

YOUTH NETWORK OF TASMANIA

Annual Report 2019–2020



“ YNOT helps young Tasmanians feel included and empowered. It's a platform for young people to find a valued place in society. YNOT's consultation, and expert advocacy for the needs of young people, is irreplaceable.”

— *Matt, 25*



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CEO's Report

What an extraordinary year. 2019-20 will be remembered by the Tasmanian youth sector as the year the State Government established the inaugural Premier's Youth Advisory Council, committed to the development of the inaugural Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy and the year the world was gripped by a global pandemic. COVID-19 has had a profound impact on young Tasmanians, the effects of which will be felt for decades to come. YNOT responded by sharpening our focus on key areas to support immediate and longer term social and economic recovery efforts.

2019-20 has been an incredibly challenging year but also a year of significant achievements for YNOT.

During the year, we worked hard to influence policy makers to engage with and invest in young Tasmanians with great success. The establishment of the Premier's Youth Advisory Council and commitment by the State Government to develop a Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy were two significant outcomes that can largely be attributed to the collective policy and advocacy efforts of YNOT and the Commissioner for Children and Young People in Tasmania. YNOT has long advocated for the strategic inclusion of young people across government and a more targeted, coordinated approach in addressing youth affairs in this State. We were delighted to see the State Government invest in young Tasmanians during the year.

We engaged with and listened to young Tasmanians at every opportunity. We partnered with the Department of Education to deliver Student Voice sessions across the state to seek feedback from young people regarding the Years 9-12 Curriculum Framework and we facilitated statewide youth consultations to inform the development of the 2020 Australian Youth Development Index.

Our advocacy and ongoing media presence helped to amplify the voice of young Tasmanians. Emphasis was placed on supporting young people to engage directly with media and speak out on issues that are important to them.

COVID-19 turned everyone's world upside down and YNOT was no exception. We were forced to cancel Youth Week Tasmania one week out from the official launch and made the difficult decision to postpone the Tasmanian Youth Forum and Tasmanian Youth Conference to comply with public health measures. We focused our energies on supporting our members and young people during this time as we sought to understand the impact of the pandemic on organisations and individuals and how we could best assist during an unprecedented public health crisis. We called on the State Government to inject a significant financial stimulus into the Tasmanian youth sector to ensure organisations could meet the increasing demand that COVID-19 was causing, as well as engaging young Tasmanians in the COVID-19 response. We were successful in securing funds to deliver a COVID-19 marketing and communication campaign to share important public health messages to young Tasmanians.

The Tasmanian youth sector is resourceful, resilient and adaptive and no more was this evident than during a public health crisis. The youth sector played an important role in not only supporting young people during this time, but also each other. I am fortunate and grateful to work with such passionate and committed youth workers who work tirelessly every day to support young people in our State.

YNOT could not achieve all that we have without a strong, active membership. Thank you to our members for your ongoing support and contributions to the work of our organisation during an incredibly challenging year.

Jo and Dean, YNOT's incredible staff - thank you. This year has been one of the most testing in recent times and your dedication, adaptability and passion knows no bounds. Thank you for all that you do for YNOT, young people and our sector. I would also like to thank the YNOT Board for your support during the year.

Tania Hunt
CEO

Chair's Report

What a confronting year it has been for all of us. As a YNOT board we are very grateful for the strong governance arrangements we have in place, and the excellent support from our funding body that allowed us to continue to govern, and be flexible in our operations during the crisis.

I particularly want to acknowledge the exceptional leadership of our CEO. Tania will outline the extraordinary achievements of the organisation this year – and I want to thank her for the great job she did supporting our members, sharing vital information, co-ordinating responses, escalating issues, advocating and ensuring young people had a voice as we responded to the pandemic.

Young people will continue to feel the social and economic impacts of this pandemic for months and years to come. As a board we are focussed on strengthening the foundations of our peak body, so we can keep being a clear youth voice in Tasmania. We are continually improving our governance arrangements, for example reviewing our governance policies and developing our new strategic plan so that it is a useful tool to guide us.

Board members 2019–20

Rebekka Gale
Simone Zell
Ben Bomfield
Glen O'Keefe
Damian Collins
Gina Sidhu
Rob Haas
Kathryn Cranny
Wayne Frost
Kayla Phillips
Nicola Jeffrey (resigned June 2020)

This year also saw us farewell our previous Board Chair, Rebekka Gale. Thank you Bek for your clear and focussed leadership for over 2 years, and your dedication in other YNOT roles for over 7 years. Thank you for giving so much of your time and expertise and always having the interests of YNOT and young people at the forefront. We wish you the very best and look forward to having lots to do with you as an ongoing member.

Again, a big thank you to Tania, Jo and Dean for their work, passion and commitment, especially during this unusual time. It is amazing what can be achieved by such a small team. We look forward to continuing to rise to the challenges ahead, and to working closely with our members and partners in the youth sector and with young people so that they can all have opportunities, and live great lives in Tasmania.

Simone Zell

Chair

“YNOT have been fantastic to work with. They have given me some truly awesome opportunities and supported me as a young person the entire way. A great bunch of people who provide the youth of Tasmania with a much needed voice.”

— Tom, 21



Empowering young Tasmanians

Youth participation is at the heart of everything we do. Over the past 12 months, we continued to provide opportunities for young people to have their say on matters that are important to them.

Student Voice Sessions

YNOT partnered with the Department of Education (DoE) to co-facilitate student voice sessions across Tasmania. The sessions were designed to seek feedback from DoE, Catholic and Independent School students regarding the Years 9-12 Curriculum Framework. In total, 84 students shared their views on their preferred learning style, what they would like to learn at school and their ideas for innovation relating to transdisciplinary projects, professional studies, work-based learning and personal futures. Feedback was used by DoE to inform the establishment of priorities for the development of the Tasmanian senior secondary education curriculum.

Australian Youth Development Index (AYDI) Consultations

YNOT worked in partnership with the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition and Numbers and People Synergy to facilitate state-wide youth consultations to inform the development of the 2020 Australian Youth Development Index (YDI).

The YDI is a composite index that collectively measures youth development in a country or region. A total of 39 young people shared their thoughts on areas that are critical to youth development in Australia from a Tasmanian perspective. Topics included health and wellbeing, education, employment and opportunity, civic participation, and political participation.

Engaging Young People

Emphasis was placed on creating opportunities for young Tasmanians to have greater involvement in the work of our organisation during the year. Highlights included the establishment of an e-youth advisory group and the development of a youth focus group to co-design YNOT's COVID-19 Communications Project. We also sought to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on young Tasmanians, and importantly solutions for economic and social recovery, through online surveys, forums and working groups.

“Working with YNOT brought an important perspective to our work, particularly in the workshop design and delivery stages. YNOT shared some great strategies for working with young people and having Tania as a co-facilitator lent an extra dimension and energy to the forums. This was (is) a highly productive partnership and I feel that the work of the Years 9 to 12 Project has been greatly enhanced through this collaboration.”

— Tony Woodward, DoE Years 9-12 Project

How do you like to learn?

Responses at our Student Voice Sessions

I like to learn when I can see the implications and applications of the subject in my day to day life or my future

I like to learn things slowly and in detail. Also by physical/practical learning

I like to learn collaboratively and quickly. Also with practical learning.

I like to learn best when I can incorporate creativity and self expression. It teaches me to think for myself.





Amplifying the voice of young Tasmanians

Providing opportunities and platforms for young Tasmanians to be seen and *heard*...

9 

young people engaged with media

on topics including

- youth unemployment
- underemployment
- pill testing
- mental health
- income support
- youth homelessness
- youth participation; and
- health and wellbeing.

10 

young people presented at forums and events

including the

- TYF 2019 Report Launch
- Youth Mental Health Forum; and
- YNOT's 2019 Annual General Meeting.

178 

young people participated in youth consultations

including the

- Australian Youth Development Index
- Department of Education Years 9-12 Curriculum Framework
- impact of COVID-19 on young Tasmanians; and
- Social and Economic Recovery from COVID-19.

7 

young people joined YNOT's COVID-19 Youth Focus Group

7 

young people joined YNOT's e-advisory group

to share their ideas and solutions on issues impacting them and to inform YNOT's work.



Influencing change

During the year, we remained resolute in our efforts to challenge the systems and structures that contribute to disadvantage and marginalisation of young Tasmanians. We worked collaboratively with young people and our members to inform state and federal policy on youth affairs with an emphasis on housing affordability, youth unemployment, income support and health and wellbeing.

Evidence-based submissions included:

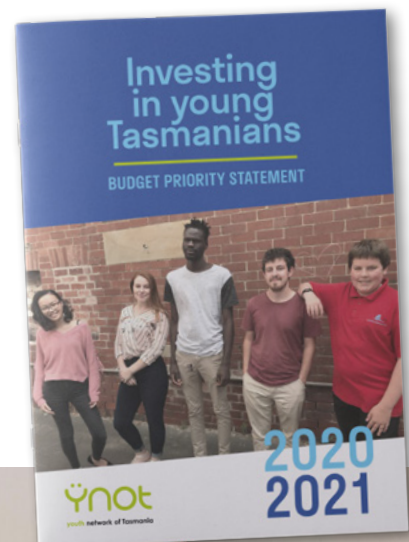
- Written Submission to the House of Assembly Select Committee on Housing Affordability.
- Select Committee on Housing Affordability Public Hearing — Hobart.
- Adequacy of Newstart and Related Payments Public Hearing — Launceston.
- Written Submission to the Council of Attorneys-General Age of Criminal Responsibility Working Group Review, Raising the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility.
- Written Submission to the State Government for the 2020-21 Tasmanian Budget 'Investing in young Tasmanians'
- Written Submission to the Premiers Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council (PESRAC) — Phase One Consultation.

YNOT continued to represent our members and young people by providing expert advice and a state-wide perspective on youth affairs through participating in various advisory groups and committees. These included the Premier's Youth Advisory Council, Labor Industry Advisory Councils, Education First Youth Foyer Interagency Group, Family and Sexual Violence Consultative Group, Mental Health Council of Tasmania Youth Mental Health Forum Working Group and the Tasmanian Council of Social Services COVID-19 Response and Recovery Group to name a few.

“

Great work with government to get youth representation on the agenda and the youth advisory council to the Premier — GOOD WORK”

— YNOT member





Youth sector development

Youth Sector Workforce Development Project: Phase Two

The Tasmanian Youth Sector Workforce Development Project is a three-year project that comprises of three distinct phases. This year Phase Two of the Project *Identifying Youth Sector Workforce Development Needs* was finalised. A comprehensive Youth Sector Workforce Development Report was produced outlining the professional development needs of the Tasmanian youth sector as well as key recommendations for sector capacity building. Phase Three of the project is underway and involves increasing access to professional networking opportunities for the Tasmanian youth sector and developing workforce resources that promote professional development and training opportunities.

Trauma-Informed Practice Training

YNOT facilitated Trauma Informed Practice Training for members in 2019. The workshop, delivered by a clinical psychologist, was designed to provide participants with a framework for understanding the impact of complex trauma on an individual, how a team/organisation can become traumatised without the necessary safeguards in place, and key concepts to consider when moving towards a more trauma-informed approach.

State-wide Youth Sector Meetings

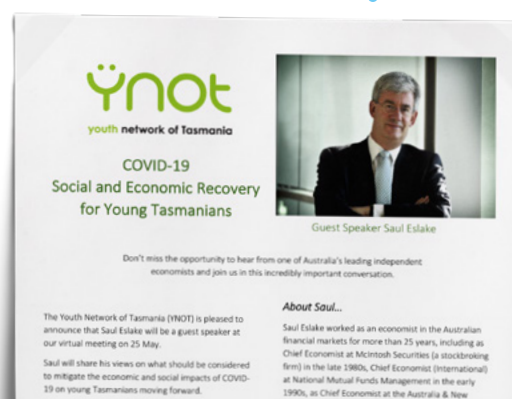
YNOT convened regular online state-wide youth sector meetings in response to COVID-19. Meetings were designed to provide a platform for youth workers to connect, collaborate and to share information and resources as we navigated our way through an unprecedented public health crisis. Meetings proved invaluable in understanding the opportunities and challenges facing young Tasmanians and the youth sector, particularly impacts on service accessibility and delivery.

YNOT Social and Economic Recovery for Young Tasmanians — State-wide Forum

YNOT hosted an online forum for members, young people and key stakeholders to discuss the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 on young Tasmanians. We engaged independent economist Saul Eslake from Corinna Economic Advisory to present information on COVID-19 and the economic downturn, consequences for young Tasmanians and short to medium term solutions to support social and economic recovery for young people. Over 40 people attended the event.

“The COVID-19 response, support and creating a shared space has been amazingly useful”

— YNOT member



Working together

COVID-19 Communications Project — You(th) Got This, Tassie!

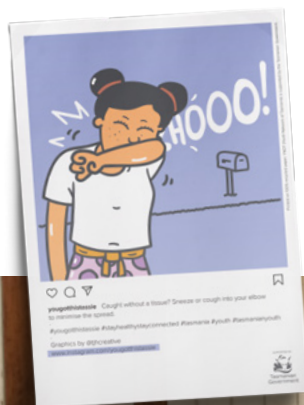
In late March 2020, YNOT secured additional funds from the Tasmanian Government to design and deliver a COVID-19 communication and marketing campaign for and with young people. The campaign aimed to increase young people's knowledge of COVID-19 and to share important public health messages about COVID-19 through communication channels that are relevant and accessible to young people.

YNOT engaged a project team comprising of a communications expert and two graphic designers to design and deliver the campaign content. The project team worked with young Tasmanians and the youth sector through the establishment of a state-wide youth focus group and steering committee. The youth focus group, comprising of seven young people aged 15-22 years, informed our approach and campaign content. The steering committee, formed with seven members from government, community and private sectors, provided strategic support, guidance and project oversight. A young graphic designer was engaged to develop youth-friendly content.

The campaign launched on Facebook, Instagram and the YNOT website in June 2020. The six-month project has been well received and will conclude in October 2020.

State and National Youth Advisory Groups

YNOT continued to actively participate in Tasmanian youth advisory groups and committees during the year including Youth Action Priorities (YAP), Northern Youth Coordinating Committee (NYCC), North West Action for Youth (NWAY) and the Tasmanian Youth Housing and Homelessness Group (TYHHG). We also maintained a national presence by sitting on the Board of the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) and the National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH) and we strengthened our collaboration with state-based youth peak bodies through regular online national meetings on youth affairs.





Tasmanian Youth Mental Health Forum

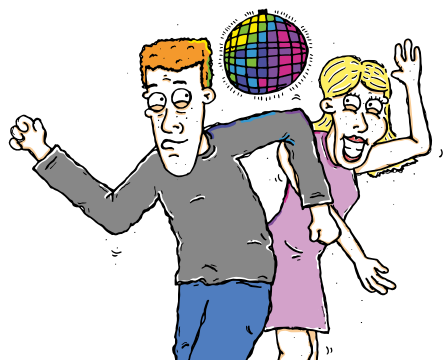
YNOT worked collaboratively with Primary Health Tasmania, the Department of Health and the Mental Health Council of Tasmania to support the delivery of the 2019 Tasmanian Youth Mental Health Forum. The forum brought together key decision makers, policy makers, practitioners and mental health service providers to explore emerging themes and develop shared strategies to support the ongoing development of an integrated youth mental health service system in Tasmania. YNOT was actively involved in program planning and development, ensuring that the opinions, views and lived experience of young Tasmanians were integrated into the two-day program. Young Tasmanians presented at the forum and were involved in expert panel discussions. Solutions identified from the forum will inform the development of the Tasmanian joint mental health and suicide prevention planning process and ongoing reforms.

State-wide Youth Collaborative Group (SYC) Healthy Minds Habits Project

YNOT and Public Health Services, Department of Health continued to Co-Chair the State-wide Youth Collaborative Group (SYC). An ongoing priority for SYC was increasing the mental health literacy of young Tasmanians. SYC members co-designed the SYC Healthy Minds Habit Project with young Tasmanians to increase knowledge of and access to positive mental health information and support. This included the development of 12 posters, 12 videos, 12 blogs and a service referral guide for young people. YNOT engaged a young graphic designer to produce resource content in a youth-friendly manner. The SYC Healthy Minds Habit Project was officially launched online in July 2020 by the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing, Jeremy Rockliff MP and YNOT CEO, Tania Hunt.

“Without the perspective and direct voice of young people, the Tasmanian Mental Health Youth Forum would have been a two-dimensional event. Thankfully YNOT were eager to work with us by linking us up with fantastic youth representatives and in supporting the forum’s program development and planning. Through working together, we were able to deliver a forum that had young people participating in discussion about what a future mental health system could and should look like in Tasmania. YNOT’s guidance towards a successful co-design approach has been greatly appreciated”

—MHCT





Forum discussing youth's online use

BY KASEY WILKINS

MORE than 170 passionate young Tasmanians gathered in Launceston to discuss issues facing the state's youth.

The Tasmanian Youth Forum is a free event aimed at people aged between 12 and 25.

The passionate young attendees travelled from



Telstra shut its... Brisbane... The co... decision... consulta... ed emp... would v... redeple... for them... The v... notified... cies on... confirm... will clo... This... more... Telstra... they al... last we... This...



Media and Communications



54

media mentions



11

media releases

YNOT continued to use digital platforms to communicate information to young people and the Tasmanian youth sector.

Our new look website launched in early 2020 provides an important vehicle to communicate relevant information on youth affairs to young people, our sector, government and the broader community. Emphasis was placed on ensuring the website was contemporary, visually appealing, user friendly and easy to navigate.

YNOT's monthly e-news publication Sector News and Facebook remained the most effective channels for sharing information with our members and the youth sector.

Instagram for young people aged 12-17 and Facebook for young people aged 18-25 years proved to be the most effective channels to share information with young Tasmanians.

We continued to engage with media to amplify the voice of young Tasmanians and raise awareness of youth affairs in the community. Highlights included a front-page article in a Tasmanian newspaper, leading news stories on ABC, WIN and 7 Nightly News, feature articles in regional newspapers, state-wide radio interviews and supporting one young Tasmanian to participate in a panel discussion about youth homelessness on ABC national television program *The Drum*.

YNOT website



12,394

page visits



5,727

website visitors

Youth Homelessness Matters Day



16

posts



407

post engagements



4,723

post impressions

YNOT Facebook page



2,346

total likes

- 171 new likes



2,329

total followers

- 175 new followers



173

total posts

- 5,903 engagements
- 127,191 impressions

Top performing posts

1

07/01/2020

YNOT Young Graphic Designer Position Advertisement (SYC Healthy Mind Habits)

07/01/2020

- 580 post engagements
- 14,076 post Impressions

2

15/04/2020

YNOT COVID-19 Survey #1

- 214 post engagements
- 7,411 post impressions

3

19/01/2020

YNOT Youth Development Index (YDI) consultation announcement

- 208 post engagements
- 4,723 post impressions

Our members

Of our 60 members, 20 organisational and individual members responded to our annual member satisfaction survey.

Members overall satisfaction with YNOT's performance for 2019-20 was rated **8.1/10**



Policy and Advocacy **4.4/5**



Methods of communication **4.4/5**



Youth Consultation and Engagement **4.1/5**



Sector capacity building **3.6/5**



Information dissemination **4.3/5**



Our members in 2019-20

A Fairer World	Josh Willie MLC	Simone Zell
Andrew Verdouw	Julie Collins MP	Speak Out Association of Tasmania Inc.
Anglicare Tasmania Inc.	Karinya Young Women's Service	Tasmanian Academy - Don College
Anita O'Callaghan	Kentish Council	The Link Youth Health Service
Bek Gale	Latrobe Council	Unions Tasmania
Ben Bromfield	Launceston City Mission	Volunteering Tasmania
Burnie City Council	Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania	West Tamar Council
Children With Disability Australia	Matt Hill	Working It Out
Circular Head Council	Migrant Resource Centre	Yourtown
City of Launceston	Migrant Resource Centre (North)	Youth Action (NSW)
Clarence City Council	Mike Gaffney MLC	Youth Affairs Council of South Australia (YACSA)
Colony 47 Inc	Mission Australia	Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc (YACVIC)
Cornerstone Youth Services Inc	Peter Gutwein MHA	Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA)
Create Foundation	Rebecca White MP	Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ)
Derwent Valley Youth Future Action Team	Relationships Australia Tasmania	Youth Coalition of the ACT
Family Planning Tasmania Inc.	Richard Muir Wilson	Youth Futures
Flourish Mental Health	Rob Haas	Youth, Family and Community Connections Inc.
Gina Sidhu	Ruth Forrest MLC	
Glenorchy City Council	Save the Children Australia	
Hobart City Council	Shelter Tasmania Inc	
Impact Communities		

Sponsors and Supporters

Special thanks to the Tasmania 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 during the past year.

Break O'Day Council	Derwent Valley Youth Futures Action Team (D'FAT)	Migrant TAS Youth Advisory Group (MYAN)
Burnie City Council	Fae Robinson, Fae Robinson Futures	Northern Midlands Council
Central Coast Council	Family Planning Tasmania	Public Health Service, Tasmania
Circular Head Council	Glenorchy City Council	Speak Out Association of Tasmania
Circular Head Youth Leaders (CHYL)	Glenorchy Youth Task Force (GYTF)	Waratah-Wynyard Council
City of Hobart	Huon Valley Council	West Tamar Council
Youth ARC	Huon Valley Council Youth Committee	West Tamar Council Youth Advisory Council (YAC)
City of Launceston	The Link Youth Health Service	Young Leaders of Tasmania
City of Launceston Youth Advisory Group (YAG)	headspace Hobart Youth Reference Group (YRG)	Youth Action Kingborough (YAK)
City Mission 'The Mish'	Migrant Resource Centre, Tasmania	Youth, Family and Community Connections Inc.
Clarence City Council		
Youth Network Advisory Group (YNAG)		

Volunteers

Akhtar Bhatti	Hugh Magnus	Lewis Jaffray
Amelia Bartlett	Jacinta Antoniazzi	Magda Gamar
Amy McDonald	Jackson Yung	Matthew Etherington
Brutukan Melkamu	Jak Tolver-Banks	Mohammad Nazari
Eliza McGovern	Jasper Lennaen	Rahnee Butterworth
Grace Morgan	Joe Samuel-Birch	Samantha Stevenson
Halima Akhtar Bhatti	'Joe'	Sophie Clark
Hannah Godfrey	Joshua Abeling	Tyler Bakes

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.



youth network of Tasmania

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