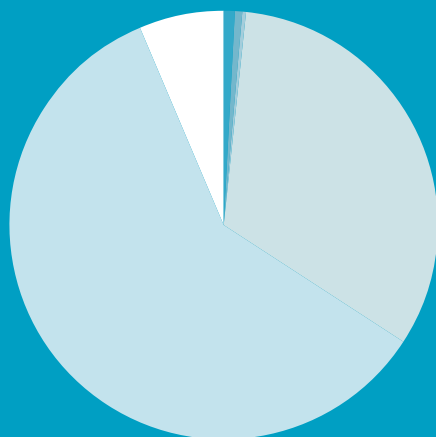


Tegan Pearce, TYF Policy and Project Officer

Once again, TYF has had great support from the YNOT Board and staff who continue to ensure that young people can get involved with TYF and that their ideas are passed on to key decision makers. TYF is very grateful for this ongoing commitment to support young people in Tasmania.

Thanks to everyone who have made it such a great year for TYF!

Tegan Pearce
TYF Policy and Project Officer



Engaging young people

- 8 young people completed placements with YNOT
- 4 events and launches
- 2 TYF Statewide Forums
- 245 young people attended TYF Forums
- 450 young people completed surveys
- 48 areas of Tasmania were represented at TYF Statewide Forums

All About TYF

The Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) provides young people with the opportunity to get involved and have a say on topical issues that affect them and their communities. Held twice a year, the Forums cover a diverse range of topics with past topics including health and wellbeing, climate change, transport, and study and stress. Young people come to the Forums knowing that their opinions and ideas will be valued, and that they are actively contributing to their community.

Once the Forums are finished, a communiqué is written and distributed to people that can act upon the ideas of the young people, including politicians and youth workers.

TYF is a fantastic experience for any young person; it provides them with a forum in which they can engage with other young people who share a passion for their community, and their futures. I was a discussion facilitator at the latest Forum and the enthusiasm, and ideas, that came from the young people, was indicative of their appreciation for having the opportunity to express how they felt about issues that were relevant to them.

Brett Maryniak
TYF Volunteer



Brett Maryniak

TYF Members and Volunteers

TYF has received lots of support over 2013-14 from young volunteers across Tasmania.

We would like to acknowledge our volunteers who have worked hard to make sure the voice of young people is heard by key decision makers. These TYF volunteers are: Alice Clarke, Amelia Anderson, Brett Maryniak, Briar Walker, Caitlin Frost, Chelsea Griggs, Chris Edwards, Codie Graham, Dakota Leary, Danis Chong, Danni Murfet, Dean Wyman, Dylan Jarvis, Farah Ashikin, Georgie Baines, Griffin Blizzard, Hani Provan, Holly Shephard, Jacinta Schweimann, Julia Fraser, Kate Lynch, Kimberley Scanlan, Laura Kay, Lisa Clarke, Lydia Gorniak, Megan Lennon, Metika Claxton, Naomi Marsh, Naomi Searle, Natasha Harback, Rebekka Gale, Rob Hortle, Suzzane Clarke, Tait Fraser, Taylor Mart, Tom Bain, Tom Marshall, Zac Lockhart, Zeinab Eldayar, and Zoë Jay.



L-R TYF Members Metika Claxton, Briar Walker and Kate Lynch

Working with TYF

"As a young person, I was very excited to be able to attend one of the TYF Forums this year. At the Forum I was able to work directly with young people in a discussion group as a facilitator and found their enthusiasm and willingness to engage was remarkable. Given that young people are often excluded from conversations about their future I found that their appreciation to YNOT for allowing them to participate and contribute was almost tangible."

The past six months since I've been volunteering at the Youth Network have gone by very quickly. It has proven to be a fantastic place to work. The team, is hard working, passionate, and determined in their advocacy. I congratulate them on everything they have achieved in the past year, and thank them wholeheartedly for presenting me with the opportunity to gain experience, skills and more importantly, the seamless nature by which they let me assimilate into their staff."

Brett Maryniak
TYF Volunteer

"My internship for Term 3, 2013 is at the Youth Network of Tasmania, or YNOT. I have had supportive mentors in my previous placements but I have never had such encouraging mentors than I have at YNOT. The environment is calm, welcoming and supportive. I do spend most of my day at a computer, but the day is broken up by discussing topics with Rebekka, Tegan and Jo. During a typical day I have done a range of different tasks and duties. I have not had a moment where I am left with nothing to do. I'm excited to continue my placement next term; this is my first placement that I have really enjoyed over my time in the Big Picture Program."

Kate Lynch
Big Picture Intern and TYF Volunteer

"I myself am interested in youth work, hair and beauty and owning my own business. Big Picture has helped me to get a better understanding of what goals I need to set myself as a learner if I'm planning to make one of these my career in the near future. Being able to set up an internship (work placement) in an area of which I'm interested in, is allowing me to get a feel of what it may be like if someday this does become my career."

I'm currently still at YNOT — Youth Network of Tasmania...It has really helped me get a better understanding of what it is like to be out in the workforce. Being able to go out on an internship gives you a sense of independence; I'm so grateful for being able to do this, and especially being at YNOT for my first ever internship. The people here are so lovely and I enjoy every moment of it."

Lydia Gorniak
Big Picture Intern and TYF Volunteer



TYF 'Should I Stay or Should I Go?' Statewide Forum

The TYF 'Should I Stay or Should I Go?' Forum took place on October 22, 2013 at the Door of Hope in Launceston. This forum gave young people the opportunity to share their ideas and thoughts about the future of Tasmania by discussing what they thought about living in Tasmania and whether they had thought about leaving Tasmania, and why.

Over 150 young people from all around the State attended on the day. In addition to the forum, an online survey was available to ensure that young people who could not attend the forum could still have their say.

The day began with a positioning activity where participants could indicate whether they wanted to stay in Tasmania or leave. The majority of young people indicated that they are considering leaving Tasmania but that they also want to return someday.

Participants then had the opportunity to form small working groups to brainstorm the positive and negative points about Tasmania. Participants also identified the biggest factors impacting their decision to stay or go and had the opportunity to suggest what changes would encourage them to want to stay in Tasmania or want to return in the future.

Ten discussion tables were set up and participants could choose which topic to work on to discuss their vision for the future of Tasmania in relation to that topic. Participants came up with several ideas related to their topic and shared what it meant for them. Many young people



Participants at the TYF 'Should I Stay or Should I Go?' Forum

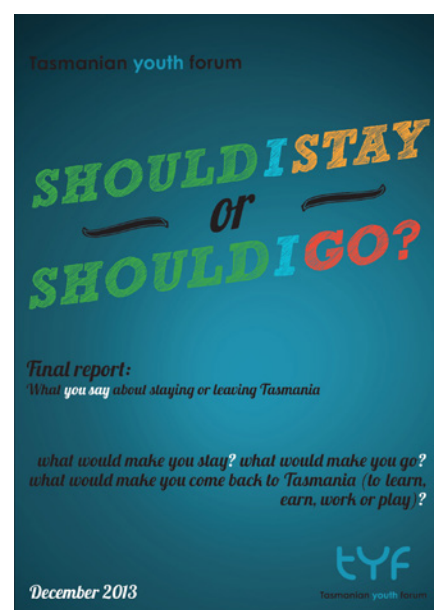
made suggestions relating to more shopping centres, increased training and job opportunities and having more varied university courses available in the State. Each group was asked to present one main idea to the other participants then everyone voted on which idea they would most like to see happen. The ideas with the highest votes included having sister cities in other parts of the world to promote Tasmania, education courses available closer to home, and increased support for young people to continue studying in their hometown.

Rick Marton of Coyote Special Events was a guest speaker and spoke about his experience as a young social entrepreneur in Tasmania and encouraged young people to create opportunities for themselves within Tasmania. YNOT and TYF would like to thank Communities, Sport and Recreation Tasmania in the Department of Premier and Cabinet (formerly the Community Development Division) and Launceston City Council who made the Forum possible.

Rebekka Gale
YNOT Policy and Research Officer



TYF Volunteer, Dean Wyman



Forum poster

TYF 'Y Your Vote Counts' Statewide Forum

The TYF 'Y Your Vote Counts' Forum was held on 18 February 2014 and gave young people the opportunity to quiz candidates and enrol to vote in the lead up to the Tasmanian State Election.

The event aimed to explain why each vote counts in an election and how the electoral system works. We had candidates from Labor, the Liberals and the Greens attend so that we could ask questions about issues important to us. Adam Pulford, who was the 2013 Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations, was the guest speaker who talked about the making your vote count and being informed when voting. Representatives from the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) also attended so we could enrol to vote or update our details if we needed to. The AEC also worked with TYF prior to the Forum to promote the importance of enrolling to vote and giving young people the chance to do so.

At the Forum, Ben Waterworth from Edge Radio, helped run the Q and A panel with the candidates. It was my role to get questions that audience members had written on a piece of paper to him. From there, Ben read out the questions and candidates answered them. Questions were asked about a variety of issues including education, volunteering, housing, environment and transport.



Y Your Vote Counts poster

The whole event ran for about two hours. The event was aimed more at people aged over 16, as they will be voting in the near future, but anyone aged 12 to 25 years was welcome to attend. An online survey was run in the lead up to the Forum so that any young person in Tasmania could have a say on what issues they were most concerned about in the lead up to the election. In March, a communiqué was released that gave a summary of the questions and answers from the Forum and what people had said in the survey. This was sent to young people at the forum, decision makers and other workers in the community sector.

All in all, it was a good event. The hard work and preparation that goes into an event like this is phenomenal and should be recognised more. The facilitators, hosts, volunteers and special guests deserve great recognition for their great effort. Thank you to Alderman Sharon Carnes, Elise Archer MP and Nick McKim MP who sat on our Q and A panel. Also thank you to Communities, Sport and Recreation Tasmania in the Department of Premier and Cabinet (formerly the Community Development Division) and Hobart City Council for supporting the forum.

Tait Fraser
TYF Member



Adam Pulford, Australian Youth Representative to the UN for 2013, talking to participants at the Forum

National Youth Week in Tasmania

National Youth Week (NYW) is the largest celebration of young people aged 12 to 25 in Australia. The theme for NYW 2014 was 'Our Voice. Our Impact.' and the event ran from 10 April to 19 April. NYW gives young people the chance to participate in creating events, express their ideas, celebrate their achievements, and attend different entertainment and events throughout the week.

Young people are provided with opportunities to help with the organisation of NYW. This year, Ebony Abblitt was the Tasmanian Youth Representative on the National Planning Group for NYW and attended NYW events and promoted NYW through the media. Zoë Jay was a youth representative on the judging panel for NYW grant applications.

TYF was heavily involved with NYW this year with Youth Homelessness Matters Day event (YHMD). TYF ran a social media and advocacy workshop for young people who wanted to be ambassadors for YHMD which you can read about on page 24. TYF was also involved with launching the Statewide Youth Collaborative (SYC) Group's *Top Ten Tips: A Guide for Consultation for Young People* which you can read more about on page 11.

There were a large number of NYW activities that happened across Tasmania including the *North West Regional Expo* hosted by the North West Action for Youth (NWAY) and the 'Eyes Up, Eric!' Youth Road Safety Launch hosted by the Northern Youth Coordinating Committee (NYCC). You can read more about these events on pages 12 and 13.

TYF also supported other NYW events such as Light Up the Lane, which showcased movies and digital art from young people on the sides of buildings, and Alive on the Green.

TYF member, Dakoda Leary, shares his experience of being involved with Alive on the Green:

The Glenorchy Youth Task Force (GYTF) held the Alive on the Green for our NYW event this year. This event is held on the Claremont Village Green and we invite schools from the area to attend. We also invite many different services to come along each year and as always, they were all happy to attend. Some of the services that came along included Pulse Youth Health Centre, Colony 47, Club Create and Anglicare. There were some sports activities and other games put on by the services. There were some free driving lessons to be won and some great artwork created by young people with a disability. As always, we had some fantastic music courtesy of Claremont College. We even had a snake pit this year! All in all it was a huge success and we at the GYTF will all be looking forward to hosting the event again next year.

Dakoda Leary

TYF Member



NYW event Light Up the Lane poster

Youth Homelessness Matters Day 2014



Zac Lockhart, TYF Volunteer

Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) is a national awareness campaign run during National Youth Week by the peak for youth homelessness in Australia, the National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH). YNOT is the Tasmanian representative and current Chair for NYCH. You can read more about NYCH and YNOT's involvement on page 14.

YHMD 2014 built upon the 2013 campaign by having an increased focus on an online campaign to raise awareness and support for young people experiencing homelessness.

The YHMD campaign encourages people to 'like, share and act' on social media. Hundreds of young people, organisations and politicians showed their support for YHMD by becoming ambassadors and liking and sharing tweets and posts on social media to generate awareness and challenge stereotypes. People were also challenged to 'act' which could range from getting involved with the campaign and talking to people about it, to hosting an event for YHMD in their local community.



One of the many tweets from the YHMD online campaign

This year the campaign achieved an online reach of nearly 500,000 people on social media with well known Australians such as Father Bob and Jessica Watson participating in the campaign.

To align with the focus of the YHMD campaign, YNOT ran a social media and advocacy workshop for young people to become youth ambassadors for YHMD. The workshop helped ambassadors to develop their skills in using social media as an advocacy tool which they put into practice in the lead up to YHMD 2014. It also covered information about youth homelessness and how it is possible to break down stereotypes and barriers for young people experiencing homelessness.

Zac shares his experience of being a YHMD Youth Ambassador:

In April 2014 I was a Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) Ambassador, I was provided training in the use of promoting such causes on social media as well as statistics and relevant information about Youth Homelessness. I was also interviewed for a newspaper article with The Examiner and overall the experience was awesome!

YHMD is a chance to get out there in the community and reduce the stigma around youth homelessness. I would encourage anyone willing to do so to become a YHMD Ambassador in 2015, it's an amazing opportunity and learning experience!

Zac Lockhart

YHMD Youth Ambassador



Meme created by youth ambassadors for the YHMD campaign

Other opportunities with TYF

Young people are encouraged to get involved through TYF and take on other opportunities throughout the year with the support of the TYF Policy and Project Officer.

TYF encourages young people to be involved with a variety of consultations to ensure that the voice of young people is heard by key decision makers. Over the past year these consultations have included discussions with the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition, the YNOT Budget Submission to the State Government and the Mission Australia Annual Youth Survey.

The 2014 Australian Representative to the United Nations, Laura John, visited Tasmania in June to find out what issues young people are most concerned about. YNOT and TYF hosted Laura for part of her time in the State which included a consultation with young people and the youth sector.

TYF is also represented on a number of advisory groups including the Department of State Growth Student Transport User's Group and the Colony 47 Education and Training Advisory Board, to ensure that young people are represented in these discussions. TYF was also represented at the Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council Conference on a panel session and has been involved this year with the redevelopment of the Multicultural Youth Advisory Network Tasmania by providing input to developing consultations with young people.

TYF also supports the work that youth-led organisations do and encourages young people to become involved with these organisations and their projects. This includes UN Youth Tasmania, Oaktree, Youth Parliament and VGen.



Youth sector representatives and TYF members meeting with Australian Youth Representative to the UN, Laura John

TYF provides young people with the opportunity to take on leadership roles. This year we had young people speak at events, such as the launch of the Statewide Youth Collaborative group's *Top Ten Tips on Consultation: A Guide for young people* and International Women's Day events. Zoë Jay also represented TYF on the judging panels for the Southern Cross Young Achiever Awards for 2014 and the National Youth Week 2014 Grants Panel. TYF also supports young people to develop their skills and become work ready by participating in internships and work placements at YNOT.

Young people are also acknowledged through TYF for their outstanding contributions. TYF would like to congratulate Laura Kay for winning the Youth and Angus Downie Print Journalism Human Rights Awards for 2013 and being a finalist in the Southern Cross Young Achiever Awards for 2014, and Ebony Abblitt for being the Tasmanian National Youth Week Representative for 2014.

TYF supports young people to be advocates for issues they are passionate about by sharing their ideas in the media. This year, young people have shared their thoughts and ideas about employment, homelessness and education with the media to ensure that the voice of young people is included in these discussions.

Young people can also interact with TYF on social media through the TYF facebook page, twitter and email lists. This enables them to share their ideas or find out about other opportunities that they can take on.



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