

YOUTH NETWORK OF TASMANIA

Annual Report 2022-2023



Ynot
youth network of Tasmania

We acknowledge the palawa and pakana people as the traditional, original and continuing custodians of lutruwita (Tasmania) and the continuing connection that Tasmanian Aboriginal people have to the land, sea, sky and waterways. We pay our respects to the Elders past and present.



YNOT continues to make gains in our work driving positive change with young people and the youth sector in Tasmania.

In addition to our ongoing work as the state's peak body, we broke new ground this year through collaborations with new project partners, use of new engagement methods to gain feedback from young people on a range of issues and providing capacity-building opportunities to Tasmanian young people.

YNOT could not achieve as much as it does without the dedication of our members and the generosity and optimism of our state's young people. We thank each and every one of you for all that you do.

This annual report provides a summary of just some of the highlights for the sector and young people during the past year; we encourage you to visit ynot.org.au for even more detail on what we've achieved in 2022-2023.

— Tania Hunt, CEO



Increasing participation

STRATEGIC GOAL:

Young people have a voice on issues that matter to them.

TYF 2023: Mental Wellbeing and Resilience

Supported by a youth advisory group, the statewide forum and an online survey gave more than 240 young people opportunities to speak about what they need to support improved mental wellbeing and resilience in tough times. This theme, chosen in consultation with young people, has been a consistent feature of youth consultations across a myriad of YNOT projects in recent years. A report detailing TYF 2023's findings and key recommendations will be released in 2023.

Young People and Gambling

Through participating in a steering group, thirteen (13) young people aged 12-18 years worked in partnership with the state government to guide the development of a statewide communications strategy to address gambling related harms in young people 12-18 years. This work was a continuation of the Young People and Gambling Consultations conducted in May 2022 delivering on report recommendations relating to youth participation and investment in age-appropriate harm reduction initiatives.

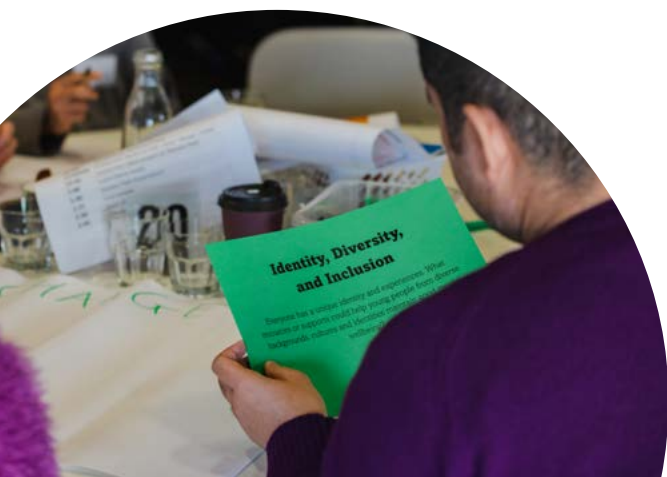
Pathways to Adulthood: Youth Transition Project

Statewide consultations for this project, guided by a youth steering committee, involved more than 200 young Tasmanians 18-25 years. Their insights about the reality of the current pathway to adulthood and thoughts on the types of support and services our state can provide contribute to this important project that aims to better support young people as they transition to independence. A report detailing the key findings and recommendations will be released in 2023 and will inform the development of a discussion paper and whole-of-government youth transitions action plan as part of the [Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy](#)'s priority actions.

Unearthing the Tasmanian Youth Story

This innovative project, undertaken in partnership with [Brand Tasmania](#) and guided by young people 18-25 years, focused on understanding young people's experiences of being a young Tasmanian - the good and the bad. The project resulted in a revealing report that acknowledges both the benefits and barriers faced by young people in our state.

Highlights of this project included in-depth interviews with 98 young people, building capacity of three young people to participate as part of the project team, and working collaboratively with skilled researchers from The20 and [UTAS Tasmanian Behavioural Lab](#).



“I’ve been amazed by the incredible power of collaboration – something that is consistently demonstrated through youth participation groups.”

— Jet, 16

Influencing policy

STRATEGIC GOAL:

Policies affecting young people in Tasmania are relevant, equitable and effective.

Youth Transition Project

UTAS researchers from the Tasmanian Behavioural Lab and Peter Underwood Centre produced the Emergent Adulthood Report: Review of Literature, validating feedback YNOT had received from young people about their experiences transitioning to adulthood. Other activities advancing this project included a comprehensive mapping of relevant policies and programs statewide, and engagement with government, community and youth sectors to understand the issues. This work will guide development of a discussion paper and subsequent Action Plan that will be part of the [Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy](#).

Youth Jobs Strategy & Youth Connector Program (YCP)

YNOT's Youth Employment Alliance, engagement of a Youth Policy Officer based at YNOT and ongoing collaboration with Jobs Tasmania continue to drive work in this vital area. As a result, Tasmania's young people provided input to and influenced content of the state's first youth-focused jobs strategy (released for consultation in late 2023). YNOT also continued to support rollout of the pilot YCP in regional jobs hubs and through the Youth Employment Community of Policy & Practice.

“What YNOT is doing for the young people of Tasmania is incredible and cannot thank you enough for the opportunity to be part of it.”

— Faith, 21

Youth Housing & Homelessness

YNOT led a coordinated and effective campaign on this issue with sector partners including TasCOSS, Shelter Tasmania, YNOT members and young Tasmanians, successfully bringing youth homelessness into the media spotlight on Youth Homelessness Matters Day 2023. This collaboration sent a strong message to politicians and decision makers about the need for standalone national and state youth housing and homelessness strategies as well as the need for urgent action.

To support this work, YNOT focused on actively engaging young people with diverse lived experiences in our consultations to identify housing solutions that meet their needs, in particular for those who are transitioning out of home and trying to enter the private rental market.

Ongoing advocacy work

YNOT continued to advocate for the voices of young people to be included by decisionmakers through formal submissions including:

- [Draft Housing Tasmania Bill 2022](#)
- [Tasmanian Housing Strategy Discussion Paper](#)
- [Tasmanian Drug Strategy \(TDS\) 2022-27 Consultation Draft](#)
- [YNOT Budget Priorities Statement 2023/24](#)

And we fed input from Tasmania's young people into many working and advisory groups, including the Safe Public Transport Working Group, Volunteering Tasmania Youth Volunteer Army Steering Group, Tasmanian Consumer Health Planning Committee, Child & Youth Safe Organisation Framework Project Sector Implementation Advisory Panel, Jobs Tasmania Evaluation Project Reference Group & Youth Community of Policy & Practice, Healthy Tasmania Planning and Implementation Advisory Group, Future of Local Government Review workshops and focus groups, Community Services Industry Workforce Coalition Project & the Mental Health & Wellbeing Literacy Project Steering Committee.



Strengthening our sector

STRATEGIC GOAL:

The Tasmanian youth sector is adaptive, skilled and informed.

Ongoing support, information and advocacy

YNOT actively supported funding applications from a diverse number of youth organisations seeking to deliver programs to young people across the State, as well as continuing the coordination of regular statewide sector meetings. Professional development and training options, capacity building initiatives, information sharing and preparing for the introduction of the Child and Youth Safe Organisation Framework were priority areas for members.

“ I always walk away from YNOT events feeling empowered and ready to put what I’ve learned into practice with my own youth work.”

— YNOT member & youth sector worker

Appropriate Indexation campaign

In collaboration with not-for-profit peak bodies including TasCOSS, YNOT provided a financial investment and relevant data to support production of a [Cost Indexation Report produced by the University of Western Australia \(UWA\) Business School](#). We also supported joint advocacy activities to government and decision makers on this issue.



“**Adulthood is a complex issue and transitioning into adulthood is a difficult process ... a person doesn't become an adult overnight just because they turned 18 and the transition to adulthood can easily span many years.**”

—*Ipshita, 24*



 Level 12, 39 Murray St, TAS Hobart 7000

 0427 466 189

 admin@ynot.org.au

 ynot.org.au

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