AYAC 2013
NATIONAL YOUTH AFFAIRS CONFERENCE

PROGRAM 5TH - 7TH AUGUST 2013

YOUTH PARTICIPATION | ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE | SUPPORT THE SECTOR | DRIVE RESEARCH FOR BETTER PRACTICE
THE NATIONAL YOUTH AFFAIRS CONFERENCE

DAY 1 – MONDAY 5TH AUG

YOUTH PARTICIPATION OVERVIEW:
Plenaries and other sessions on this theme will focus on building the participation of young people in decisions that affect them, including the way that services are provided to them, how they participate in decisions now that will shape Australia’s future and taking part in topics not traditionally seen as youth issues during the election.

DAY 2 – TUESDAY 6TH AUG

ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE OVERVIEW:
Plenary sessions on this day will focus on achieving change on the most important of the youth issues contained in the AYAC Policy Platform. The day will involve panels of ministers and members of parliament to discuss what needs to change. We’ll also be inviting national media – so make sure you look schmuck!

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY 7TH AUG

SUPPORT THE SECTOR / DRIVE RESEARCH OVERVIEW:
This day will focus on developing the skills and knowledge-base across the youth affairs sector, showcasing the best work and research in the sector, and even looking at how we can support the sector to take care of itself. Expect a whole lot of youth sector love in the room!
On behalf of team AYAC, we hope the next three days will inspire you, leave you with new skills and knowledge, and spark your interests in the most important issues facing the youth affairs sector across Australia. We also wish to showcase you, the Australian youth affairs sector, in all your wonderful complexity – for all the nation to see.

At AYAC 2013 you will join representatives from across the breadth of the youth affairs sector – including youth workers & youth service managers, community-minded young people & young changemakers, youth policy-makers and youth researchers at the stunning National Wine Centre in Adelaide, SA.

All three days will be an opportunity for the youth affairs sector to connect, have fun, hear more about what we can learn from the latest research and innovative programs, learn from each other & influence the national debate on young people and youth affairs.

We acknowledge the support of ALL our sponsors, and particularly our Conference Principal Partner, the Office for Youth, Australian Government Department for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, who have helped make this event possible.

We hope you grow, get energised and enjoy AYAC 2013.

– The AYAC team
AYAC is the leading national youth affairs body, comprising a membership of organisations and individuals - including young people and the not-so-young – who are committed to progressing towards an Australia where ALL young people fully and meaningfully participate in their communities.

Our values are evident in all of our work. They each shape the way we operate as an organisation.

AYAC believes in young people. Young people have important contributions to make to the Australian community – both now and in the future.

AYAC values the youth support sector and the powerful role youth workers and other professionals can have in promoting the positive development of young Australians. AYAC works to build the capacity of the youth sector to establish powerful and positive approaches to youth engagement and to ensure youth services have access to the resources they require to meet the needs of young people.

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Reynato Reodica
Rey is AYAC’s Acting Executive Director.
He has been working on policy and youth affairs for the past 13 years, starting out as a youth advocate on issues such as education reform and young drivers, and was a member of the NSW Government Ministerial Youth Advisory Council for three years.

Since then, Rey reluctantly relinquished his title as “young person” and transitioned into roles working in the interests of young Australians, as Chief Executive of the peak youth affairs body in NSW for 5 years before moving to AYAC as our Deputy Director (Youth Sector) in April 2012.

Rey likes hip hop and thinks he can dance (dance, dance, dance).

Jacqui McKenzie
Jacqui McKenzie is AYAC’s Acting Deputy Director (Youth Sector)
Jacqui’s expertise includes over eight years of experience in the third sector, across finance, projects and policy, in an advocacy and social justice environment. Having worked with AYAC since it established permanent offices in 2010, Jacqui continues to contribute an energetic approach to research, analysis, campaigning and awareness-raising across the full spectrum of AYAC’s work.

A year living in Mexico City has given her a passion for languages (sans grammar) and all things Chilango. Come say hola.

Joshua Genner
Joshua Genner is AYAC’s Deputy Director (Young People)
After finishing school Joshua moved to the Faroe Islands to care for his mother and started his work life as a builder.

Since then Joshua has worked on progressive campaigns, in the third sector and for elected representatives in the United Kingdom and back home in Australia. Josh slept on the streets of Paris for two months he says “partly because I was broke and partly because I wanted a bit of grit”.

He is planning a move to Indonesia, Colombia or Darwin, if you have any advice he’d love to hear it.

Belinda Roperti
Belinda joined AYAC in late January 2013, switching over from work in the corporate world. Being the administrator, she has been able to capitalise on her Business Administration degree and previous office / finance experience in her time at AYAC.

Belinda says AYAC has provided her a great opportunity in furthering her interest in supporting young people to achieve their goals and to be heard.

The switch from corporate dealings to the third sector coincided with Belinda’s new found passion for surfing.
She is soon to be the owner of a new board. And so, it has begun...
AYAC has put together a range of exciting panels and keynotes for our AYAC2013 participants.

KEYNOTE: Adam Pulford

Adam Pulford is the 2013 Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations.

Adam comes to the role with experience in youth organisations across the country. He’s held leadership positions in UN Youth Australia, Oaktree, and most recently PROJECT ROCKIT.

Adam is 23 and lives in a Melbourne sharehouse (called Kelso). Adam is deeply passionate about the power that young people have to create change in local and global issues. His belief in young people’s potential to create the world they want to see will drive his time as the United Nations Youth Representative for 2013.

Through Adam’s work, Adam has seen firsthand the passion and power that young people have to create change in their communities. Adam believes young people have both an incredible opportunity and the responsibility to act now to build the world in which they want to live.

KEYNOTE: John Loughton

PANEL: YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Lauren Moss, David Baker, John Loughton, Viv Benjamin

DAY 1

PANEL: YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Young people are experts in their own life’s – can we catch up?

In the heated political climate in the lead up to the federal election, you’ll hear from a range of experiences, across a variety of sectors (and countries), about how, why and what young people are doing to be heard on decisions now that will shape their future and taking part in topics not traditionally seen as youth issues during the election – chartering their own course.

David Baker

Director of Research // The Australia Institute

David Baker is Director of Research at The Australia Institute. His recent work has included a research project exploring the attitudes and policy priorities of young Australian voters. David has a Bachelor of Arts (Sociology) from Latrobe University and is currently studying for a Masters in Criminology. He has been a research officer with the Victorian Parliament and in a former life worked as an automotive designer. David’s research interests include the social outcomes of government policy and the role and design of policy to improve social equity.

Lauren Moss

Lauren is 26 years old and a very proud Territorian. She coordinates a government program focused on young people, which she got involved in through consultations in her youth capacity; leads the Skin Deep Project, which started as a youth led; has been a task force member for Youth Parliament Northern Territory and is a Board Member at AYAC. Lauren is passionate about young people having opportunities to be involved in decisions that affect them.
John Loughton

John Loughton is a high-profile and experienced youth leader, social entrepreneur, campaigner and public affairs professional with over a decade of grassroots experience. In 2008, John won the “Celebrity Hijack” special edition of UK’s Big Brother, pitted against other “young and gifted” housemates. He has worked in over 20 countries across five continents, raised over £6million for charity and engaged with numerous governments, businesses and NGOs.

Following a career in youth work in deprived communities, in 2007 John made history by being elected the youngest ever democratically elected Chairman of the Scottish Youth Parliament, one of the world’s most innovative and admired youth governance movements. In 2011, he represented 1.2 billion young people when he addressed 54 heads of Commonwealth countries at CHOGM in Perth, Western Australia. John led a delegation to the G8 and G20 Summits in Washington DC as Prime Minister of the Youth Diplomatic Service.

John’s business Dare2Lead, now specialises in authentic leadership models, social justice, entrepreneurship, civic and political engagement and global participation.

Viv Benjamin

CEO // Oaktree Foundation

Viv’s work with Oaktree over the years is nothing short of inspiring. In 2007, Viv was the National Director of the Make Poverty History Zero Seven Road Trip. It was at this event that Kevin Rudd made the historic commitment to increase aid to 0.5% of national income, which became both Labor and Liberal bipartisan policy for years to come. At 19 years old, Viv founded and directed End Child Slavery, a national initiative which lobbied major chocolate companies to certify their products as Fairtrade and slave-free. In 2010 she was National Director of the Make Poverty History Road Trip, one of the largest youth antipoverty campaigns in Australian history with one thousand young people from every Federal Electorate joining the cause. Since 2006, Viv has sat on the core decision-making group of the Make Poverty History coalition. Since 2008, Viv has been a Director on the Boards of the Oaktree Foundation and Mustard Leadership Australia. Viv is completing a double degree in Law and International Politics at Monash University.

DAY 2

KEYNOTES: Exploring Advocacy and Change // Sam McLean, Sara Saleh, & Special Guest

PANEL: Employment // Special Guests

PANEL: Education // Special Guests

KEYNOTES: EXPLORING ADVOCACY AND CHANGE

In a TedX inspired plenary, you’ll hear from 3 of the best in the business about changing the world, the things they believe change the world, and what they’re doing to do it. A Q&A session following gives you direct access to seek advice, support, and tips. Walk away feeling inspired, with tools to grow action around the issues most important to you.

Sam McLean

National Director // GetUp

GetUp is an independent community organisation giving everyday Australians opportunities to get involved and hold politicians accountable on important issues. GetUp’s 600,000+ members take targeted, coordinated and strategic action. Actions include sending an email to an MP, engaging with the media, attending an event or helping to get a television ad on the air.

Sam McLean is the National Director of GetUp. Sam first started with GetUp as a volunteer more than five years ago, and by 22 he had risen to become GetUp’s Communications and Campaigns Director. At 24, he succeeded Simon Sheikh as National Director.

Influenced by his early days as a Grassroots Campaigner and Field Manager, he is an advocate of boosting progressive activism at the local level and helped to establish CommunityRun, a tool that empowers GetUp members to start and run their own campaigns. Sam is also passionate about climate change and worked as a Climate Campaigner with the international advocacy organization Avaaz.

Sam is currently a board member of ControlShift Labs, founding board member of Centre for Australian Progress, and a former board member of Vibewire Youth Services.
Sara Saleh
Media and Public Affairs Coordinator // Amnesty International

For the past few years, Sara has worked with many community-based organisations and has co-founded youth & grassroots projects, including Mission of Hope’s Justice and Arts Network in Western Sydney. In 2012, she was the first Muslim Chair of the Federal Government’s Australian Youth Forum Steering Committee. The year before she presented at the Commonwealth Youth Forum at CHOGM and the UNSW Refugee Conference. In March this year she was awarded the Affinity Foundation’s Youth of the Year for her dedication, activism and leadership in promoting cross cultural understanding to youth.

As a fluent Arabic speaker, Sara spent three years between Sydney and Dubai as a Sydney correspondent for a prominent Dubai-based publication, and then went on to train briefly in London with CNN International. Sara joined Amnesty International as Media and Public Affairs Coordinator in April 2012, focusing on the organisation’s refugee and crisis media work. She is currently finishing a Masters of Human Rights Law and Policy at UNSW. As part of her study she has visited refugee camps in Lebanon and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and most recently returned from the UN in New York.

Meredith Turnbull
Consultant // Adaptive Projects

Meredith has 17 years experience in the Australian social sector. She has held leadership roles with AYAC, GetUp!, Twenty10, YACWA, and the Freedom Centre. Since 2009, she has focused on coaching and consulting in the Australian social sector to strengthen the leadership capacities and resilience of people, groups and their organisations.

Sebastian Robertson
Founder and CEO // Batyr

Sebastian founded Batyr at aged 25, to engage, educate and empower young people to discuss social and mental health issues. He turned a personal struggle into a vehicle for social change with Batyr running programs in high school and university environments in NSW, Tasmania, Victoria, ACT, SA and has even trialled an international pilot in Malaysia.

A background in finance with degrees in Economics and Commerce, Sebastian’s role in making Batyr a successful Australian organisation has been recognised as a joint recipient of the 2013 Australian National University Young Alumnus of the Year and 2011 Sydney Social Entreprenuer of the Year. He was an Australian Representative at the Global Youth Rising for Peace Summit in 2012 and an Australian Youth Delegate to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth in 2011.

He was one of Cleo’s 50 most eligible Bachelor of the Year 2013, he doesn’t like it but there’s a photo in the office to prove it.

PANEL: SELF CARE FOR PASSIONATE PEOPLE

Whatever the participant, if you’re at the AYAC2013 chances are you’re engaged, active, and passionate! But that’s of little use if you’re not taking care of yourself, and able to give your best to whatever it is you’re working towards.

PANEL: THE FUTURE OF YOUTH AFFAIRS

The currently political landscape has seen a shift in the overall youth sector – with some uncertainty still ahead. The youth sector has come a long way. Now, it’s time to debate the challenges, risks, and opportunities that we are all faced with, in the coming years, and carve out our path, as we believe it should be.
Reynato Reodica
Acting Executive Director // AYAC

Rey is AYAC’s Acting Executive Director. He has been working on policy and youth affairs for the past 13 years, starting out as a youth advocate on issues such as education reform and young drivers, and was a member of the NSW Government Ministerial Youth Advisory Council for three years.

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Judith Bessant
Professor Judith Bessant works at RMIT University in Melbourne. She has taught, developed curriculum and published widely in the area of youth studies and youth work for over two decades. Judith has also been active in the sector as a policy advisor to various local and international NGOs and governments. Her areas of research also include political theory, sociology, new media, justice studies, education and social policy.

Aaron Garth
Director of Operations // Ultimate Youth Worker

Aaron is the Director of Operations for Ultimate Youth Worker an Australian company that provides high quality professional development and support services for youth workers to build and maintain longevity in the field. Aaron has worked as a youth worker in a number of settings including a local church, street drug and alcohol outreach, family services, residential care, local government and youth homelessness since 2003. Aaron is a regular speaker at camps, retreats, and youth work training events and is a dedicated volunteer in a number of youth services. He lives in Melbourne, Vic with his wife of 6 years Jennifer and their daughters Hope and Zoe.

Jo Taylor
Strategy Manager // Dusseldorf Skills Forum

As Strategy Manager at the Dusseldorf Skills Forum, Jo’s main aim is to work collaboratively cross sector and build a strong internal platform to enable the DSF team to turn our new vision into practical action.

After completing a law degree at Leicester University, Jo has spent the next 20 years involved in various aspects of the not for profit and philanthropic sectors overseas and in Australia. She was part of the 1997 Comic Relief fundraising team that raised over $100 million for projects in Africa and the UK. She’s helped distribute over $50 million through public institutions, and family foundations as well as implementing a national capacity building grants program direct to young people in their communities.

Jo has had the pleasure of leading amazing teams to establish new ventures including the School for Social Entrepreneurs Australia and managed grass roots organisations such as Streetwise Communications. She created FAR Social Enterprise with Jackie Ruddock to support the development of the not for profit sector and worked with CEOs and Boards at points of critical change (Oxfam International Youth Partnerships, GetUp!, Foundation for Young Australians, Australian Youth Affairs Coalition, Youth Action and Policy Association, Social Leadership Australia, and NSW Health, NSW Department for Women, World Health Organisation and NSW Anti – Homophobia Interagency)
## The Line-Up

### Day 1 Monday 5th Aug 2013

### Build Youth Participation

### Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Build Youth Participation</th>
<th>Advocate For Change</th>
<th>Support The Sector / Drive Research for Better Practice</th>
<th>Support The Sector / Drive Research for Better Practice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td><strong>Official Opening:</strong> Polly Henry &amp; Carla McGrath</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td><strong>Keynote Address:</strong> Adam Pulford</td>
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<td>10:45</td>
<td><strong>Morning Tea</strong></td>
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<td>11:15-12:45</td>
<td><strong>The Future of Youth Engagement</strong> – Leo Fieldgrass (YACVic)</td>
<td><strong>Schools, Employment Services &amp; Collaboration</strong> – Mari Lobbestael (Interwork Ltd)</td>
<td><strong>Identity &amp; Meaning in the Lives of Vulnerable Young People</strong> – Debbie Noble-Carr (Australian Catholic University)</td>
<td><strong>Multipride</strong> – Dani Williams (City of Casey) &amp; <strong>Supporting Young People from Refugee and Migrant Backgrounds</strong> – Nadine Liddy (MYAN Australia)</td>
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<td><strong>Beyond Skate Parks and Drop In Centres: Creating Opportunities for Young People’s Participation in Community Planning</strong> – Linda Randall (YACVic)</td>
<td><strong>Education Engagement Partnership Across Two Cities</strong> – Anna Pobucky (Youth &amp; Adventure Playground Services – City of Stonnington)</td>
<td><strong>Preventing Youth Gang Violence: Lessons from London</strong> – Sameera Fieldgrass</td>
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<td>12:45</td>
<td><strong>Lunch Time</strong></td>
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| 13:45-15:15| **Youth Participation Showcase**  
SkinDeep Project  
Decibels Records  
Scouts Australia  
Soundpond  
Parkour SA | **A Whole Community Approach to Supporting Same Sex Attracted, Sex and Gender Diverse Young People** – Susanne Prosser (City of Greater Geelong) | **Breaking the Mould: Hiphop, the Circle of Courage** – Mike (Hiphopportunities for Youth Inc & Anglicare) – Shan (Hiphopportunities for Youth Inc) – Dave, Stuart & Mayra (Urban Seed & Praxis Victoria) | **Making Meaning Out of Young People’s Distress & How Did We Score?** National Report Card on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention – Dr Jon Jureidini, Dr Matt Dunbar, Matthew Doherty, Sebastian Robertson and Dr Michelle Blanchard (Adelaide University, Batyr, and Young and Well CRC) |
|            | **Real Voices For Change** – Melissa Coad (United Voice) | **Youth Mentoring: What’s the big deal, why is it important and what makes it work?** – Dean Williamson (Primitive Communities) |                                                        |                                                        |
| 15:15      | **Afternoon Tea**                                       |                     |                                                        |                                                        |
| 16:00      | **Keynote Address:** John Loughton                         |                     |                                                        |                                                        |
| 16:30      | **Youth Participation Panel** Panelists: Lauren Moss, John Loughton, David Baker, Viv Benjamin |                     |                                                        |                                                        |
| 17:30      | **Close**                                               |                     |                                                        |                                                        |
OVERVIEW:
Plenaries and other sessions on this theme will focus on building the participation of young people in decisions that affect them, including the way that services are provided to them, how they participate in decisions now that will shape Australia’s future and taking part in topics not traditionally seen as youth issues during the election.

WORKSHOP SESSION 1  11.15 - 12.45

BUILD YOUTH PARTICIPATION

The Future of Youth Engagement
Facilitator: Leo Fieldgrass

Leo is the Youth Engagement Officer for the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria (YACVic). He has worked across the public and community sectors for over 10 years, developing pioneering youth, health and education programs in the UK and Australia. An advocate for ethical policy and practice, Leo holds a Master of Social Science.

Where can we take youth engagement in Australia? What potential scenarios lie ahead? How might we navigate the challenges and build support for our journey?

This interactive session will explore the current thinking around youth engagement and share the findings of a new YACVic project that is creating modern tools to support engagement with young people.

Participants will learn practical strategies to enhance community commitment to young people and discuss the best ways to advocate for meaningful youth participation. Together, we will imagine the possible, probable and preferable futures for youth engagement in Australia.

ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

Schools, Employment Services & Collaboration – “Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much”- Helen Keller
Organisation: Interwork Limited
Facilitator: Mari Lobbestael

Mari is the Youth Services Co-ordinator at Interwork Limited. She has been working within the Youth Sector in South Australia since moving here from Detroit, Michigan USA in 2000. Not only has she been instrumental in contributing to Interwork’s Youth Engagement Strategy, she brings vast experience working with severely disengaged youth impacting the lives of young Australians.

Most people agree that engagement and collaboration is a good thing, but often it’s hard to know how to start, who to start with, and even harder to know how to keep it going.

This session will help you clarify the value of collaboration and how to develop strong and lasting relationships.

This presentation will show that by drawing on each other’s expertise we can bridge the gap between schools, employment and training providers to establish durable training and employment pathways for transitioning young people. Interwork will discuss several initiatives, which demonstrate great outcomes and the lessons learned.

Beyond Skate Parks and Drop In Centres:
Creating Opportunities for Young People’s Participation in Community Planning
Organisation: Youth Affairs Council of Victoria
Facilitator: Linda Randall

Linda is the Manager, Participation and Sector Development for the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria, the peak body and leading policy advocate on young people’s issues in Victoria. Linda’s other work in the youth sector has included direct service in Youth Work in outer suburban Melbourne and teaching Sociology of young people at Swinburne University.

The youth sector is increasingly committed to and skilled in participatory practice. Alongside this, other sectors are beginning to recognise the value of young people’s inclusion in policy making and planning processes. This presents a fantastic opportunity for youth practitioners to collaborate with professionals from other sectors and increase young people’s participation in decision making and policy discussions outside of youth specific contexts. This presentation will explore ways in which this challenge may be embraced, drawing on YACVics work on the Melbourne Metropolitan Planning Strategy as a practical example.

Education Engagement Partnership
Across Two Cities
Organisation: Youth & Adventure Playground Services, City of Stonnington
Facilitator: Anna Pobucky

Anna is the Acting Coordinator, Youth & Adventure Playground Service and Education Engagement Partnership Project Officer, Across Cities of Stonnington & Port Phillip.

Join this lively Q&A discussion with a panel of speakers who are the key stakeholders in the development and implementation of a new innovative program! This cross-agency program has brought together community health and youth services, local government, not-for-profits, DEECD and schools that support young people aged 10-19 who are at risk or currently disengaging from education, training and employment.
DAY 1 SESSION INFORMATION

WORKSHOP SESSION 1  11.15 - 12.45

SUPPORT THE SECTOR / DRIVE RESEARCH FOR BETTER PRACTICE

Identity and Meaning in the Lives of Vulnerable Young People
Organisation: Australian Catholic University
Facilitator: Debbie Noble-Carr, BSW. Research Associate and PhD Candidate, Institute of Child Protection Studies, ACU.

Debbie has extensive experience working with vulnerable children, young people and families as a Social Worker and Researcher. Working at ACU, she has completed many qualitative participatory research projects and provides training in child centered and family aware youth work practice. She is currently completing a PhD on ‘Vulnerable Children and Loss’.

This presentation outlines the findings from a qualitative and participatory research study conducted with 25 vulnerable young people in Canberra, Australia. The study aimed to explore the role and potency that ‘identity and meaning’ has in the lives of vulnerable young people.

This presentation will draw on the narratives of the young people, to outline how they constructed identity and meaning and what factors needed to be present for them to develop positive identity and meaning. Implications for how the youth service sector needs to respond to, and support, vulnerable young people in a more holistic manner are also identified.

Multipride & Supporting Young People from Refugee and Migrant Backgrounds
Organisations: City of Casey & Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (Australia) (‘MYAN’)
Facilitators: Dani Williams & Nadine Liddy

Dani is the Youth Transitions and Development Coordinator at City of Casey.

Nadine is the National Coordinator at MYAN.

Multipride is a student driven program in the City of Casey, Victoria where a growing community of migrants and refugees in the area has meant rapid demographic changes in the school yard and an increase in altercations. This presentation will outline an example of best practice response that has been taken in partnership with local government and schools in developing youth participation and increasing young people’s cultural awareness and understanding.

Supporting Young People is a session targeting youth workers and managers who are interested in building their skills and knowledge in supporting young people from CLD backgrounds. This interactive session will be based on good practice in this work across Australia.

Preventing Youth Gang Violence: Lessons From London
Facilitator: Sameera Fieldgrass

Sameera is an expert social work practitioner, qualified in the UK and Australia, with vast experience of issues such as homelessness, violence against women and children, mental health, child protection, substance misuse and migration. Sameera has been commended for her management of the Gangs and Anti-Social Behaviour teams in London’s largest Youth Offending Service and is a current member of the UK Home Office Gangs and Youth Violence advisory group. She holds a MA Social Work and Applied Social Science and BSc (Hons) Criminology.

Using learning from a decade of work with youth gangs in South East London, this interactive workshop will enable you to answer questions you’ve had about youth gangs and the youth sector response. Using theory, historic and contemporary Australian experiences of youth gang violence and analysing London’s experience- youth sector workers will be invited to consider what role Juvenile Justice, Child Protection, youth engagement, bullying, race, social exclusion and gender all play in the emergence of youth gangs.
Youth Participation Showcase

The youth participation showcase is a rapid-fire session where 5 diverse projects/programs/experts offer their own journey, perspectives, insights and big ideas on youth participation. The session will showcase their brilliant work side by side – painting a picture of the range, diversity and ways that youth participation becomes manifest. Featuring:

- SkinDeep Project
- Decibels Records
- Scouts Australia
- Soundpond
- Parkour SA

A Whole Community Approach to Supporting Same Sex Attracted, Sex and Gender Diverse Young People: Building Capacity and Advocating For Change

Organisation: City of Greater Geelong
Facilitator: Susanne Prosser, Youth Diversity Team Leader, The Gasp Project

Susanne has been working with young people in government and non government agencies for 19 years. For the past ten years the focus of her work has been training and capacity building with schools and organisations to support refugee and same sex attracted and gender diverse young people. Susanne is currently working with the City of Greater Geelong in the Youth Development Unit as part of the GASP project.

This workshop reflects on the development of the GASP project over the past 14 years which has developed from a focus on group work and individual support, to a strategic and integrated approach. Research has shown that the main cause of poor health and well-being outcomes for Same Sex Attracted, Sex and Gender Diverse Young People is isolation and marginalisation caused by discrimination and homo/trans/biphobia. To address this problem the GASP project has adopted a whole of community response. Participants will take part in an activity which will show how through collaboration and partnerships we can all be advocates, facilitate change and build capacity in a systemic and structural way.

Real Voices For Change

Organisation: United Voice
Facilitator: Melissa Coad

From a recent United Voice survey of over 26,00 members, you will have the opportunity to hear the stories, views and dreams of United Voice young members about the issues they face and the future they would like to live. You will learn how unions can work to build vision and change in the community and engage with the survey issues and contribute to potential policy solutions.
DAY 1 SESSION INFORMATION

WORKSHOP SESSION 2  13.45 - 15.15

SUPPORT THE SECTOR / DRIVE RESEARCH FOR BETTER PRACTICE

Breaking the Mould: Hiphop, the Circle of Courage

**Organisation:** Hiphopportunities For Youth Inc

**Facilitator:** Mike Flood, Dave Fagg, Shan Azizz, Stuart Berryman and Mayra Stark

Mike is President of Hiphopportunities For Youth Inc, and a Youth Worker with St Luke’s Anglicare in Bendigo.

Dave is a Youth Worker with Urban Seed and a Course Coordinator with youth work training organisation, Praxis Victoria.

Shan is Hiphopportunities for Youth Inc Dance Facilitator

Stuart is Urban Seed’s Youth Work Trainee and Praxis Victoria student

Mayra is Praxis alumni and Youth and Schools Co-ordinator with Urban Seed.

This session will look at the collaborative program ‘Breakin Tha Mould’. This program integrates the Circle of Courage dimensions of youth development (Belonging, Mastery, Independence, Generosity) with Activity-Based Learning (ABL). In this case, the ‘activity’ was participation in the ‘street art’ and ‘dance’ elements of hiphop culture, which older young people (18-20 yo), culminating in community projects carried out by the young people.

Youth Mentoring: What’s the Big Deal, Why is it Important and What Makes it Work?

**Organisation:** Primitive Communities

**Facilitator:** Dean Williamson, Director

Dean is an experienced youth services professional and an accredited life, business and performance coach. He has coached or supervised hundreds of CEOs, managers, coordinators, human services staff members and community broad representatives, and loves applying these same skills to seeing young people get the most out of life. He runs a number of sustainable youth mentoring and community development programs, and is writing a book about a system that supports the positive development of young people.

This workshop will introduce participants to why mentoring is a valuable addition to the delivery mix of youth service. It will use exercises to look at how mentoring relationships support the growth of young people (in the direction they want to go), and cover what research says about creating successful mentoring relationships and programs, executing them well, and the positive (and potentially negative) impacts on the young people involved.

SUPPORT THE SECTOR / DRIVE RESEARCH FOR BETTER PRACTICE

Making Meaning Out of Young People’s Distress & How Did We Score? National Report Card on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

**Organisation:** University of Adelaide // Young and Well Cooperative Research Centre & Batyr

**Facilitator:** Dr Jon Jureidini, Dr Matt Dunbar, Matthew Doherty, Sebastian Robertson and Dr Michelle Blanchard

Jon is a child psychiatrist at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital, Adelaide, where he works with ill and disabled children and their families. He has also trained in philosophy, and is a Professor in Disciplines of Psychiatry and Paediatrics at the University of Adelaide.

Matt is a Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital, and Western Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. He is also engaged as a Clinical Lecturer at the University of Adelaide.

Matthew is an experienced child and adolescent psychotherapist who has been working with young people and their families for the last 15 years. He is an Associate Clinical Lecturer and has worked across a variety of settings which primarily include community based services in both Government and Non-Government sectors.

Dr Michelle Blanchard is the Head of Projects and Partnerships for the Young and Well CRC and an Honorary Research Fellow at Orygen Youth Health Research Centre, Centre for Youth Mental Health, University of Melbourne. Michelle holds a PhD in Youth Mental Health from the University of Melbourne, as well as a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree and a Graduate Diploma in Adolescent Health and Welfare.

Since 2006, Michelle has contributed to over 20 publications including ten journal articles and conducted over 100 presentations and professional development seminars for the youth and community sectors.

Sebastian Robertson founded Batyr at aged 25, to engage, educate and empower young people to discuss social and mental health issues. He turned a personal struggle into a vehicle for social change with Batyr running programs in high school and university environments in NSW, Tasmania, Victoria, ACT, SA and has even trialled an international pilot in Malaysia.

In the Making Meaning session you will explore the notion that suffering and adversity are normal experiences of young people and that these experiences can be validated and understood. You will also explore the narratives of young people’s lives enabling a deeper understanding of their life experience, family dynamics and internal world.

How Did We Score? will outline the results of an engagement study for young people in Australia undertaken in 2012 by the Australian National Mental Health Commission. This study involved both an online survey and focus groups where young people were able to share their views, opinions and experiences regarding mental health, service provision and suicide prevention.

Mental Health, University of Melbourne. Michelle holds a PhD in Youth Mental Health from the University of Melbourne, as well as a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree and a Graduate Diploma in Adolescent Health and Welfare.

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## THE LINE-UP

### DAY 2 TUESDAY 6TH AUG 2013

### ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>BUILD YOUTH PARTICIPATION</th>
<th>ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE</th>
<th>SUPPORT THE SECTOR / DRIVE RESEARCH FOR BETTER PRACTICE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Room:</td>
<td>Hickinbotham Hall</td>
<td>The Vines</td>
<td>The Gallery</td>
<td>Exhibition Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Exploring Advocacy and Change: Sam McLean, Sarah Saleh &amp; Special Guest (TBC)</td>
<td>The Australian Youth Forum ‘Having A Say - Dynamic Youth Engagement’ – 2013 Australian Youth Forum Steering Committee Members (AYF)</td>
<td>Creating a saylt.net: Supporting Positive Youth Mental Health – Colette McMahon &amp; Mark Bekerman (City of Casey)</td>
<td>Innovation and Best Practice in the Youth Sector – James Townsend (Youth Off the Streets)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 - 10:45</td>
<td>Life Opportunities not Life in Prison for Aboriginal Young People – Siobhan Bryson, Trei Stewart, Kobie Duncan &amp; Beau Foster (Weave)</td>
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<td>10:45</td>
<td>Morning Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 - 12:45</td>
<td>Youth Homelessness Matters – Jo Siejka &amp; Emma Robertson (NYCH)</td>
<td>Dare 2 Lead, Advocate and Create Change – John Laughton</td>
<td>Crap! I’m Running PD on Monday – Carl Robinson (Tabor Adelaide)</td>
<td>A Youth Worker Perspective – A 15 Year Review – Associate Professor Robyn Broadbent &amp; Associate Professor Tim Corney</td>
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<td>Personal Stories, Global Change – Brandon Bear &amp; Sebastian Robertson (Baty)</td>
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<td>You. Me. Smile! Day - Challenging Traditional Approaches to Youth Participation – Deb Stansfield, Sammy Riley, Angela DeConno &amp; Young People of Youth Central (City of Charles Sturt)</td>
<td>3things: Telling Better Stories – James Dunlop (Oxfam)</td>
<td>How to Build a Sector – Jeff Buckley &amp; Cameron Frances (Dovetail)</td>
<td>Youth Work: Walking The Boundaries – Trudi Cooper (Edith Cowan University)</td>
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<td>Youth Involvement in Service Design and Delivery – Shane Cucow, Sophie Potter &amp; Local ReachOut.com Youth Advocates (ReachOut.com)</td>
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<td>Youth Work in Australia &amp; The Professionalisation Debate – Perspectives From Tasmanian Workers – Naomi Marsh</td>
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<td>12:45</td>
<td>Lunch Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:45 - 14:30</td>
<td>Youth Involvement in Service Design and Delivery – Shane Cucow, Sophie Potter &amp; Local ReachOut.com Youth Advocates (ReachOut.com)</td>
<td>What Can We Learn From the First Job Experiences of Young People? – Deanna Grant-Smith &amp; Paula McDonald (Queensland University of Technology)</td>
<td>Using Human Rights for Advocacy – James McDougall</td>
<td>Radvocacy (and Badvocacy) – AYAC</td>
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<td>14:30</td>
<td>Employment Panel</td>
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<td>15:30</td>
<td>Afternoon Tea</td>
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<td>16:15</td>
<td>Education Panel</td>
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OVERVIEW:
Plenary sessions on this day will focus on achieving change on the most important of the youth issues contained in the AYAC Policy Platform. The day will involve panels of ministers and members of parliament to discuss what needs to change. We'll also be inviting national media – so make sure you look schmuck!

PLENARIES:
KEYNOTES: Exploring Advocacy and Change // Sam McLean, Sara Saleh, & Special Guest
PANEL: Employment // Special Guests
PANEL: Education // Special Guests

WORKSHOP SESSION 1  10.00 - 10.45

BUILD YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Life Opportunities not Life in Prison for Aboriginal Young People
Organisation: Weave Youth Family Community Inc
Facilitator: Siobhan Bryson, Trei Stewart, Kobie Duncan & Beau Foster

Trei is 15 years old and grew up in Nowra and the La Perouse community. He is from the Yuin nation that surrounds Wreck Bay on the NSW South Coast. He is currently a ‘Switch’ leader mentoring younger children in Kool Kids Club in their transitions to high school, which Trei has been involved with since 2005. Trei has represented his community at the ‘Hard Yarn Summit’ in 2011, addressing important issues for Aboriginal young people in Australia and included such questions as ‘How do we become good ancestors?’ Currently in Year 11 at Matraville Sports High School, Trei believes that justice reinvestment is important to give young Aboriginal people support and positive mentors so they do not go down the wrong path.

Kobie is 15 years old and was born and raised in Maroubra Sydney. Kobie’s mob are the Yuin nation from the NSW South Coast and Gamilaroi People from Moree. Having been involved in the Kool Kids Club since primary school, Kobie believes that justice reinvestment is important to provide services that guide young people to reach their goals. He attends Matraville Sports High School and his interests include writing, music and boxing. Kobie also travelled to the Kimberly in 2011 to represent his community at the ‘Hard Yarn Summit’.

Beau is 17 years old and is originally from the South Coast of NSW. He was raised in Sydney and his mob is the Yuin nation from NSW South Coast and the Dharawal people from the La Perouse community. Also, having been involved in the Kool Kids Club since primary school, Beau believes that justice reinvestment is important because it offers young people an alternative to detention and focuses on the positive skills that they already have. He is currently undertaking his Certificate II in Trades through Weave’s Links to Learning Program. Beau is interested in rapping, football and boxing and he also travelled to the Billard community in the Kimberly in 2011 to represent his community at the ‘Hard Yarn Summit’.

Justice reinvestment seeks to divert a portion of public funds that would have been spent on covering the costs of imprisonment, to local communities that have a higher concentration of young offenders. The diverted funds are then invested in community programs, services and activities that are aimed at addressing the underlying causes of crime in those areas. Right across Australia there is a shameful over representation of Aboriginal young people in detention. In NSW, 50% of young people in detention are Aboriginal and they make up under 3% of the population.

Our three presenters, Trei, Kobie and Beau will share their personal stories about how the availability of culturally strong and community integrated positive programs, ongoing support and mentors and role models have shaped how they see themselves and their future. These young men are determined that they do not want to become one of those shocking statistics.

They will present their stories through rap, digital stories and in person, to illustrate the crucial need for justice reinvestment within disadvantaged communities to provide early intervention, prevention and diversionary programs for young people, and an alternative to entering the criminal justice system. They will also talk about their involvement with Just Reinvest NSW and the campaign to influence Government to adopt a justice reinvestment policy.
DAY 2 SESSION INFORMATION

WORKSHOP SESSION 1  ☐ 10.00 - 10.45

ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

Australian Youth Forum: Having A Say – Dynamic Youth Engagement
Organisation: Australian Youth Forum Steering Committee Members

Delivered by the members of the 2013 Australian Youth Forum (AYF) Steering Committee, this session will highlight the work of the AYF, share some of the experiences of the committee, explore ideas around dynamic youth engagement and provide opportunities for young people to share their ideas and opinions. The AYF encourages young people to get involved in public discussion and gives them the opportunity to make sure their ideas are considered in the development of Australian public policy, programs or projects.

SUPPORT THE SECTOR / DRIVE RESEARCH FOR BETTER PRACTICE

Creating a sayft.net: Supporting Positive Youth Mental Health
Organisation: City of Casey
Facilitator: Colette McMahon & Mark Bekerman

Colette is the Manager Youth and Family Services and holds a Bachelor of Teaching- Early Childhood. Colette has extensive experience in Community Services focusing on the early years and youth services. Over the past 6 years at the City of Casey she has teams that foster ethical practice and positive outcomes for children, young people and their families. In her role as Manager Youth and Family Services, Colette has received a number of awards for excellence in local government. Colette is the chair of the Casey Youth Suicide Steering Committee, and has been since its inception in 2012.

Mark is the Team Leader Youth Counselling and Support Service at the City of Casey. Mark holds a Bachelor of Applied Science and Honours (Psychology). Mark has worked with young people for over 15 years by providing advice and support to young people, families and the community in various settings including youth justice, state government and local government. Over recent years Mark has displayed exceptional leadership in working across sectors to develop partnerships between clinical and community organisations. Mark led the development and implementation of www.sayft.net.

The presentation focuses on the City of Casey’s response to significant youth mental health issues in the local region which led to the development of an online youth mental health kit www.sayft.net

In January 2012, The City of Casey established an all agency approach in response to a number of incidents of serious self-harm/ suicide in and around the Casey region.

This ‘all agency’ approach took the form of a steering committee which included membership from local service providers, government agencies, clinical and emergency services.

This session will outline the coordinated region response. We will share key learnings, challenges, outcomes and a case study demonstration on how the online toolkit can assist you in your role working within the community.

SUPPORT THE SECTOR / DRIVE RESEARCH FOR BETTER PRACTICE

Innovation and Best Practice in the Youth Sector – Youth Off The Streets
Organisation: Youth Off The Streets Ltd
Facilitator: James Townsend

James is the Senior Youth Worker at Youth Off The Streets Ltd.

This presentation will provide you with a service delivery model example for moving towards best practice approaches in dealing with complex issues in the NGO youth sector. It will focus on the journey of case management, homelessness, addressing alcohol and drug issues among disadvantaged and marginalised youth.
DAY 2 SESSION INFORMATION

WORKSHOP SESSION 2  11.15 - 12.45

BUILD YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Youth Homelessness Matters & Personal Stories, Global Change

Organisation: Youth Network of Tasmania, Youth Coalition of the ACT & Batyr
Facilitator: Jo Siejka, Emma Robertson // Brandon Bear, Kayla Hicks

Joanna is the CEO of the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT), the peak body for the non government youth sector in Tasmania, and the Chair of the National Coalition for Housing (NYCH), the peak body for youth homelessness in Australia. Joanna has worked within the youth sector for several years and is passionate in ensuring that the needs of young people are met, and has specific interests the areas of disability, homelessness and youth justice.

Emma Robertson is the Director of the Youth Coalition of the ACT, and is a previous Board member of AYAC. Emma has worked in the youth sector for around 18 years, initially in peer education and youth initiated arts projects. Emma then worked in and managed a street outreach youth service in Canberra for around 6 years, and in the later years also managed the agencies’ out of home care programs. During this time Emma became actively involved in peaks, both as the chair of the Board of the Youth Coalition, and ACT representative to the National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH).

Prior to taking up the position with the Youth Coalition in Feb 2009, Emma worked as the National Youth Manager for St John Ambulance Australia, implementing youth participation strategies, policy, youth development programs, and developing resources and training for young volunteers and volunteers working with young people.

Emma currently sits on a number of Boards both locally and nationally, including Homelessness Australia, the national peak body working to prevent and respond to homelessness in Australia.

Brandon Bear is the Program Manager, Batyr. Brandon has worked with young people and their health for over ten years with experience in outreach, peer education and sector capacity development. He is currently working as the Program Manager for Batyr, developing programs which increase mental health literacy and help seeking behaviour in young people. If he could change one thing in the world it would be that all young people have access to equitable health and education, but if he could change two things he would make giraffes small enough to be house pets.

Kayla Hicks is the School Coordinator, Batyr. Kayla graduated from The University of Auckland, New Zealand in 2009 with a Bachelor of Physical Education, she taught for three years at elite sporting school Mount Albert Grammar as a PDHPE teacher. Kayla joined Batyr in April 2013 as the School Program Coordinator. Her key responsibility is focused around developing relationships with schools to promote the Batyr@School program, as well as highlighting the program links between the syllabus, and benefits to staff and students. She’s a Kiwi, but we don’t hold that against her.

Youth Homelessness Matters is a ‘call-to-action’ presentation that will provide you with an overview of the evolution of the Youth Homelessness Matters Day Campaign, direction and strategies for the campaign future, and interactive opportunities for you to inform the delivery of YHMD 2014 and beyond.

Personal Stories, Global Change is an interactive skills workshop that will focus on the idea of storytelling to create change in the personal friendships of those affected by mental illness. You will be encouraged to develop a quick set of skills and tools to help young people and workers to develop and talk about personal stories and understand the impact that these stories can have.

You. Me. Smile! Day – Challenging Traditional Approaches to Youth Participation

Organisation: City of Charles Sturt
Facilitator: Deb Stansfield, Sammy Riley, Angela DeConno & Young People of Youth Central

Deb works as the Youth Development Coordinator for the City of Charles Sturt in South Australia and has been working in the Community and Youth Sector for just over 20 years.

Sammy has had a varied career, more recently he was Youth Programs Coordinator at UnitingCare Wesley Port Adelaide, managing the youth programs team in the northern and western suburbs of Adelaide. He has been involved in coordinating the second You. Me. Smile! Day in partnerships with the City of Charles Sturt.

Angela has worked across the private, not-for-profit and government sectors supporting young people for more than 15 years. She has a keen interest in social justice, activism and youth leadership.

Young People of Youth Central come from more than 20 different countries and represent a snapshot of modern Australia. Aged between 12-22, they live in Adelaide’s western suburbs.

This session will provide you with a case study of social activism experience that illustrates an innovative way for young people to be empowered and act as advocates for change. The You. Me. Smile! Day project supported participants to take action against an issue that affected them in their daily lives. Get ready to experience the power of a smile!
**Day 2 Session Information**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop Session 2</th>
<th>11.15 - 12.45</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Advocate for Change</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dare 2 Lead, Advocate and Create Change</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Facilitator:</strong> John Loughton</td>
<td><strong>3things: Telling Better Stories</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Organisation:</strong> Oxfam Australia&lt;br&gt;<strong>Facilitator:</strong> James Dunlop</td>
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<td>John Loughton, the AYAC 2013 international keynote speaker will present this interactive workshop on how best to advocate and make change on the issues you care about. John is passionate about unlocking the potential of emerging leaders, organisations and communities and will provide insights from his experiences influencing governments around the UK and across the globe to help participants to make change happen with exceptional confidence, creativity and compassion.</td>
<td>James is the Education and Leadership Coordinator at Oxfam Australia. Passionate about creating space for students to participate on the issues that shape their futures James has worked as a chaplain and support worker in local Sydney High Schools and with the Department of Politics and International Relations at Macquarie University. An enthusiasm for Ikebana and for scrappy weekend football rounds out the picture nicely. We all now people are great storytellers- the timing, the poise, the carefully concealed surprise twist. But what is we’re all great storytellers? This session with Oxfam Australia will explore how our actions don’t only determine what we choose to eat, wear and study, but also shape the world that we live in and the kind of world that we envisage for the future. You won’t look at your breakfast, your work or your online dating profile the same again.</td>
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| **Support the Sector / Drive Research for Better Practice**<br>**Crap! I’m running PD on Monday & How To Build A Sector: Tasty Ingredients For Youth Sector Development**<br>**Organisation:** Tabor Adelaide & Dovetail<br>**Facilitator:** Carl Robinson // Jeff Buckley & Cameron Francis | |
| Carl coordinates Tabor Adelaide’s Bachelor of Social Science (Youth Work) program. Over the past 12 years he has worked with marginalised young people in both secular and faith based organisations, and has developed an ongoing passion for training youth workers. He is currently pursuing a Masters of Social Work at Flinders University. Jeff is a Social Worker with 12 years experiences in youth work, youth homelessness, public space and youth and community development practice both in Australia and overseas. He maintains a particular interest and commitment to youth participation approaches with vulnerable populations. He is currently the Principal Consultant at Dovetail which is a youth alcohol and drug sector development project in Queensland. He is also a lecturer in Youth Work Practice at Griffith University. Cameron is a Social Worker with ten years experience in the youth alcohol and other drug sector. His previous positions have included outreach, peer education, needle and syringe program work and as an individual counsellor for young people experiencing alcohol and other drug use issues. In his current role, Cameron provides training and support to people working in the youth and AOD sector in Queensland. ‘Crap! I’m Running PD on Monday!’ will highlight and respond to gaps in training experienced by managers and coordinators seeking to provide professional development (PD) to their staff. This session will offer a variety of modalities managers can consider when building meaningful and proactive PD group and individual plan that is contextualised to the Australian youth sector. How To Build A Sector: Want to build a movement? Unify a workforce? Re-author a sector identity? Jeff and Cameron from Dovetail in Queensland share their thoughts on the key ingredients required for youth sector development and ask participants to reflect on how these principles can be applied in their own settings and communities. Against the backdrop of service recommissioning occurring in many parts of the country and the diverse and disparate contexts that youth work has always operated in, this workshop aims to give participants food for thought about partnerships, the concept of ‘evidence’, positioning and sustainability. |
DAY 2 SESSION INFORMATION

WORKSHOP SESSION 2  11.15 - 12.45

SUPPORT THE SECTOR / DRIVE RESEARCH FOR BETTER PRACTICE

A Youth Worker Perspective – A 15 Year Review
Associate Professor Robyn Broadbent
Associate Professor Tim Corney

Robyn & Tim are Associate Professors in the Arts, Education & Human Development Department at Victoria University. They specialise in youth and public policy and youth research.
This workshop will detail a youth worker consultation that now spans 15 years. The consultation has focused on the skills and knowledge of youth work and has informed the current questions about youth work skills and knowledge. In this workshop participants’ opinions will be informed regarding the key values of youth work from two critical consultations. This will leave room to create for a broad discussion to follow about the key values that are essential to youth work practice and how they should be promoted.

Youth Work: Walking The Boundaries
Trudi Cooper, Edith Cowan University

Trudi is an Associate Professor in Youth Work and Leader of the Social Program Innovation, Research and Evaluation, part of the School of Psychology and Social Science at Edith Cowan University, Western Australia.
This presentation examines the different ways that youth has been conceptualized, what concepts such as ‘positive youth develop’ and ‘youth engagement’ might mean in practice, what questions they raise, and how youth workers might communicate the value of their work to policy makers and the value of their work to policy makers and the public. In this workshop, you’ll be apart of the examination of the boundaries between youth work and allied welfare and education disciplines and the practical implications this has in specific areas of the youth sector.

WORKSHOP SESSION 3  13.45 - 14.30

BUILD YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Youth Involvement in Service Design and Delivery
Organisation: ReachOut.com
Facilitator: Shane Cucow, Sophie Potter & Local ReachOut.com Youth Ambassadors

Shane is the ReachOut.com Professionals Manager at the Inspire Foundation. He holds a Bachelor of Science (Youth Work) and has worked in street-based and online youth work, and has a strong interest in how youth work can be delivered in online spaces.
Sophie has been involved with youth work and community development across the UK, South East Asia and Australia for 12 years- two years ago she took her knowledge and skills online with the Inspire Foundation. As the community manager for ReachOut.com her main objective is to help young people help each other.

Youth Work in Australia & The Professionalisation Debate – Perspectives From Tasmanian Workers
Naomi Marsh

‘Youth work’ in Australia is a term considered, at best, broad; at worst, vague. For decades Australian workers and academics in the youth sector have debated whether ‘youth work’ should follow the path of other occupations, such as nurses and social workers, and become professionalised. The debate has been protracted; with strong emotions on both sides as to whether professionalisation will add value to ‘youth work’ practice and improve the lives of the young people with whom workers interact.

This workshop draws on qualitative research from interviews with youth workers and youth work students across Tasmania, including from remote and regional communities. The research explored how Tasmanian youth workers are engaging with the national professionalisation debate, including how they conceptualise and regard the field of ‘youth work’, and what it means to act in a professional manner when working with young people in contemporary Australia.

The results from this research will challenge your existing knowledge in the current debate about professionalisation of youth work, where you’ll be asked to consider future policy options research participants suggested to improve practice of ‘youth work’ in Australia.

Youth Work: Walking The Boundaries
Trudi Cooper, Edith Cowan University

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What Can We Learn From the First Job Experiences of Young People?

Organisation: Queensland University of Technology
Facilitator: Dr Deanna Grant-Smith & Professor Paula McDonald

Deanna is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the QUT Business School. Prior to an academic career, she worked in the government sector, where she held roles in policy development and implementation, inter-governmental program management, organisational evaluation, and community consultation. Her current research focuses on young people’s employment and civic engagement.

Paula is an ARC Future Fellow in the QUT Business School. Her research focuses on the social context of work, including youth employment, the customisation of work, and workplace discrimination and harassment. She has recently published the edited book Young People and Work (with Robin Price, Janis Bailey and Barbara Pini).

It has been said that young people in Australia face increasingly complex pathways to adulthood. Although work is a central feature to these pathways we know relatively little about the impact of formative work experiences. Presenting findings from research into school-students’ employment experiences and current research (based on a post-school cohort) we will discuss how young people understand their workplace rights and responsibilities, the extent to which they can enact these, and how they anticipate their future employment relative to other life domains. Using a biographical approach, this research program addresses repeated calls for research on young people’s work from their own perspectives. The session will include space for participants to reflect on their own first job experiences.

Using Human Rights for Advocacy

Facilitator: James McDougall

James is a consultant and a child rights advocate. He has worked for the Youth Legal Service WA; the National Association of Legal Centres; the National Children’s & Youth Law Centre and Save the Children Australia. He has done project work for various organisations including Marrickville Youth, AYAC, Youthlaw Victoria and the WA Children’s Commissioner. He has also worked in China and the Asia Pacific.

He is a Steering Committee member of the Australian Child Rights Taskforce.

This session will examine how you can use human rights mechanisms in advocacy campaigns. It will draw on the ‘Listen to Children’ report that formed the NGO contribution to the 2006 - 2012 UN Child Rights reporting cycle and highlight the different contributions of young people, youth worker, human rights advocate and the UN to produce outcomes- for example the appointment of Australia’s first National Children’s Commissioner.

Radvocacy (and Badvocacy)

Organisation: AYAC
Facilitator: Josh Genner

Joshua Genner is AYAC’s Deputy Director (Young People)

After finishing school Joshua moved to the Faroe Islands to care for his mother and started his work life as a builder. Since then Joshua has worked on progressive campaigns, in the third sector and for elected representatives in the United Kingdom and back home in Australia. Josh slept on the streets of Paris for two months he says “partly because I was broke and partly because I wanted a bit of grit”. He is planning a move to Indonesia, Colombia or Darwin, if you have any advice he’d love to hear it.

What makes for good advocacy? What doesn’t? In this workshop AYAC will share tips on advocacy and participants will learn key skills like power mapping and campaign planning.
## THE LINE-UP

### DAY 3 WEDNESDAY 7TH AUG 2013

**SUPPORT THE SECTOR**

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<td>9:00</td>
<td><strong>Self Care for Passionate People</strong>: Meredith Turnbull, Aaron Garth &amp; Judith Bessant</td>
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<td>9.45 - 10.30</td>
<td>How To Double Your Impact Without Doubling Your Budget – Adam Cooper &amp; Heather Cummings (Maroondah City Council)</td>
<td>How to Change the World: Democracy 2.0 – Eyal Halamish (OurSay.org)</td>
<td>Fitting Your Oxygen Masks First: Management, Leadership and Self Care Skills For Youth Sector Leaders – Meredith Turnbull (Adaptive Projects)</td>
<td>Youth Work Lockdown</td>
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**Hickinbotham Hall**

**The Vines**

**Exhibition Hall**

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24 AYAC Conference Program 2013
OVERVIEW:
This day will focus on developing the skills and knowledge-base across the youth affairs sector, showcasing the best work and research in the sector, and even looking at how we can support the sector to take care of itself. Expect a whole lot of youth sector love in the room!

PLENARIES:
PANEL: Self Care for Passionate People // Meredith Turnbull, Aaron Garth & Judith Bessant
PANEL: The Future of Youth Affairs // Reynato Reodica, Sebastian Robertson, Jo Taylor, Special Guest TBC (Chair: Meredith Turnbull)

WORKSHOP SESSION 1 ☕️ 9.45 - 10.30

BUILD YOUTH PARTICIPATION

How to Double Your Impact Without Doubling Your Budget
Organisation: Maroondah City Council
Facilitator: Adam Cooper & Heather Cummings

Maroondah City Council Youth Service supports nearly 20,000 young people aged 12-25 in the city of Maroondah, in the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

Adam (Team Leader Youth Services) and Heather (Youth Planning & Policy Officer) led the development of Council’s Youth Plan, which has increased investment in young people across the organisation.

How to Change the World: Democracy 2.0
Organisation: OurSay.org
Facilitator: Eyal Halamish

Hailing from the suburbs of Chicago, Eyal is a former college campus activist, and now works as an ‘activist in a suit’. He is the CEO of OurSay, which connects the public leaders in our community on OurSay.org. In the last year, OurSay has partnered with Google, Youtube, ABC, SkyNews, Fairfax and Crickey and worked with Prime Ministers, CEOs, State Premiers and Local Government to ensure people’s questions are answered and profiled at large. Eyal was selected as a 2012 Unreasonable Institute Fellow as well as a 2009 Centre for Sustainability Leadership Fellow. In 2011 OurSay received a Crickey Media Innovation Award and was nominated for the Youth-led Social Enterprise Awards in 2013. Prior to OurSay, Eyal worked as a management consultant for the world’s largest mining companies as well as Australia’s energy providers and banks.

Young People have great ideas, but sometimes lack the avenues to advocate for and implement them. Eyal will discuss with the group the best ways to reach politicians so that they will pay attention to you, the focus and dedication required to ‘make politicians listen,’ and some concrete skills that young people especially can employ to make their advocacy efforts for change more affective, especially by bringing ministers and shadow ministers into their ideas and visions for change.
DAY 3 SESSION INFORMATION

WORKSHOP SESSION 1 🕒 9.45 - 10.30

**SUPPORT THE SECTOR / DRIVE RESEARCH FOR BETTER PRACTICE**

**Fitting Your Oxygen Masks First:** Management, Leadership & Self Care Skills For Youth Sector Leaders

*Organisation: Adaptive Projects*

*Facilitator: Meredith Turnbull*

Meredith has 17 years experience in the Australian social sector. She has held leadership roles with AYAC, GetUp!, Twenty10, YACWA, and the Freedom Centre. Since 2009, she has focused on coaching and consulting in the Australian social sector to strengthen the leadership capacities and resilience of people, groups and their organisations.

This workshop for organisational and/or issue-based leaders (of any age) will provide participants with a toolkit for understanding and diagnosing challenging issues, techniques for managing and leading change, and techniques for building and sustaining strong teams. The importance of self care for leaders will also be explored and techniques that enhance long-term effectiveness will be identified. This workshop will draw upon adaptive leadership and positive psychology.

**SUPPORT THE SECTOR / DRIVE RESEARCH FOR BETTER PRACTICE**

**Youth Work Definition Lockdown**

*Organisation: Australian Youth Affairs Coalition*

*Facilitator: Andrew Cummings [External Consultant]*

**NB:** Please wear comfortable shoes as the lockdown will be at an external venue and will require a short walk. Please contact staff if you think you’ll need further assistance. This session runs from 10am - 1:15 and will be a lockdown.

Andrew has worked in young people’s organisations for over 20 years. His roles have included “hands on” roles, and managing programs and organisations in Australia, the UK and Europe. Andrew has written and/or edited over 20 published works on working with young people, and he has developed and delivered training programs on youth issues to over 2,500 professionals. His roles include being Executive Director of AYAC from 2013 to 2013. He is currently the Project Manager of the Multicultural Youth Affairs Network of NSW, and a freelance consultant.

All conference participants interested in shaping the youth work sector are encourage to take part in a very special session at AYAC 2013. The Youth Work Lockdown will be an interactive workshop that will help set the national agenda for the sector, based on what lockdown participants identify as what the sector needs and wants over the coming years — and might even spark a lively debate across the wider sector.

Lockdown participants will be joined by a panel of experts with perspectives on youth work to look at youth sector feedback on future directions for the AYAC draft definition of youth work. The draft definition was created by AYAC and representatives from across the youth work sector to create national consensus on all the things that youth workers have in common, what make youth work special, and most importantly why the youth work approach has the best impact on the lives of young people.

This is a once in a generation change to make a difference to the youth work sector — so be part of it!

WORKSHOP SESSION 2 🕒 11.00 - 12.30

**BUILD YOUTH PARTICIPATION**

**Social Inclusion & Disability**

*Organisation: Inclusion WA*

*Facilitator: Jessica Kain*

Jessica is the Recreation Programs Coordinator at Inclusion WA. Looking at the facts and barriers faced by disabled young people in Australia, and the effects of inclusion and exclusion in their communities. This workshop will offer the opportunity uncover and address common misconceptions towards disability, offering solutions as to what can be done to encourage social inclusion.


*Organisation: Inspire Foundation*

*Facilitator: Kellie Howe, Fiona Robbards & Shane Cucow*

Kellie is the Professionals Manager for the Young and Well CRC, a joint appointment with the Inspire Foundation.

Fiona is a Senior Analyst with NSW Kids & Families and teaches public health and adolescent sexual health at the University of Sydney, Department of General Practice.

Shane is the ReachOut.com Professionals Manager at the Inspire Foundation. He holds a Bachelor of Social Science (Youth Work) and has worked on street-based and online youth work.

This workshop will update participants about the national research agenda for young people, technology and wellbeing, driven by the Young and Well CRC, and introduce participants to the new ‘Better Practice Guide for Services: Using Technologies Safely and Effectively to Promote Young People’s Wellbeing’, a joint initiative of the Young and Well CRC, NSW Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health and the University of Sydney.

This will be followed by a practical session where delegates will elect to participate in one of the group discussions; using SMS as a communication and support tool; managing duty of care in a Facebook environment; referring young people to apps or online tools.

Participants will identify practical tips (do’s and don’ts) relevant for the youth workforce and will be encouraged to engage with the Better Practice Guide moderated wiki (on the Young and Well CRC website).
Education Barriers in the Bush: Aboriginal Youth Accessing Education
Organisation: Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women’s Council
Facilitators: Sasha Kiessling & Noelletta McKenzie

Sasha is the Assistant Manager, Youth Team at NPY Women’s Council.

In Education Barriers in the Bush you will learn about the work of NPY Women’s Council in responding to the needs of families in remote Central Australia. This session will help you understand the divide that exists between the increasing number of educational opportunities and choices targeted at Indigenous youth, and the obstacles and challenges faced by those from remote areas.

Part of the Whole: Engaging and Empowering Young People in Rural Communities
Organisation: Snowy River Shire Council
Facilitators: Meghan Quinn

Meghan lives with her partner in Jindabyne NSW, but hails from East Coast USA. Before becoming a Youth Development Officer in the Snowy Mountains, Meghan obtained degrees in writing and sustainable development, and dabbled in editing, education and environmental governance. She hopes to spend her career helping to build resilient communities.

Research indicates that a feeling of connectedness - to family, community, etc - is among the most important protective factors related to human health. Life experience affirms this research: when we’re part of something we are happier, healthier, and more resilient. So why aren’t we applying this logic to youth work?

This session looks at the advantages of a whole-of-community approach to youth development in the rural context. We’ll talk successes and failures, research and resources, and relationships and resilience in order to advocate for a more holistic approach to working with - engaging, empowering, and celebrating young people.

Support the Sector / Drive Research for Better Practice

Survival Plan For A Long Successful Youth Work Career
Organisation: Ultimate Youth Worker
Facilitator: Aaron Garth

Aaron is the Director of Operations for Ultimate Youth Worker an Australian company that provides high quality professional development and support services for youth workers to build and maintain longevity in the field. Aaron has worked as a youth worker in a number of settings including a local church, street drug and alcohol outreach, family services, residential care, local government and youth homelessness since 2003. Aaron is a regular speaker at camps, retreats, and youth work training events and is a dedicated volunteer in a number of youth services. He is a graduate of RMIT University and an alumnus of their youth work program. He lives in Melbourne, Vic with his wife of 6 years Jennifer and their daughters Hope and Zoe.

As youth workers we hear astonishing stories of things going wrong in our young people’s lives. We hear stories of physical abuse at the hands of a parent, sexual abuse at the hands of supposedly caring adults, of emotional abuse by families and school kids and we hear the ongoing traumas that come with the adolescent storm and stress. These traumas affect every one of our young people differently… and they also affect us. To be a professional in this situation is to have the mechanisms and supports necessary to get through the troubles.

In this session we will construct a framework for youth worker self-care when the chips are down. Our five step health and wellbeing plan will help you to develop balance in your life which in turn will help you to gain longevity and professionalism in your career in the youth sector. Participants in this session will gain a deeper understanding of the causes of burnout and stress in the workplace as well as how to recognise the warning signs in themselves and others. Participants will also gain the necessary knowledge and tools to develop a self care plan and will being the process in the session.

Managing Duty of Care Online – the ReachOut.com Experience
Organisation: Inspire Foundation
Facilitators: Sophie Potter & ReachOut.com Youth Ambassadors

Sophie has been involved with youth work and community development across the UK, South East Asia and Australia for 12 years- two years ago she took her knowledge and skills online with the Inspire Foundation. As the community manager for ReachOut.com her main objective is to help young people help each other.

ReachOut.com maintains a positive risk-taking approach across its service delivery model. While acknowledging that peer support and peer-led communities play a key role in young people engaging with ReachOut.com, it is essential that the service fulfils its duty of care to the young people who connect and communicate with it. As such, ReachOut.com manages the risks associated with the online community spaces in partnership with young people themselves.

Find out more about the ReachOut.com duty of care framework for youth work in online spaces, and how they manage risk in this environment.
DAY 3 SESSION INFORMATION

WORKSHOP SESSION 3  13.30 - 14.15

BUILD YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Starting Conversations:
Young South Australians Share Their Thoughts About Facebook
Organisation: Youth Affairs Council of South Australia
Facilitators: Dr Clare Bartholomaeus & Anne Bainbridge

Clare is a Research Consultant with the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia and an academic researcher affiliated with Flinders University and the University of Adelaide.

Anne is the Executive Director of the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia.

Despite negative opinions about young people and social network sites, there is currently little Australian research which consults with young people on their views about Facebook. We present key findings from our research with young South Australians aged 13-24, offering an insight into their use of and attitudes towards Facebook. Our session intends to encourage questions and discussion, with the view to ongoing conversations amongst young people, youth sector workers, and beyond.

ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

The Secret Life of the Northbridge Curfew
Organisation: Jude Bridgland & Associates
Facilitators: Jenna Woods & Jude Brigland Sorenson

Jenna Woods is a 22 year old Noongar woman from Bunbury, Western Australia. Growing up in the Perth metro area, she faced much adversity. Jenna has used this to motivate her studies and work in the field of community development, and is currently studying a Bachelor of Arts degree (Community Development and Politics and International Studies).

Currently, Jenna is a National Presenter at the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME), as well as Jenna was named NAIDOC Perth’s runner up Female Youth of the Year. Her dream is to one day see an Australia that has equal outcomes for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and people of higher and lower socio-economic status.

Jude has been involved in Youth and Community Work and Youth Affairs at a local, state, national and international level for the past 27 years. She has an undergraduate degree in Social Science-Youth Work and Aboriginal Studies and a Masters degree in Social Science by Research focusing on meaningful youth participation mechanisms and in particular young people’s use of technology as a means of communication.

Jude has been awarded Life Membership of YACWA for her outstanding contribution to young people and the youth sector in WA. She is a well-known private consultant/researcher and is in demand by both key youth work agencies and government across Australia. Her most exciting work to date is working with teams of young people training them in all aspects of research so that they can do peer-to-peer research in their local regions – An Australian first!

The purpose of this research was to document these young people’s thoughts and solutions to issues within their community and ensure that their voice be heard by policy makers and other relevant sectors. The focus of this research was the experiences of young people from Perth’s South Eastern Metropolitan Corridor, in order to gain an understanding of their street presence and how to improve outcomes for those at risk, primarily Indigenous youth. While presenting our results, our presentation will also explain how we conducted the research and the methods we used to engage the young people we were researching. To carry out such research, it is necessary to build trust and rapport between young people being researched and the researchers.

We will explore concerns around how particularly Indigenous young people are portrayed in the media and how policies such as the Northbridge Curfew do not address the real issue, but in fact exacerbate them and making life more difficult for the most vulnerable young people.

We will look at our journey, from the ground up, whereby we had to advocate to have young people as the drivers of the project, how they then devised the processes for the research consultancy work and how their voices were captured to tell the real stories. Our presentation is all about storytelling and discovering what life is like for the young people who are often shifted from place to place and find themselves in conflicted relationships, merely because of their Indigenous status.
DAY 3 SESSION INFORMATION

WORKSHOP SESSION 3  ☃  13.30 - 14.15

SUPPORT THE SECTOR / DRIVE RESEARCH FOR BETTER PRACTICE

Young People and Lawyers – Aliens and Cowboys? Finding Nemo Meets Jaws?
Facilitators: James McDougall

Providing young people with meaningful access to justice has always been a challenge. Most youth legal service providers will acknowledge that young people have good reason for having at best low expectations and at worst a profound distrust of the justice system. This session will examine some of the new ways that are being explored including closer partnerships between youth workers and lawyers. It will also review the evidence on the legal needs of young people.
THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE **AYAC 2013** NATIONAL YOUTH AFFAIRS CONFERENCE!
AYAC gives a big thanks all of those who sponsored AYAC2013:

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