

YOUTH NETWORK OF TASMANIA

# Annual Report

## 2021-2022



Ynot

youth network of Tasmania

## The 2021/22 year saw the culmination of many medium and longer-term strategies for young people, youth sector workers and YNOT.

These achievements display the interconnected nature of our work within the framework of the YNOT Strategic Plan 2020-25. Collaborative, open and creative relationships with all stakeholders are key to reaching our aim of positive change in areas that matter to Tasmania's young people. We thank everyone — staff, volunteers, young people, workers and all others who contributed to this very successful year.

— Tania Hunt, CEO

## Increased youth participation



The 2022 **Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF)** explored what young people need to feel safe expressing who they are and to speak up on matters important to them through the theme 'I am Me'. In total, 359 young Tasmanians shared their insights and solutions to creating a more diverse, inclusive and equitable Tasmania.

The inaugural **Youth Leadership Summit** held in Launceston focused on leadership types, self-advocacy skills and communication techniques. 16 young people attended the day-long workshop.

**YNOT Youth Advisory Groups (YAG)** continued in 2021/22 to provide ongoing input from diverse young people around the state about issues of interest and areas for learning and support across YNOT's annual activities. The YAGs provided guidance on YNOT's activities, events, submissions and advocacy.

**Youth Week Tasmania (YWT) 2022** with the theme 'Youth: Next Gen' was celebrated with more than 15 events recognising our next generation of young leaders, changemakers, influencers and visionaries. Attendees at the 2021 **All Youth Advisory Summit** developed the 2022 theme and events benefited from the state government's Youth Week Tasmania Grants program. Government funding has been secured for YNOT to manage YWT until 2025.

Young people aged 18-25 years are unearthing the **Tasmanian Youth Story** in communities across the state through a unique Brand Tasmania/ YNOT project that aims to tell the story of what it's like to be a young Tasmanian — the good and the bad.

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INFLUENCED GOVERNMENT POLICY

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## Strengthened our youth sector

The inaugural **Youth Sector Symposium (YSS)** responded to professional development needs raised by YNOT members in 2021, drawing participants from across Tasmania and interstate.

The YSS's success led to continued funding of this initiative until 2025.

**Online e-safety training**, delivered in partnership with the Office of the e-Safety Commissioner, responded to the online safety professional development needs of youth workers, attracting statewide and interstate attendees.

YNOT continued its facilitation of **statewide youth sector meetings** to identify and discuss youth policy and advocacy issues, professional development needs for youth workers and partnership opportunities.

We also worked continuously with the sector to **collaborate, identify and advocate on arising issues** to ensure our young people have the supports and services they need.

## Influenced government policy

YNOT's submission to the **Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy** development process was built on consultations with young people and led to specific recognition of the needs of 18-25 year olds as they transition into adulthood. Our **2022/23 Budget Priority Submission** successfully made the case for resourcing to engage young people in developing an action plan to guide this work.

More young Tasmanians are receiving targeted youth employment support at three regional jobs hubs through '**youth connectors**'. YNOT's 2021/22 budget submission on this led to resourcing for Jobs Tasmania and a collaborative approach to developing the pilot program. YNOT also gained funds for a part-time Youth Policy Officer to analyse and provide advice on this and other programs.

Young people's attitudes and opinions on gambling and related harm informed the **Gambling Support Program** and contributed to its **Strategic Framework 2019-23** outcomes.

The state's **Youth Justice Blueprint Discussion Paper 2022** on participation drew on YNOT's 2020 TYF consultation '*Building a Better Tasmania for young people*', ensuring the views of young Tasmanians are included in this important document.

YNOT continues to work collaboratively, leading to **strong relationships with cross-sector stakeholders and joint advocacy outcomes**.



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STRENGTHENED OUR YOUTH SECTOR



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It's very inspiring speaking with other youth members of Tasmania. I loved the opportunity to input ideas, but also to hear other's thoughts too.”

—TYF participant, 15 years

“

I felt very positive and powerful with my future after chatting with other youths.”

—TYF participant, 15 years

“

YNOT do a fantastic job. I rely on their expertise for a large part of my work especially in policy and governance.”

—YNOT member

“

Through my experiences with a national youth advisory group, I have come to understand that the culture, ethics and professionalism at YNOT, is exceptional.”

—Taso, 16 years

“

Thank you again for the mountainous effort from YNOT and everyone else involved. Your contributions to the youth sector in Tasmania continue to grow, and we look forward to seeing how this evolves for next year!”

—Youth sector worker

“

Please do more of these [Youth Sector Symposiums]. It was great to see everyone come together and work towards improving the area of supporting youth in Tasmania.”

—YSS participant

“

Thank you for all of your work, the projects we have worked on and the amazing advocacy you have been doing for youth of Tasmania; they are in such a better position because of the work you have done.”

—YNOT member

**Ynot**

youth network of Tasmania



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