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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Youth Services Sector to hear from Young Tasmanians at Statewide Symposium

*“I think it’s important that the youth sector listens to young people because they are providing a service for us. If they don’t talk to us, how do they know what we need? We all want to be able to contribute meaningfully to our community, regardless of how old we are.”*

Taso Bookarof, 15

The Tasmanian youth services sector will gather in Hobart today to hear from leading experts and young Tasmanians on youth work practice and youth driven service design and delivery in Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Youth Sector Symposium ‘Connect: Explore: Inspire’ hosted by the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT), brings together academics, key decision makers, practitioners and young people to explore opportunities to improve the way we deliver services to young Tasmanians aged 12-25 years now and into the future.

Tania Hunt, YNOT CEO said “Young Tasmanians aged 12-25 years are facing extraordinary challenges. They are not only living with a global pandemic and climate emergency, but they are also burdened by a lack of affordable housing, employment opportunities, affordable post-secondary education and access to appropriate services.”

“Youth workers have reported challenges in responding to the increasingly complex needs of young Tasmanians. We need to ensure the voice of young people is included in policy and decision making to ensure the right service systems and supports are in place to meet their needs at the right time. Importantly, we need to ensure our sector is armed with the tools and resources needed to do this”.

Young Tasmanians will feature heavily in the program and have co-designed a youth panel discussion titled ‘Work with us: co-designing the future with youth.’

*“Hearing from a diverse group of young Tasmanians ensures that our services cater to the needs of everyone. Too often the voices of the young are overlooked on matters that directly affect us, which is why our panel is so important.”*

Tyenna Hogan, 19

ynot is the peak body representing the voice of Tasmanian youth



YNOT is the peak body for young people aged 12-25 years and the non-government youth sector in Tasmania. YNOT works to ensure policies affecting young people in Tasmania are relevant, equitable and effective and that young people have a voice on issues that matter to them.

**Media enquiries:**

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The Tasmanian Youth Sector Symposium will be held in the Ricky Ponting Room, Blundstone Arena Bellerive (not open to the public).

Young Tasmanians Tyenna Hogan and Taso Bookarof will be available with YNOT CEO Tania Hunt for interview (limited availability).