

Youth Sector

The youth sector has a considerable and positive impact in the lives of young people in Australia and AYAC strongly values the work performed by youth workers, organisations and other professionals committed to the rights and needs of young people. We are committed to supporting the youth sector to ensure that it is unified, well resourced and professional.

The nature of youth work is diverse and youth support services often deal with a variety of complex and difficult issues. Youth workers may work as a part of a general youth service or in contexts where drugs and alcohol, homelessness and mental health are additional areas of concern. Often these can intersect.

AYAC is working closely with key stakeholders to better articulate the uniqueness of youth work and foster greater understanding of how youth workers help young people to flourish. AYAC is also working with the youth sector to close the gap on pay parity, reduce staff burnout, and improve resourcing to rural and remote youth services.

AYAC believes that...

- Youth support services are essential community services and have a strong role to play in generating broad community harmony.
- Young people deserve a youth sector that is healthy, diverse and professional.
- There should be greater community recognition of the unique and positive role that youth workers and other youth support practitioners play in the lives of young people.
- Youth work pay and conditions reflect the complex skills and expertise required by these roles.
- An appropriate range of youth work education and training should be available in all states and territories, including in rural and remote areas.
- Acknowledgement and sufficient support for youth workers in rural and remote areas is a priority area as they face a range of challenges additional to urban youth workers.
- Appropriate and ongoing government funding should be provided to youth sector organisations.

Further Information:

AYAC's [Future Focussed](#) research report

For further information on youth work in your state or territory contact the peak body in your state:

NSW – [Youth Action and Policy Association](#)

VIC – [Youth Affairs Council of Victoria](#)

ACT – [Youth Coalition of the ACT](#)

SA – [Youth Affairs Council of South Australia](#)

WA – [Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia](#)

TAS – [Youth Network of Tasmania](#)

QLD – [Youth Affairs Network of Queensland](#)

NT – Does not currently have a peak body but we encourage you to contact [NTCOSS](#)

[Western Australian Youth Work Association](#)

[Victorian Youth Work Association](#)

[Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies](#) – houses a range of youth sector information, including research, news, programs and initiatives, and sector contacts details.