



youth network of Tasmania

Annual Report

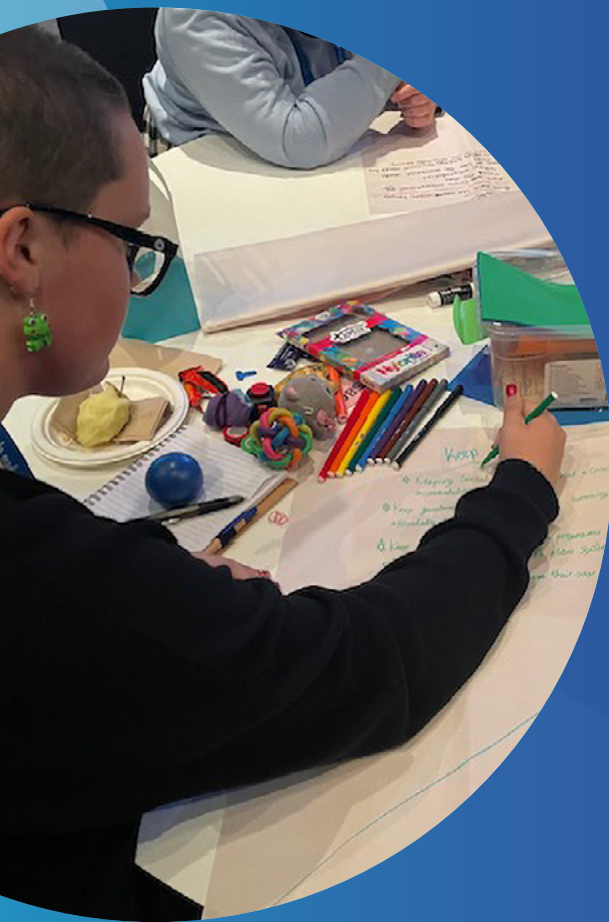
2023–2024

OUR VISION

A Tasmania where
all young people
are valued and can
achieve anything



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.



2023-24 was yet another huge year for Tasmania's young people, the youth sector that supports them and for YNOT.

We continued to support the vital focus placed on youth housing, homelessness, employment and child safety, while remaining committed to influencing positive change across the broad range of challenges and opportunities experienced by Tasmania's young people in our state's urban, suburban, regional and remote communities.

YNOT's collective advocacy alongside the state's other community service industry organisations achieved funding certainty for some youth sector organisations, through a commitment to indexation over four years. However, there is more work to do to ensure an appropriate indexation amount is applied to all.

We look forward to the progress 2024-25 will bring and remain grateful to our members and Tasmania's young people for their continued trust, passion and dedication.

—Tania Hunt, CEO



youth network of Tasmania

Increasing participation

STRATEGIC GOAL:

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

In addition to ongoing activities including the Premier's Youth Advisory Council (PYAC) the annual Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) and Youth Advisory Groups, YNOT co-designed, implemented and evaluated the **Tasmanian Youth Voice Network** (TYVN) pilot during 2023-24.

TYVN program partners Brand Tasmania joined YNOT and young Tasmanians aged 18-25 years to explore models that would support wider participation of diverse young people in community and government decision making and planning across the state.

The resulting pilot program involved five consultations with TYVN members on subjects ranging from the state government's Sustainability Strategy to Tasmania's Inspiring Women Award and the state's first Youth Jobs Strategy Vision Statement.

In **Tasmania's South East** YNOT facilitated engagement with more than 250 young people aged 12-19 and 34 key stakeholders who shared their insights on what would make the region a better place for young people to live.

Their ideas and solutions will assist project partners, Sorell Council, to improve participation of young people in their local communities and inform future youth related initiatives.

“

It was a really vibrant experience ... I got a platform to provide my views and experience, and all the problems and solutions associated with it.”

— TYVN participant



“

I appreciate that you guys speak to us like adults.”

— Young person



Influencing policy

STRATEGIC GOAL:

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

YNOT continued its **advocacy supporting the views of young people** to be included by decision makers through formal submissions including:

- [Tasmanian Housing Strategy Exposure Draft](#)
- *Youth Jobs Strategy Discussion Paper* on behalf of the Youth Employment Alliance
- [YNOT Budget Priorities Statement 2024/25: Action on Youth Participation and Engagement in Government Policy](#)
- [YNOT State Election Priorities 2024](#)
- [Proposed amendments to the Residential Tenancy Act 1997](#)

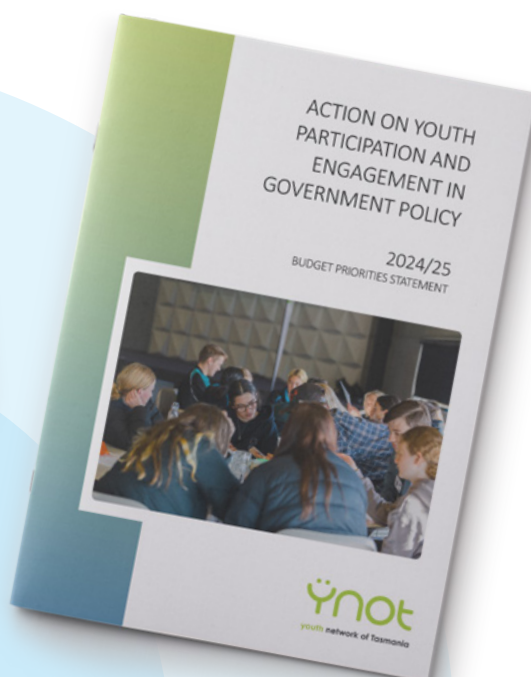
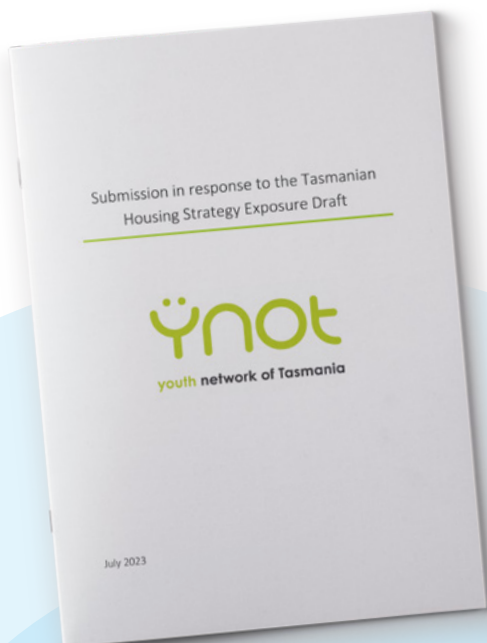


Young people's interests were also amplified on state government committees including:

- Jobs Tasmania Evaluation Reference Group
- Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Working Group
- Healthy Tasmania Planning and Implementation Group
- Child and Youth Safe Organisation Project Advisory Panel
- Child and Youth Wellbeing Website Working Group
- Safe Public Transport Working Group

“I struggle a bit to make friends and speak to people my own age independently, so workshops/consultations like [YNOT's] are great.”

—TYVN participant





“ It can be easy to get despondent about the way things are, so interacting in this setting makes me feel less alone [and] more invigorated.”

— TYVN participant

Through the **Youth Transition Project** YNOT worked with young people, the sector and state government to develop a whole-of-government Action Plan that aims to support all young adults to live healthy, well and flourishing lives as they transition from adolescence to adulthood. The Plan aligns with the *Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy* and will inform the state's program and policy direction for young people for the next four years. Consultation included stakeholder submissions and roundtable discussions held around the state.

The **Youth Employment Alliance** continued its work to influence systemic change through informing the development of the inaugural **Tasmanian Youth Jobs Strategy**. This involved amplifying the views of young people and youth employment service providers, formal submissions, media and collaborative work with Jobs Tasmania.

Collective advocacy in partnership with TasCOSS, Colony47, Anglicare Tasmania, the City of Hobart, YFCC and Karinya Young Women's Service focused a spotlight on the **youth housing and homelessness** crisis. A public event on **Youth Homelessness Matters Day** invited community members to sign a petition to government asking for immediate action on this issue.

During the **2024 state election** YNOT advocated for a dedicated Minister for Youth, a standalone housing and homelessness strategy for children and young people and for finalising and investing in Tasmania's inaugural youth jobs strategy.

“ I loved seeing the behind-the-scenes of politics and policymaking.”

— TYVN participant

“ I like the way data is being gathered from the discussion to derive meaningful insights.”

— TYVN participant





Strengthening our sector

STRATEGIC GOAL:

The Tasmanian youth sector is adaptive, skilled and informed.

YNOT's members benefited from ongoing communication, support and advocacy during the **2024 State Election** that included an online election scorecard and commentary focused on the sector's priorities.

We continued to work towards **adequate indexation and improved funding certainty** through collaboration with the Tasmanian Community Services Industry Peaks Network.

Our **monthly e-news bulletins** continued to provide members with information on policy and budget announcements, professional development and training options, child and youth safety resources and various engagement opportunities for young people.

We also secured funding from state government for the **2025 Youth Sector Symposium** to be held on 18 March and are currently working with sector representatives to inform the program content.

This event builds on the success of the 2021 event, which was attended by more than 100 workers, managers and CEOs in our sector.

2024 TASMANIAN STATE ELECTION MAJOR PARTY POLICY POSITIONS			
YNOT ELECTION ASKS...	LABOR	LIBERALS	GREENS
Appoint a dedicated Minister for Youth in the Cabinet to focus on and prioritise issues affecting young Tasmanians aged 12-25.	✗	✗	✗
Develop a standalone, coordinated housing and homelessness strategy for children and young people.	✓	✗	✓
Complete and invest appropriately in Tasmania's inaugural Youth Jobs Strategy.	✓	✓	✓

More information on election commitments can be found at:
 Tasmanian Liberals - Our Policies | <https://tas.liberals.org.au/>
 Tasmanian Labor Party - Our Plan | <https://tas.labor.com/>
 Tasmanian Greens - The Green's Plan | <https://tas.greens.org.au/>

Statements from the major parties and other candidates on YNOT priority areas can be found at YNOT's website | <https://www.ynot.org.au>

✓ Commitment received
✗ No commitment made



**Tasmanian
youth sector
symposium**

“ I really enjoyed being able to get my voice heard and to work with other young people ... and the YNOT staff who have all been very helpful and kind.”

— TYVN participant

“ YNOT does exceptionally well with its limited resources.”

— YNOT Member

“ This is a great organisation with a fantastic team of dedicated workers who are very passionate and truly care about youth.”

— YNOT Member

“ I want to work in policy – so I find it really interesting to see the behind the scenes of organisations like YNOT trying to influence policy.”

— TYVN participant



youth network of Tasmania

Get in touch with YNOT



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