youth network of Tasmania

Creating a stronger Tasmania through youth voice, participation and leadership

Who we are

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) is the state's peak body for young people aged 12-25 and the non-government youth sector. We connect decision makers and communities with authentic youth perspectives and build pathways for young Tasmanians to drive meaningful change.



Through evidence-informed advocacy, youth participation and strategic partnerships, we have influenced legislative and policy reform, strengthened participation structures, and secured investment that improves outcomes for young people across Tasmania.

This statement highlights key achievements and outcomes delivered in recent years, demonstrating YNOT's sustained impact and contribution to a Tasmania where all young people are valued.

What we have achieved

Embedding youth voice in decision making

- Successfully advocated for the establishment of the Premier's Youth Advisory Council, creating a direct pathway for young people to influence government policy and priorities.
- Successfully advocated for young people's direct involvement in the appointment of Tasmania's Commissioner for Children and Young People, Child Advocate, and Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, through dedicated youth-led recruitment panels.
- Influenced the establishment of Youth Voice and Participation as a dedicated funding priority within the Tasmanian Community Fund, strengthening opportunities for young Tasmanians to influence decisions that affect their lives and communities.
- Co-designed the *Tasmanian Youth Story Project* – a statewide youth participation model that achieved international recognition for its innovative co-design approach and secured further investment to strengthen youth participation through a dedicated Youth Panel Pilot.
- Established statewide youth participation infrastructure through co-design of the Tasmanian Youth Voice Network, creating ongoing pathways for young people to influence policies, programs and services that affect their lives.



Shaped policy and legislative reform

- Successfully advocated for the Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy to extend to age 25.
- Established emerging adulthood as a recognised policy priority, embedding the needs of young people aged 18-25 within Tasmania's child and youth wellbeing policy framework.
- Created Tasmania's first evidence base on emerging adulthood by combining academic research and lived experience evidence to inform policy, investment and service design.
- Secured recognition of emerging adults within Tasmania's 20-Year Preventive Health Strategy 2026-2046, strengthening the focus on youth wellbeing and healthy transitions to adulthood.
- Through leadership of YNOT's Youth Employment Alliance, helped shape Tasmania's inaugural Youth Jobs Strategy, securing youth participation as a core commitment and influencing implementation through the Life, Learning and Work Framework.
- Contributed to the development of the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 2024*, strengthening children's rights, participation and protections.
- Influenced Tasmania's youth justice blueprint and reform agenda through evidence-based advocacy that strengthened commitments to lived-experience-informed policy.
- Helped elevate child and youth homelessness as a distinct policy issue, contributing to the establishment of the Under 16 Homelessness Taskforce and greater recognition of age-appropriate policy responses.

Secured investment and community outcomes

- Established the Youth Employment Alliance and secured more than $800,000 for the Youth Navigators Pilot, strengthening support for year 12 school leavers facing barriers to education, training and employment during COVID-19 recovery.
- Secured a further $1.3 million investment in Youth Connectors through Regional Jobs Hubs, strengthening place-based support and pathways to employment across Tasmania.
- Identified young people's priorities and informed local government investment, contributing to the establishment of the Fitzies Youth Drop-In Hub in Sorell and improved access to safe spaces, support and participation opportunities across Tasmania's south-east.
- Secured $90,000 in 2026 and 2027 to continue the Youth Week Tasmania Small Grants Program, supporting youth-led projects that increase participation, leadership and community engagement for young Tasmanians.

Our impact

YNOT has helped create lasting change by embedding young people's voices in policy, legislation, services and investment decisions across Tasmania.

Through evidence-informed advocacy, youth participation and sector leadership, we have strengthened the systems that support young people and expanded opportunities for them to influence decisions that affect their lives.

The result is a stronger, more inclusive Tasmania, where lived experience informs decision making and young people are empowered to shape their futures and the future of our state.

For more information please email YNOT Chief Executive Officer Tania Hunt at tania@ynot.org.au or connect with us here.