

## FAQs for the Tasmanian Youth Voice Network

### **I've never done anything like this before. Can I still apply?**

Absolutely! You don't need any experience to apply. You just need to:

- Be 12-25 years old
- Live in Tasmania
- Be comfortable sharing your opinions and passionate about making a change!

### **How does the project work?**

The TYVN brings together passionate young Tasmanians and puts them in conversation with organisations who want to listen. Once you're a TYVN Member, we will email you regularly with opportunities to join paid online consultation sessions.

“Consultation” is where you give your opinion to help someone make a decision. For example, a youth health service might consult with young people about how to decorate their waiting room so it feels safe and inviting. Young people know what's best for young people – and these organisations need your help!

It's free to join and you get to decide which opportunities you take part in – there's no pressure to say yes every time. You will be paid \$35 per hour for the consultations you attend. We will also offer free training workshops where you can build confidence and improve your skills, however attendance at these is not paid.

### **I've applied! When and how will I hear back?**

When you first submit your Youth Expression of Interest Form, Rachael will give you a call to discuss the program and learn more about you. After that, we will contact you to let you know the outcome of your application. We promise to contact every applicant, whether they make it into the program or not. We aim to let everyone know their results within three weeks of their application.

### **Do I need permission to join?**

If you are under 18, we will need permission from a parent or guardian for you to join the TYVN. We will also need that person's phone number and email address so they can receive the same information we send you.

We understand that not every young person has a supportive parent or guardian in their life. If you think you may need some help finding an adult's permission for the program, please [contact Rachael](#) to discuss your situation.

### **What information do you need about me? How will you keep it private?**

During your application we will collect some personal information about you, including your name and contact details. We will also ask you for some demographic information, such as your age, pronouns, cultural background, and the region where you live. To keep everyone safe, we will keep these details saved privately in a secure computer program where only YNOT staff can access them. We will never share these details with anyone else.

### **How do I know the TYVN works? Will organisations actually listen to us?**

This isn't the first time YNOT has had a TYVN – it was originally a pilot program that ran in 2023-24. It went so well that the Tasmanian Government has funded us to run a second round!

Past TYVN Members contributed to important projects such as:

- a Sustainability Strategy and a Youth Transitions Action Plan for the Department of Premier and Cabinet
- the Youth Jobs Strategy for the Department of State Growth
- an event called the Youth Jobs and Participation Summit
- the Inspiring Young Women Award for the Department of Premier and Cabinet

When organisations apply to consult with the TYVN, they have to meet a range of criteria. They must commit to paying the young people involved and giving them credit for their ideas. They must also agree to “close the loop”. This means if you give feedback to an organisation, they have to tell you how they used it, and if not, give you a reason why.

### **How will I be kept safe?**

At YNOT, we support all young people to be safe, included and empowered, no matter who they are or where they come from. Have a look at [this poster](#) (designed by a young person) to learn more about YNOT's commitment to youth safety.

YNOT also follows laws and policies about how to keep young people safe. Our staff are mandatory reporters, which means that if a child tells us they aren't safe or we have a concern for their safety, we have to tell relevant authorities so they can help. All staff hold a valid Working With Vulnerable People registration. Learn more on our website [here](#).

### **Can I stop if I don't like it?**

Of course! Participation is voluntary and can be stopped at any time. If there is anything we can do to improve your experience, we would love to help.