we are the STRONG VOICE for the YOUTH of TASMANIA

Ynot youth network of Tasmania
TYF Tasmanian youth forum
TYC Tasmanian youth conference

ANNUAL REPORT 2012
This year has been a time of beginnings and endings, and as such, it is time to celebrate, reflect and give thanks.

We need to celebrate the achievements of YNOT, which this year includes:

- two very successful Statewide Tasmanian Youth Forums,
- the success of the Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania Consultation Paper,
- a huge increase in YNOT’s media presence,
- YNOT’s contribution to numerous submissions and policy documents to government and other stakeholders; including a budget overview for the youth sector and an invitation to share our thoughts with the Premier
- our participation in Tasmania’s National Youth Week, which was highly successful,
- continued involvement in YNOT by students, volunteers and TYF members.

It is also a time to reflect on the benefit of YNOT to our stakeholders and the broader community. YNOT activities have markedly increased sectoral levels of collaboration and communication between non-government organisations, local, state and commonwealth governments.

The benefits of this include greater youth participation across the board, enhanced contributions from service providers at all levels of youth sector debates, as well as improved communication and linkages between youth participation groups.

YNOT has also continued to act in its capacity as the peak youth body within the sector, providing specialised knowledge and a state-wide perspective within the regional bodies of Youth Action Priorities (YAP), Northern Youth Collaborative Committee (NYCC) and North West Action for Youth (NWAY). It has also maintained, and further developed, its role as an organisation from which others seek advice on youth issues.

Our thanks go to the Minister for Community Development, Cassy O’Connor MP for her on going support and assistance. Our thanks also go to staff of the Community Development Division, Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC), particularly Director Nick Evans and the Principal Liaison Officer for Children and Youth, Anthony King.

The YNOT Board of Governance is made up of well-regarded people who have a commonality in their commitment to improving outcomes for young people in the Tasmanian community. The environment in which YNOT operates is becoming increasingly complex and requires more of their time, knowledge and skills. It is appreciated by myself, that in an ever increasingly busy world, my fellow Board Members have given up their time voluntarily to contribute to YNOT in the manner they do.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Jo Siejka, the well regarded CEO and public face of YNOT, who continues to deliver high quality work that continually improves outcomes for the youth sector and young people. I would also like to thank the other hard working staff of YNOT: Naomi Marsh, Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) Policy and Project Officer and Dean Cooper, Finance and IT Officer, for their contributions to making the YNOT organisation the well-functioning and highly respected peak body that it is today. Last but not least, I would like to offer YNOT’s thanks to our many students, volunteers and TYF members.

This is my last YNOT Chairman’s Annual Report and I leave YNOT content in the knowledge that the peak body is in very good hands, and that it will continue to significantly contribute to the wellbeing of young Tasmanians and all of the people that assist and support them.
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Burnie Youth Accommodation Service

Ros Atkinson
Vice Chair
Youth and Family Focus

Debbie Hindle
Treasurer
National Disability Coordination Officer at University of Tasmania

Mark Joseph
Hobart City Council

Chris Edwards
TYF Member and National Youth Week Tasmania Young Person Representative; National Planning Group member (Tas) for National Youth Week

Ann Davie
Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies

Matt Durose
Mission Australia

Rob Meredith
Derwent and Tamar Chambers

Karinya Young Women’s Refuge
Collective Members

Alysha House
Circular Head Council

Fiona Calvert
Colony 47 (November 2011 – mid 2012)
Supporters & sponsors

Special thanks to:
Special thanks to the Community Development Division, Department of Premier and Cabinet as the major funding body of YNOT, TYF and the Tasmanian Youth Conference

In 2011–12 YNOT and TYF also received assistance from:

Amanda Street, Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATDC)
Ann Davie, Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies (ACYS)
Anthony King, Community Development Division, Department of Premier and Cabinet
Australian Youth Affairs Coalition
Australian Youth Forum
National Youth Week grants, Community Development Division, Department of Premier and Cabinet
Burnie City Council
Cecilia Nagy, Population Health, Department of Health and Human Services
Celina Sargent Population Health, Department of Health and Human Services
Circular Head Council
Colony 47
Darren Robinson, Healthy Together – Bicheno to Buckland
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Launceston City Council
Lifeline
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Lucy Lester, mental health advocate
Michael O’Meara, MoHow Consultancy
Mission Australia
Maree Fudge, RDS Partners
Nathan Gelston Web Design
National Youth Coalition for Housing
Office of the Commissioner for Children (Tas)
Outright Youth
Pulse Youth Health South
Robin Banks, Anti-Discrimination Commissioner
Simone Zell, Pulse Youth Health South
Speak Out Advocacy
Statewide Youth Collaborative group (SYC)
Tasmanian Regional Arts
Waratah-Wynyard Council
Wendy Newton, Launceston City Council
Working It Out
Young Carers Association
Youth Arts Recreation Centre
Youth Development and Support Program, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Office for Youth
YNOT members

Aboriginal Hostels Limited  
Andrew Verdouw  
Anglicare Tasmania Inc. (North)  
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Annie Kenney Young Women’s Refuge Inc.  
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Chris Edwards  
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Celina Sargent  
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Community Development Division, Department of Premier and Cabinet  
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Derwent Valley Council  
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Working It Out  
Youth Coalition of the ACT  
Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ)  
Youth Affairs Council of South Australia (YACCSA)  
Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc (YACVIC)  
Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA)  
Youth Action & Policy Association Inc (YAPA)
The latest Australian census data tells us that as at August 2011 there were 82,005 young people in Tasmania. These young people make up 16.55% of the entire Tasmanian population, or approximately one in seven people.

This proportion has reduced since 2006, due to Tasmania’s ageing population. Although the proportion of young people in Tasmania is decreasing across the entire population, young people still face significant issues which should be of broad community concern. These issues include educational retention, employment, homelessness, physical and mental health, disability, bullying and public safety, child protection and out of home care. With your continued support, and alongside the broader youth sector, YNOT will continue to be a strong advocate for the needs of young people in Tasmania.

This year we say farewell to our Chair John West. John has been a truly dedicated and conscientious YNOT member, Board member, Treasurer and Chair for 15 years and we cannot thank him enough for his contribution to us in this time. I would also like to thank John myself, for being such a wonderfully kind, wise and supportive mentor to me as I have found my way in to the role of CEO during this first eighteen months.

Thankfully, we have a host of fantastic and active Board members, great staff in Naomi and Dean, and many volunteers and TYF members, to help continue on the work of YNOT, as they have done in this past year. I would also like to thank Leigh Tesch, our wonderful CollaborART Project Officer, whose project was completed in September 2011, for all her work with YNOT.

Although a change in Chair can be considered significant, the time is appropriate for YNOT as an organisation. During this past year and a half the YNOT Board has been very busy reviewing many of our internal operations. Towards the end of last year we finalised a review of the YNOT constitution and have moved to a Board of Governance. Over the course of the last 12 months we have developed policies to reflect this change, as well as reviewed our Mission and Vision statements. We have also welcomed several new Board members.

It seems that every year we say that we have had a big year, but the work and reach of the organisation honestly does seem to grow annually. Of particular note this year was the release of our Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania Consultation Paper which received over 65 responses from the sector. The YNOT AGM and sector forum in November, the many submissions and policy responses we provided on behalf of the sector and the considerable increase in media attention that we subsequently received, are also notable achievements.

YNOT and TYF were also involved in many events, and I feel quite confident in saying that we played a part in Tasmania’s most successful National Youth Week in 2012, as well as hosting our biggest Youth Homelessness Matters Day yet.

This coming year is also set to be a busy and productive time for YNOT as we organise the 2013 Tasmanian Youth Conference, and we will continue to build on the good work that the organisation has done this past year with your support and assistance.
Collaborations and other YNOT work

In 2011-12, YNOT conducted a number of consultations with the youth sector and young people. In preparation for submission processes and position papers, YNOT has a three tiered approach which involves consulting with the youth sector, young people and the relevant research on an issue. Depending upon time available for submission processes, consultation can include online surveys, face to face forums, face to face/phone interviews, the collection of written submissions, and additionally may vary from consulting full YNOT members and TYF members, through to wider requests of the sector and young people.

YNOT conducted formal consultations which included both face to face, written submissions and online surveys, with the wider youth sector on the draft Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania and the YNOT Budget Submission to the Tasmanian Government. YNOT also provided consultation mechanisms for the sector and young people to contribute to a number of policy submissions and policy requests. These included the YNOT response to the Review of the Disability Framework for Action, the YNOT response to the Youth Justice Amendment Act submission, the YNOT response to the Draft Tasmanian Homelessness Charter, the YNOT response to the AYF Evaluation, the YNOT policy paper on Police Searches of Children and Young People and the YNOT policy paper on the role of the PCYCs.

Throughout 2011-12 YNOT provided a number of submissions and policy responses to state and national Government policy development processes, as well as responded proactively to issues of concern to the youth sector and young people through the development of position papers. These submissions and policy papers were:

- Youth Justice Amendment Act Submission
- YNOT Submission on the role of the PCYCs
- YNOT Submission on Police Searches of Children and Young People
- YNOT Submission on the Review of the Disability Framework for Action
- YNOT Sector Submission to the State Government Budget
- YNOT Submission to the Draft Tasmanian Homelessness Charter
- YNOT Response to the AYF Evaluation
- YNOT Response to the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner’s Evaluation of Volunteering and Age
- Contribution to the Tasmanian Women’s Plan
- Contribution to the ACARA National Curriculum on Health and Wellbeing
- YNOT 2012-13 Budget Details for the youth sector.

During November 2011, YNOT held its annual AGM and Sector Forum, with support from the Community Development Division (DPAC), at the Ba’Hai Centre in Hobart. Youth workers from across the state presented on projects and programs they were delivering in their areas to the wider sector and young people on issues such as gambling, youth justice, development of phone applications and the arts. The guest speaker for the event was Michael Coffey, Chair of the National Youth Coalition for Housing, who shared his experiences on the changes in the youth homelessness sector both in Australia and overseas. As part of the AGM, YNOT was able to table the newly reviewed YNOT constitution, which had been a considerable piece of work that the Board had undertaken over several months.

In late 2011, members of the Youth Justice Act Amendment Steering Committee, including YNOT, were involved in a consultation process. This consultation process, focusing on financial considerations, was restricted to the members of the Youth Justice Act Steering Committee, of which YNOT is a member. In order to inform our submission, YNOT consulted with the sector on a number of items including:

- Deferred sentencing
- Youth justice workers attending community conferences
- Illicit drug testing
- Aboriginal community conference facilitators
- Detention centre not suitable for remand.

A highlight for YNOT in 2011-12 was the release of the consultation paper for the Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania. The Minister for Community Development, Hon Cassy O’Connor MP, launched the Tasmanian Youth Ethics Framework consultation paper at Parliament House, Hobart on 17 April 2012, as part of National Youth Week.
A dedicated group of sector representatives, led by the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) made significant contributions to the Framework over the past year. The group included representatives from across Tasmania and from many different parts of the sector. The Tasmanian youth sector does vital work supporting and engaging with Tasmanian young people, some of whom are the most vulnerable in our community. The draft Youth Ethics Framework is very accessible and plainly states how youth workers engage with young people, as well as describes the unique ethical aspects of that relationship. The Youth Ethics Framework will support workers’ daily decision making in meeting the needs of young people.

Following this, the non-government and government youth sector and young people were encouraged to engage in the consultation process, in order to ensure that the Youth Ethics Framework reflected their needs. The range of feedback requested included looking at ways of implementing the code in practice by individuals and organisations. The group received a significant number of responses to the consultation document:

- over 60 submissions were received;
- submissions received were from individuals, organisations, Tasmanian Government agencies and sector bodies across Tasmania;
- there was unanimous in principle support for the introduction of a Code of Ethics in Tasmania.

YNOT continued to work on its sector mapping project throughout 2011-12. YNOT, as part of our grant deed requirements, is leading a youth sector mapping project, together with a representative from the Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies (ACYS). The mapping project proposes to ‘map’ government and non-government youth services statewide. This has also been adopted by the SYC strategic plan, through the formation of a working group and to utilise SYC’s resources as a key communication and consultation tool in the sector. This is a considerable piece of work which will continue for the coming year.

YNOT remained committed to further the work of the Community Sector Peak’s Network (CSPN) over the past year. Through this forum YNOT is able to facilitate collaboration of wider community sector organisations with services focusing on young people, as well as advocate for key issues of concern to the community sector, such as pay equity. A key piece of work that the CSPN partnered with TasCOSS to produce, was the Community Sector Workforce Development Plan. YNOT provided considerable input into the draft of the plan, and was able to gather a huge amount of feedback from the youth sector, to feed into the final version of the document. The CSPN also meets regularly with government through the Peaks Network and Government Strategic Forum. Being involved in this group throughout 2011-12 has involved YNOT participation in the Partnerships Agreement Working Group, which has developed and consulted on a draft partnership agreement between the community sector and state government. Through the CSPN, YNOT is also a member of the Red Tape Reduction Working Group.

Throughout 2011-12, YNOT provided Tasmanian youth and sector input into submissions, reports and policy development of the Australian youth peak, the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC). YNOT has a role on AYAC’s policy affairs group, which meets face to face twice a year, and by teleconference as required. Many of the submissions led by AYAC are jointly authored by the other state-peaks, including YNOT, in the past year these have included a submission on the need for a national children’s commissioner and the school chaplaincy platform. YNOT also provided considerable input into the development of AYAC’s policy platform, as well as consulting with key youth sector members in Tasmania. One example of the work YNOT and TYF assisted AYAC with was their research into the effectiveness of the federal government’s ‘earn or learn’ policy by interview young people across the state.

The work of the National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH) remained a priority for YNOT in 2011-12. YNOT is the Tasmanian representative on the National Youth Coalition for Housing, which is the peak youth homelessness group in Australia. Involvement on NYCH includes face to face meetings, teleconferences, participation in the development of policy papers, and participation in Youth Homelessness Matters Day. YNOT consults with Tasmanian youth sector stakeholders throughout the year in order to represent their concerns, and the needs of young homeless people. NYCH held one of its two annual face to face meetings in Hobart in late 2011, and YNOT was active in encouraging the local youth sector to engage in their visit. YNOT, in partnership with the Community Development Division, organised a visit for NYCH members to local youth sector services, which proved informative for both NYCH members and the local sector representatives. YNOT is one of the NYCH Homelessness Australia Board members, and is such, also provides Tasmanian youth sector and young people into their policy and submission development processes.
VISION

A Tasmania where young people are actively engaged in community life and have access to the resources needed to develop their potential.

MISSION

To work with young people, the Tasmanian Youth Sector, the community and all levels of government to increase the participation and contribution of young people in the state.
The Statewide Youth Collaborative (SYC) group has continued to meet quarterly in 2011-2012. We have had good representation from a number of government agencies and the community sector. Guest speakers have included Dr Fiona Wagg in relation to access to mental health services for young people and Dave Haynes from Kids Come First to look at data and young people.

One of the key activities completed by SYC during this time is the Top 10 Tips – SYC’s guide to consulting with young people. This piece of work consisted of a poster and a pamphlet that aims to provide those consulting with young people, particularly government agencies, a quick reference tool to ensure that they do “good consulting”.

The Top 10 Tips were launched by The Minister for Community Development, Cassy O’Connor during National Youth Week this year. SYC is now in the planning stages for a subsequent publication that will be for young people to ensure they have the information they need to participate in consultation processes.

Youth Action Priorities (YAP) continue to provide a valuable forum for youth services from southern Tasmania to network across the region, identify resources, goals and issues that have an impact on the lives of young people and to advocate on behalf of their communities.

Facilitated by Hobart City Council’s Community Inclusion Unit, YAP activities and discussions are driven by members who include representatives from health, social, educational, recreational and cultural organisations at a community, local and state government level.

YAP meetings are held in different locations to maximise participation across the region and as a professional development opportunity by increasing members’ awareness of facilities and services. YAP meetings in 2012 were held at Pulse Youth Health Centre in Glenorchy, Kingborough Council’s YSpace in Kingston, the Clarence Integrated Health Centre, Rosny and at Mission Australia’s Chigwell House in Berriedale.

During 2012 YAP members were involved in the development of YNOT’s Youth Ethics Framework, contributed to budget submissions to the Tasmanian government as well as advocating on behalf of the Hobart Police and Community Youth Club when funding to this important service was threatened.

Mark Joseph, YAP Chair
Northern Youth Coordinating Committee (NYCC)

The Northern Youth Coordinating Committee is a special committee of Council as defined in the *Local Government Act (TAS)* 1993, s. 24. During 2011-12 under the new Chair, Alderman Danny Gibson, who took over from outgoing Chair, Deputy Mayor Alderman Jeremy Ball, in November 2011, and with a continued growing membership of over 90 active members, a key focus of NYCC has been to define the role, responsibilities, structure, processes and authority of the Committee.

Through Policy and Terms of Reference development, NYCC members defined their role as:

- To create a forum for networking, sharing information and discussing youth issues relevant to Northern Tasmania;
- To form member working groups for undertaking collaborative cross-agency youth projects;
- To provide representation on external committees as agreed to by members;
- To provide advice to Council on specific matters relating to youth;
- To provide advice to State and Federal Governments on specific matters relating to youth; and
- To provide professional development opportunities for Committee members.

Over the year, NYCC also provided input into and participated in YNOT’s Youth Ethics Framework, Tasmanian Women’s Plan 2012-17, Launceston City Council’s report on Antisocial Behaviour, TYF’s Anti-dote Youth Forum and Launceston Youth Services Map design and content.

NYCC also provided funding to TL3 towards their Flinders Island Transition program, Fusion towards their Youth Day Trips, three members to attend the Butterfly Foundation’s workshop on body image and eating disorders and the PCYC towards their Man Up program.

Wendy Newton, NYCC Secretariat

North West Action for Youth (NWAY)

The North West Action for Youth Group (NWAY) continues to be a solid platform for information sharing, networking and collaboration for youth service providers across the North West Coast. A number of topics were raised for discussion at NWAY meetings but there was particular focus on youth health, specifically sexual health and mental health.

Over 900 year 9 students from across the coast participated in the National Youth Week Imagine, Create, Inspire Regional Y-Expo, delivered through a collaboration between NWAY members Circular Head, Waratah-Wynyard, Burnie, Central Coast, Kentish and Devonport Councils, and Rural Health. The event held in Burnie focused on developing strategies for positive mental health and where to seek help.

A sub-committee of NWAY also continues to work with the Community Development Division and NYCC on the development of a smart-phone youth services application. NWAY members also participated in the development of the Tasmanian Youth Ethics Framework.

Special thanks must go to Ald Sandra French, NWAY Chairperson, for her continued support of NWAY and the Burnie City Council for secretarial support.

Karli Franks, NWAY Secretariat
Unfortunately, we have all heard people say things like ‘young people today are apathetic about their community.’ While I appreciate the dedication of past generations, I do not believe that today’s young people care any less for their communities, nor lack passion for social change!

I want to acknowledge the hundreds of young Tasmanians TYF has connected with over the last year. Whether it be through attending a forum, participating in events such as Youth Parliament, or involvement in youth—led organisations, young Tasmanians are passionate about making a difference in their communities!

I also want to highlight the TYF volunteers who gave so much of their time, hard work and dedication to making 2011-12 one of the most action-packed TYF years yet! These young people are amazing leaders who are driven to be part of social change. Most are also passionate about inspiring other young people to become involved in social activities, and almost all balance volunteering with study, training, work and other commitments. These inspiring young Tasmanians helped expand TYF’s profile in 2011-12, achieving record coverage with news media and social networking, and engaging the wider community and young people from diverse backgrounds and experiences. TYF volunteers also continued to contribute to YNOT reports and submissions, as well as attended meetings, participated in media interviews, judging panels and committees, with, and on behalf of, YNOT and TYF. I also acknowledge the support of the young people that did volunteer work experience with TYF.

This year has also included many personal highlights, including participation in the insane and inspiring Commonwealth Youth Forum 2011, and the consultation sessions with over 100 young people, organised for The Nest Project at Geilston Bay High School, with the Glenorchy Youth Taskforce, and with young people from Wynyard, Burnie, Devonport and Smithton. I also acknowledge the amazingness of National Youth Week in 2011, and meeting inspiring young people through connection with the Tasmanian African Youth Association, the 2012 National Indigenous Youth Parliament, and roadtripping around Tasmania with the 2011 UN Youth Representative for Australia Benson Saulo. And, of course, I must mention the TYF Statewide Forums, which continue to provide a great opportunity for young Tasmanians to have a say on the issues that matter to them, as well as to connect with youth sector workers and decision makers.

To finish, TYF grows from strength to strength each year, continuing to support YNOT’s activities, as well as providing a representative voice of young Tasmanians to decision makers – and I can only hope that in 2012-13 TYF is able to continue to expand and support the young people with whom we engage.
All about TYF

I support TYF by helping to promote and run youth events, including designing posters and flyers for these events, and sometimes I even get to incorporate my passion for graffiti art by running workshops and educating young people on how to do graffiti in a safe, legal way.

Recently, I was given the opportunity to speak to over 170 young people at a TYF event about my personal experience with mental health issues, sexuality, relationships and moving around.

I felt privileged to be able to share my experiences with everybody and to let them know that even when things seem bad, there is always help out there, things do get better, and in the end, a little perseverance really pays off.

The reason I am in TYF is because I feel that it is important for young people to have a say, because young people are the future and if they aren’t allowed to have input into issues affecting them now, how can we expect them to be leaders when they are older?

TYF members and volunteers

In 2011-2012, TYF has expanded its network to young people from many diverse backgrounds, including a number of young people that identify as Aboriginal Australians, as well as from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds.

TYF membership also continues to include young people from across Tasmania’s regions, including areas as diverse as Smithton, Cape Barren Island, Margate and New Norfolk. New TYF member Jacob Couchman said that ‘participation in TYF is one of things that will help me grow… ’Young people should have a say because they have new ideas that will help Australia’

A number of TYF members have been particularly active in 2011-12, and we would like to acknowledge their hard work and commitment to ensuring young people have an active say in Tasmania. These young people include: Briar Walker, Caitlin Frost, Callum Findlay, Catherine Cartwright, Cedrick Mulumba, Chloe Turner, Chris Edwards, Danni Murfet, Dylan Jarvis, Griffin Blizzard, Hani Provan, Liam Marsh, Madeleine Charles, Metika Claxton, Nathan Gelston, Rebekah Shurley, Robyn Lewis, Sarah Cartwright and Teangi Brown.

L-R TYF Members Nathan Gelston and Chloe Turner running an activity for TYF
TYF Antidote Statewide Forum

The TYF Anti-dote Forum on Anti-Discrimination was held at the Door of Hope in Launceston on August 12 2011, the last day of the International Year of Youth. The 130 young people (12-25 years) present discussed discrimination as they had experienced or had witnessed, with particular focus on issues such as racism, discrimination on basis of sexuality, gender, age, poverty and region.

The forum was facilitated by Michael O’Meara of MOHOW Consultancy and supported by TYF members. The forum also featured the launch of Launceston City Council’s Anti-Bullying Campaign by Mayor Albert Van Zetten.

Discussion was supported by representatives of organisations like Colony 47, Mission Australia, Speak Out Advocacy and Outright Youth, as well as attended by Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Robin Banks, Attorney-General Brian Wightman MP and Shadow Minister for Community Development Elise Archer MP. We would like to thank these organisations and individuals, as well as the support received from the Community Development Division (DPAC), and the Launceston City Council.

A communiqué detailing the main ideas and strategies for change suggested by young people at the forum was launched by Minister Cassy O’Connor MP on 1 November 2011. The communiqué included participants’ concerns about homophobia in Tasmania.

TYF Hey Good Looking Statewide Forum

On December 1 2011, World Aids Day, The TYF ‘Hey Good Lookin!’ Statewide Forum on Health and Wellbeing gathered 60 young people (aged 12-25 years) from across Tasmania to discuss their concerns about health and wellbeing issues. The forum was held at YouthARC in Hobart, and was facilitated by TYF members, with the support of Maree Fudge of RDS Partners. Participants discussed what ‘health and wellbeing’ meant to them, through participating in an anonymous survey and workshops on topics such as mental health, sleep, body image, sexual health and exercise. Participants also heard from Mental Heath advocate Lucy Lester, took part in an interactive Red Aware ‘condom-brooch’ activity for International World Aid’s Day, and participated in a Hip-Hop dance workshop.

Discussion on health and wellbeing was supported by ‘community experts’ from organisations including headscape (South), Mission Australia, Pulse Youth Health Centre, Drug Education Network (DEN), Flourish Mental Health Action In Our Hands Inc, and The Link. We would like to thank these organisations, as well as the support received from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Community Development Division (DPAC), Flourish Mental Health Action In Our Hands Inc., the Hobart City Council, and various other individuals who assisted during the day.

A communiqué outlining the main ideas and issues at the forum was publically launched by Minister Cassy O’Connor MP on 15 May 2012. It outlines some of the practical strategies and initiatives proposed by the participants to promote healthy habits. It also includes an analysis of the anonymous survey that the participants completed at the beginning of the day.
National Youth Week (NYW) was held April 13-22 2012, with the theme Imagine. Create. Inspire. In 2012, over 77 events and 334 activities were part of NYW in Tasmania, reaching around 13,823 young people. Around 1,225 young people were also involved in the planning and development of these events.

As in other years, TYF was heavily involved in the planning of NYW, with participation on the NYW Steering Committee, along with TYF members Chris Edwards, Catelyn Richards, Chloe Turner, Griffin Blizzard, Luke Foster and Metika Claxton. Participation on the Steering Committee included attendance at face-to-face meetings and teleconferences, and providing advice on how NYW should be coordinated, the types of promotion methods used and where the launch event should be held. TYF member Metika said that her experience was ‘great … and it was wonderful to be able to have a say towards a week dedicated to youth’. TYF was also part of the panel that assessed applicants to the NYW Community Grants Program. In 2012 TYF was also proud to see TYF volunteer Chris Edwards be selected as the Tasmanian Young Member for 2012. In reference to his participation, Chris said “I think it is really important for young people to be recognised for their contribution to their communities. … NYW is a perfect way to do this and so when the opportunity came up to be involved… I jumped at it!”

This year, the Launch of NYW in Tasmania was held at Rosebery Community House, with support from DPAC, YNOT and Youth beyondblue. The event Youth Rocks the West Coast included live music by local bands, games, a mini expo of youth resources and a chill-out zone. Youth Rocks the West Coast was a great event, and it was fantastic to see such enthusiasm in a region that rarely features such high profile youth events.
Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) is a national awareness campaign held during NYW, run by the National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH). On any given night in Australia 105,000 people are homeless and nearly half of these are under the age of 25. YHMD aims to raise public awareness about youth homelessness and celebrate the resilience of young people who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Australia.

YNOT, the Tasmanian representative for NYCH, held a YHMD event in the Elizabeth St Mall, Hobart. The event displayed an art installation of personally decorated ‘rubik’s cubes’, curated by local artist and curator Caroline Amos. The cubes were created by young people from local youth homelessness services, who were encouraged to express their thoughts, in any art form they would like to use, on this year’s theme of ‘Be Part of the Solution’ in decorating their cubes. People who attended the event were also able to make their own cube with ideas on how to be part of the solution to youth homelessness. Audio recordings and installation were also part of the display. Listening to the words and stories of young Tasmanians who have experienced homelessness was a very powerful experience. Local Tasmanian youth services, Colony 47, Youth and Family Focus, and Mission Australia also had stalls on the day, provided information about their services.

The event was attended by the Minister for Community Development, Cassy O’Connor MP, as well as other State and Federal politicians, who all received a copy of the National Youth Coalition for Housing’s Charter of Rights. YNOT also supported a number of other events held across the State, including at the Geelvenston Community House, on the East Coast, and at Relationships Australia (Launceston).
Other opportunities with TYF

Each year during NYW, the Southern Cross Young Achiever Awards are held to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of young Tasmanians. This year more than 350 people attended the Gala Presentation Dinner in Hobart, which was a wonderful event to conclude NYW 2012. YNOT CEO Joanna Siejka and TYF member Chris Edwards were involved in the judging of the awards, as well as attended the Gala Dinner. TYF would like to acknowledge the achievements of Cait Clarke, from Kentish, who won the prestigious Premier’s Young Achiever Award, selected from all the category award winners.

In 2011—2012, TYF continued to support the Australian Youth Forum (AYF). This included organising the AYF’s Tasmanian forums on Australian Apprenticeships with around 90 young Tasmanians. Forums were held in July and August 2011 at Skills Tasmania, at Montrose Bay High School’s Big Picture Campus, Flinders Island, as well as with young people in Kingborough region and from Guilford Young College. In 2012 TYF was also excited to congratulate TYF member Cedrick Mulumba on becoming the Tasmanian Steering Committee member for the AYF.

Between 18-22 July YNOT and TYF hosted the Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations, Benson Saulo. As part of his role, Benson travelled across the country asking young Australians about their thoughts on education, Indigenous issues, Human Rights and mutual understanding, which would inform his report to the General Assembly in New York. During his visit to Tasmania, Benson met with a number of youth sector representatives, including the Australian Clearinghouse of Youth Studies (ACYS), Mission Australia, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Meenah Mienne and the Time Out House. Benson and YNOT staff also went on a tour of Ashley Detention Centre, as well as consulted with students at Mountrose Bay High School’s Big Picture Campus.

TYF’s CollaborART project (based within the Central Highlands, Southern Midlands and Derwent Valley) concluded in September 2011 with the Launch and touring exhibition of the artwork developed through partnerships between young people and established artists. The CollaborART Art Exhibition was officially opened by Hon Dick Adams MP, at The Blue Place in Kempton on 17 September 2011, as part of “A Kempton Affair” weekend activities. The exhibition was also shown in Oatlands, as well as in Hobart’s Youth ARC, the latter also involving a public forum on young people and art. Thank you to our CollaborART Project Officer Leigh Tesch for all her work on the project, and to the Youth Development and Support Program, Department of Education and Workplace Relations, Office for Youth for the grant which funded the project.

Held during September 2011 in Perth (Western Australia), the Commonwealth Youth Forum was an amazing opportunity for 160 young people from across the Commonwealth nations to contribute to CHOGM 2011. Mike Cain and Naomi Marsh were selected as Australian delegates from Tasmania. Mike stating that it was an ‘amazing experience… it was really interesting to see how each country has dealt, or is dealing, with certain issues affecting youth’. Naomi was given the privilege of being part of the small group that wrote the communiqué about the outcomes of CYF, presented to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and CHOGM officials.