

YOUTH NETWORK OF TASMANIA

Annual Report

2024–2025

OUR VISION

A Tasmania where
all young people
are valued



A message from the Chair and CEO



Young people, the youth sector and YNOT continued to create positive change in Tasmania throughout 2024-25.

During the year, young people experienced a marked increase in demand for their contributions to the processes that shape our government systems. This is testament to many years of work by YNOT and our sector to embed the views and experiences of young people in policies and processes that affect them. YNOT continued to support young people to participate in these activities through capacity building and coordination of formal and informal consultation mechanisms.

YNOT also identified an urgent need to support organisations and individuals in the delivery of safe, ethical and meaningful youth consultation following the introduction of the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework and Standards. In response, and to build capacity and understanding across our community, we developed an evidence-informed, cross-sector professional learning program and toolkit focused on youth participation.

“

Every meeting we have influenced YNOT’s goals, priorities and the way it interacts with young people.”

— Riley, YNOT Youth Advisory Council member

In 2024-25, YNOT maintained its outsized impact on policy, participation and the sector while also undertaking major organisational changes to ensure we remain focused, responsive and inclusive. These changes included a refreshed volunteer board, an external review of operations, a modernised constitution and a soon-to-be-launched 2025-2028 strategic plan.

The continued inadequacy and uncertainty of funding for the youth sector made the past 12 months particularly demanding for YNOT and its members. We continue to work with TasCOSS and our fellow peak bodies to achieve fair indexation and greater funding certainty to provide a stronger foundation from which our members can plan and deliver services.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the many successes experienced this year including the YNOT team, Jo Horton, Michelle Sims and Rachael Stanic, YNOT members, our volunteer board members and Youth Advisory Council, and our many partners.

We especially thank Tasmania’s young people for their continued contributions to creating positive change. Your enthusiasm, generosity and optimism sit at the heart of all we do.

— Sally Thompson, Chair & Tania Hunt, CEO

“ I trust YNOT.”

— YNOT member

We acknowledge and pay respect to Palawa/ Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the original owners of Lutruwita/Tasmania. YNOT is located in Nipaluna/Hobart, Palawa country. We acknowledge the Muwinina people of this country and the Tasmanian Aboriginal community of today.

Front cover & above:
2025 TYF participants

An adaptive, skilled and effective youth sector

YNOT continued its member support and advocacy throughout 2024-25 with highlights including a sold out, one-day Sector Symposium, focused advocacy for sustainable funding/indexation, and ongoing analysis of issues and decisions affecting our sector.

YNOT activities

- ✓ Delivered the 2025 Youth Sector Symposium which brought more than 140 sector, state and local government representatives together for a meaningful day of learning and connection.
- ✓ Delivered a pilot Professional Learning Program on Youth Participation to enhance workforce capability.
- ✓ Built and strengthened relationships with key stakeholders including Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania, Local Government Association of Tasmania and the Office of the Independent Regulator.
- ✓ Produced the evidence-informed Youth Participation Toolkit in collaboration with young people, the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia and the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia.

In 2025-26, YNOT will

- 🎯 Continue working collaboratively with the youth sector to strengthen its legitimacy, visibility and recognised value.
- 🎯 Foster partnership opportunities to amplify young people's views and embed them in planning, systems design and decision making.
- 🎯 Continue our partnership with the Department of Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) to develop a Child and Youth Participation Guide that offers best practice guidance on engaging children and young people in decision-making across Education, Libraries, Child Safety, and Youth Justice services in Tasmania.

“

It is incredibly valuable to have these discussions”

—Professional Learning participant

“ **The Symposium was a good place to learn.”**

—Youth sector worker

Youth Sector Symposium
Youth Panel members Lara
from Create Foundation
(left) and Arezo from
Migrant Resource Centre
Tasmania (right)



Young people influence issues relevant to their lives

This year, government policies and systems benefited from young people's generous insights and contributions on topics ranging from election priorities to formal submissions and face-to-face advocacy of decision makers.

YNOT activities

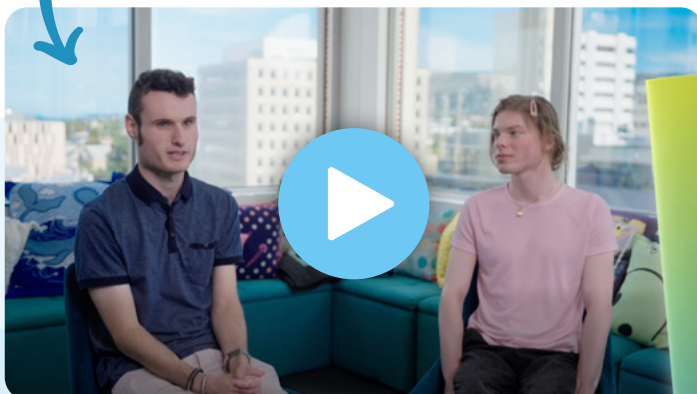
- ✓ Supported YNOT's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) to develop its powerful Federal Election Youth Priorities Statement and communicate their priorities to candidates.
- ✓ Produced formal submissions in response to government, including the Change for Children Strategy, the Independent Review of Education in Tasmania and the State Budget Community Consultation.
- ✓ Supported young people to advocate for stronger action on key issues including cost-of-living relief, mental health, housing security, climate action and education.
- ✓ Delivered youth consultation in partnership with Create Foundation and the Commissioner for Children and Young People to help shape the new Commission for Children and Young People in Tasmania.

In 2025-26, YNOT will

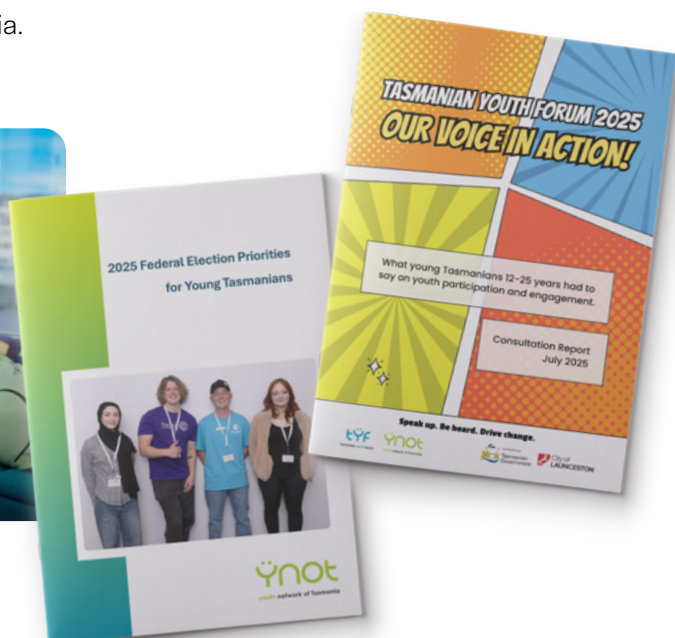
- Strengthen youth led advocacy and participation opportunities by empowering young people to share their views, contribute to decision making and actively shape public policy, programs and initiatives that affect their lives.

“The skills and confidence I gained at YNOT gave me the foundation to step into roles such as serving as a Youth Advisor to the Federal Government last year.”

— Youth advocate



Click to watch the video





Oscar and Dré,
YNOT Youth Advisory
Council members,
shared their views on
the federal election
on ABC Radio.

Young people have a voice on issues that matter to them

Tasmania's young people were in high demand over the past 12 months with increasing requests for consultation on a wide range of subjects from development of the new Commission for Children and Young People to youth homelessness and climate action.

YNOT activities

- ✓ Established a new youth advisory group to inform YNOT's operation and policy positions.
- ✓ Relaunched the Tasmanian Youth Voice Network (TYVN) in partnership with Brand Tasmania.
- ✓ Supported young people to lead advocacy and amplify their views in broadcast, print and social media.

In 2025-26, YNOT will

- Strengthen communication between young people and decision makers by:
 - ✎ providing support and capacity building opportunities.
 - ✎ delivering regional youth forums.
 - ✎ promoting inclusivity, diversity and increased youth participation.

“

I am so grateful for the guidance, support, and opportunities I found through YNOT.”

— Youth advocate



Click to watch the video



youth network of Tasmania

Get in touch with YNOT



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