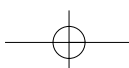
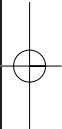
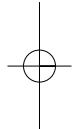


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annual
report
2003-04

youthaffairs
COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC.



It has been another fantastic year at YACVic. Over the last year we've focused on building on our solid foundations and creating our vision for the next few years.



rowena allen

chairperson

chairperson's report

Our campaign for a Victorian Children and Young People's Commission is continuing. It is encouraging to note that the membership of the Children and Young People Commission Coalition is increasing which forecasts a quiet but effective ground swell of positive activism in this area.

It began with our new Executive Officer, Georgie Ferrari, taking over at the helm. Georgie has continued to strengthen our position as Victoria's youth peak and has plenty of ideas about how we can move from strength to strength. We've seen a few staff changes, the most exciting being the creation of the Information and Participation Officer position. This role reflects our commitment to young people's participation in our organisation and provides us with a greater capacity to resource our members.

We said good-bye to some Board members this year including Jo Scott, Mary Aldred and Matt Bubb. I would like to thank them for their energy and commitment. Fortunately, any departure heralds a welcome. We have been fortunate to retain Lise Dalla Torre as a board member while also capturing the talents of Craig Hodges and Nik Dragojlovic for a newly revitalised governance team. Thanks also to Michelle Blanchard who has done an amazing job as our Young Media Spokesperson.

The Board has devoted a great deal of time to the development of YACVic's strategic plan this year. Our strategic planning consultation was both inclusive and rigorous and we're pleased to have developed a membership driven framework that will guide the work of the peak for the next three years. Thank you to all those who took part in the lengthy consultation process, day workshops and late night coffee meetings.

Thank you to all the staff who work above and beyond the call of duty and the team of volunteers who are the Youth Reference Group and Policy Advisory Group. It is a pleasure to chair an organisation with such an enthusiastic team.

A few of the highlights for me over the last year include: the launch of the Youth Referral and Independent Person Program (YRIPP), a partnership project involving YACVic, CMYI, Victoria Police, FCLC, CPV and DIMIA. We also welcomed the YRIPP Program Manager, Sally Reid, into the YACVic office. This year, we've also revisited 'That Old Chestnut', the debate about the professionalisation of youth work. It's great to see the sector discussing this important issue and we look forward to working with the sector as these discussions continue. YACVic's work around raising awareness of the Convention of the Rights of the Child in Victoria is also exciting. We will continue to highlight the fundamental rights of young people as part of our advocacy work in the future.

I'm looking forward to another dynamic year at YACVic which is being constantly shaped by the every changing environment of the youth sector and the lives and experiences of young people.

Rowena Allen

In last year's annual report I wrote that I looked forward to reporting on YACVic's successes and achievements in twelve months time. That time has come around very quickly and I am delighted to be reporting on the 2003/04 year of activities.

executive officer's report

Strategic Planning

The last twelve months have been a time of learning and growth for me and also for the organisation. In November 2003 we embarked on an ambitious consultation process to inform the development of our 2004-07 strategic plan. That exercise was an excellent one for a new EO to undertake as I travelled around Victoria talking to members, non-members, lapsed members, organisations and friends about what YACVic was, what we should or could be and how we could get there.

We gathered a lot of valuable information through that consultation process. Much of what was said affirmed that, by and large, YACVic was on the right track as the peak body for young people and youth issues. We did however, receive lots of good ideas about how to improve some things and change others. Much of the work we have done in the second half of the 03/04 financial year reflects the feedback we received.

Partnerships and Collaborations

YACVic is committed to building on and developing further successful partnerships within the sector. Feedback from our consultations affirms this stance and I can confidently say that we have achieved this through many of the activities and initiatives we have undertaken over the past twelve months.

Our involvement in the Youth Referral and Independent Person Program (YRIPP), with Victoria Police, The Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues, Crime Prevention Victoria, the Federation of Community Legal Centres and the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, is one such example of successful collaboration. The YRIPP program saw another valued team member, Sally Reid, join the YACVic crew. While Sally isn't employed by YACVic, under the YRIPP banner, she is housed in our offices and has very comfortably settled in as a valued team member.

Over the past twelve months we have worked closely with Youthlaw on two key issues - a report on the implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child in Victoria, and the establishment of a Commission for Children and Young People in Victoria. Youthlaw continue to be an immensely vital advocate within both the youth and legal sectors and YACVic is proud to collaborate with them on these and other projects.



georgie ferrari executive officer

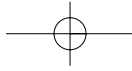
YACVic has forged a strong relationship with the Council to Homeless Persons (CHP) through supporting and co-ausspicing the Youth Homelessness Policy Officer position that CHP house. In September of last year we co-hosted a forum on youth homelessness with CHP and the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare. We have also developed a strong partnership with the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association. This partnership saw us collaborate on a joint press release, support each other's policy development and co-host a forum in June on Teenage Binge Drinking.

There are many other agencies that YACVic works closely with and will continue to do so. These include the Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues, who work tirelessly on issues affecting culturally and linguistically diverse young people, the Western Young People's Independent Network, the Youth Substance Abuse Service and many more. Full details of the organisations we have worked with in the past twelve months are listed on page 12

Staffing

In January YACVic underwent a restructuring process that saw the Administration Officer role developed into an Information and Participation position that has a focus on reaching out to the sector and our members and supporting young people's participation in the organisation. The restructure meant we farewelled Dalal Samaan after two years of service with YACVic and welcomed Rys Farthing into the new role. Rys has just the right amount of enthusiasm, common sense and determination needed for this challenging and rewarding new position.

Another decision made as part of the restructuring process was to make Paula Grogan Senior Policy Officer. This gesture was made in recognition of the immense contribution Paula makes to



executive officer's report (cont)

the organisation and her seniority within it. I often get comments from people in the sector on what a great job Paula does and what an asset she is to the organisation, all of which I of course know and fully appreciate!

The restructure also allowed us to advertise for a temporary project officer to work on a number of projects including our 2004 conference. We were able to appoint Jen Rose, who previously had responsibility for the Participation in Practice Project, to this role. YACVic is very fortunate to have retained Jen's skills in the organisation as she works hard on the YACVic conference, urban fringe research and a few other exciting projects that we'll tell you about in next year's annual report.

You may have noticed a few subtle changes to the look and feel of YACVic publications and materials over the past twelve months. These changes are due to the design prowess of our Communications Officer, Nik Beuret. Nik has systematically redesigned much of YACVic's look, from YIKES! to our website, our letterhead and our new name badges, Nik's flair for design and attention to detail has been applied to everything with the YACVic name on it.

Someone who is happy to work quietly in the background but without whom the organisation would not flourish as it does is our fantastic Finance Officer, Sally Goldner. While only working one day a week, Sally is an invaluable and treasured team member.

Government

Our relationship with the Office for Youth continues to grow stronger. This is due partly to the highly successful collaboration on the Participation in Practice Project that will culminate in the launch of the three booklets in the latter half of 2004. We met regularly with the Director, Lill Healy and also with Minister Allan. Fostering these relationships has been mutually very beneficial and worthwhile.

We have also developed good relationships with other departments within the Victorian Government including

Consumer Affairs Victoria, Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, the Office for Women's Policy and the Department of Human Services. We have also developed strong working relationships with statutory bodies such as the Victorian Law Reform Commission, the Office of the Public Advocate, Victorian Legal Aid and VicHealth.

Federally, we have worked with the Department of Family and Community Services, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission and the Federal Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs.

Membership

Developing and servicing our membership is something to which YACVic continues to devote a significant amount of time. YACVic is a member driven organisation and this means that our members drive our agenda. I have a continued commitment to developing our membership in terms of numbers and diversity to ensure that YACVic is truly representative of young people and workers with young people.

Finally, I would like to thank my Board of Governance, the Policy Advisory Group and the Youth Reference Group for their guidance and support over the past twelve months and for their unwavering enthusiasm and commitment to the organisation. YACVic's achievements over the past year are truly a collective effort!

Exciting times are ahead. I feel enthused and inspired by the things YACVic has planned over the next twelve months and beyond. I also feel very fortunate to work within an organisation and a sector that is so inspiring and challenging. It's great to have a job that you love to come to every morning and leave each evening with a sense of (collective) achievement. I have a job like that!

Georgie Ferrari

policy and principles

1. HUMAN RIGHTS

Young people have a right to share resources, to learn, grow and make mistakes in an environment that is safe and healthy, to express and contribute in their society, and to receive the respect of their community. They must be viewed in a context that includes families, friends, and their wider community and cultural heritage, not as an isolated entity requiring distinct and separate attention.

2. PARTICIPATION

If improved services for young people are to be achieved, processes must be established to encourage and allow them to contribute to their communities, and to the political processes that define the structure of their lives and opportunities. Involving young people at planning and individual decision making levels and in setting priorities is essential.

3. FLEXIBILITY

A broad range of services and resources are necessary in order to acknowledge, address and celebrate the diversity and individual variability of young people, the backgrounds they come from and the potential they hold for the future.

4. COLLABORATION

Cooperative working relationships are required between government at all levels, non-government organisations, the private sector, and across disciplinary boundaries to develop effective and equitable use of resources. An integrated approach to planning which crosses sector boundaries is essential to the achievement of goals. YACVic supports focussing on outcomes and on recognising and working towards the future of young people in our communities rather than band-aiding or damage control responses.



The Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc. (YACVic) is the peak body and leading policy advocate on young people's issues in Victoria.

about YACVic

Our vision is for a Victorian community that values and provides opportunity, participation, justice and equity for all young people. At YACVic we:

- Listen to the needs of young people, workers with young people and organisations that provide direct services to young people
- Provide advice to the government and other institutions about these needs
- Analyse and develop policy through consultation with our members
- Provide our members with information through our regular printed newsletter YIKES! our email announcement list and our website

YACVic is governed by a volunteer board and managed by a paid secretariat. We are a not-for-profit, membership driven organisation and our core funding comes from the Department of Victorian Communities, through the Office for Youth.

YACVic has around 300 members. Both individuals and organisations are able to join. Our membership base consists of organisations that work with young people such as local council youth services, schools and community organisations, government agencies, academics and young people themselves.

Our Structure

As a membership driven organisation YACVic relies heavily on the involvement of our members in the governance and advisory structures of the organisation.

The direct involvement of the membership is an important and valued aspect of the organisation, which adds weight to the policy positions and public stances that YACVic articulates.

There are a number of formal avenues for members to become involved. They are:

- Board of Governance
- Policy Advisory Group
- Youth Reference Group
- Young Media Spokesperson position

Members may also be involved in our many activities and consultations throughout the year including our Policy Forums and information sessions. They are also encouraged to write articles for Yikes!, our regular newsletter, or to provide information for our bi-weekly email announce list.

5. EARLY INTERVENTION

Public policy and service provision should be based on prevention and education for young people, rather than response to escalating crises. Provision of real options and choices are vital to a young person's transition to adulthood. The school system, both through curriculum and student support staff, offers an ideal forum for providing early intervention and prevention strategies.

6. RESOURCING

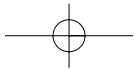
Level of resources accessible to young people and to the youth service sectors should be reflective of the number of young people in the community and the level of need presented. Improved access to services and resources, both physically and in terms of the knowledge about available services, is integral.

7. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Proactive strategies based on affirmative action are required in order to adequately address the issues facing young people and to redress the inequities faced by those confronted by additional disadvantage.

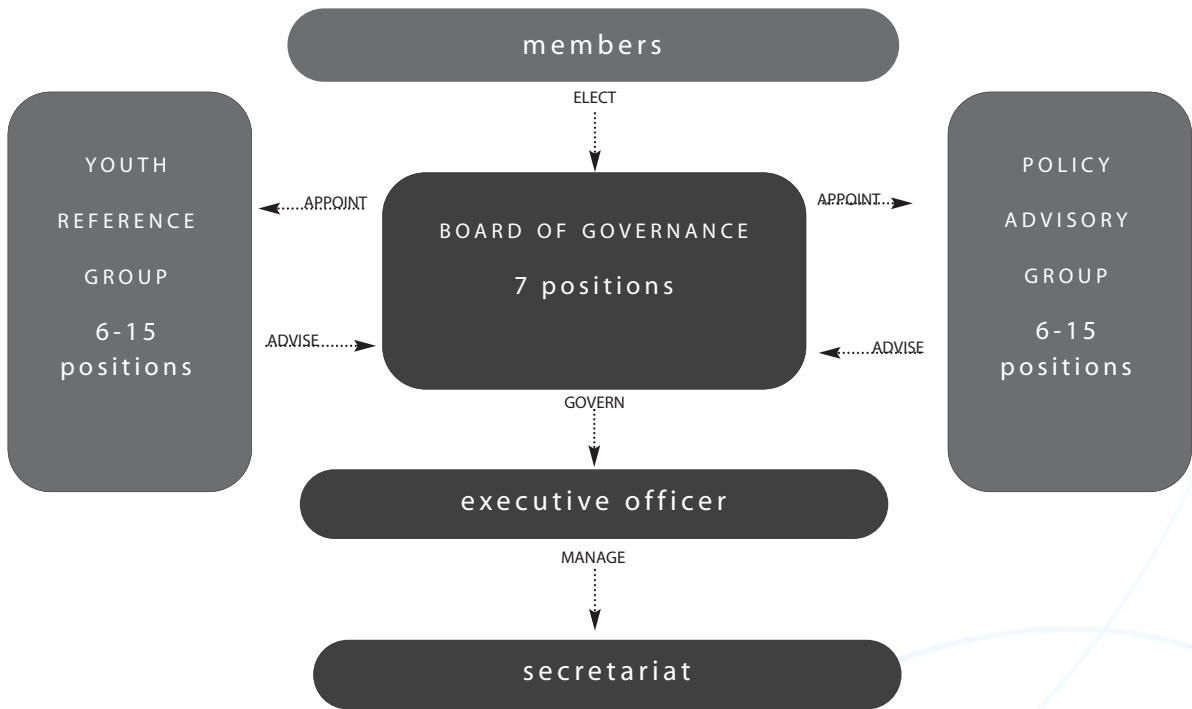
8. DIVERSITY

All young people irrespective of their age, gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, gender identity or ability should be able to access services and programs. Service Delivery must be developed on the premise that young people are not an homogenous group.

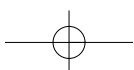


YACVic structure

Board of governance from left to right: Lise Dalla Torre, Michelle Blanchard, Craig Hodges, Rowena Allen, Felicity Sloman, Dave Hamra, Nik Dragojlovic



Secretariat staff: Georgie Ferrari, Nik Beuret, Rys Farthing, Jen Rose, Sally Goldner, Paula Grogan



YACVic would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to members of the YACVic Board of Governance, Youth Reference Group and Policy Advisory Group who have donated their time, energy, ideas and enthusiasm to maintaining YACVic as Victoria's leading policy advocate on young people's issues.

who's who at YACVic

YACVic BOARD

Chairperson
Rowena Allen

Deputy Chairperson
Lise Dalla Torre

Young Media Spokesperson
Michelle Blanchard

Treasurer
Matt Bubb (until October 2003)
Craig Hodges (from November 2003)

Executive Members
Felicity Slowman
Nik Dragojlovic (from November 2003)
Dave Hamra

Member advising the board on Indigenous
Young People
Angelina Tabuteau-Moore

SECRETARIAT

Executive Officer
Georgie Ferrari

Senior Policy Officer
Paula Grogan

Communications Officer
Nik Beuret

Finance Officer
Sally Goldner

Project Officer
Jennifer Rose

Administration Officer
Dalal Samaan (until March 2004)

Information & Participation Officer
Rys Farthing (from April 2004)

POLICY ADVISORY GROUP

Maree Sidey
Ben Rossiter
Anita Doyle
Steve Francis
Steve Wilson
Denise Francisco
Christine Harrison
Roger Holdsworth
Peter Newling
Chris Camwell
Andrew Williamson
Therese Morgante
Angelina Tabuteau-Moore
Esther Singer
Matt Dixon
Donna Gross
Amy Cauohey
Dave Hamra

YOUTH REFERENCE GROUP

Jemma Beuermann
Michelle Blanchard
Jennifer Blyth
Mikhaela Delahunty
Donna Gross
Andrew Higgs
Tessa Hutcheson
Leo Ostrobrurski
Angelique Petrac
Andrew Richardson
Brad Rowswell
Jordina Rust
Christopher Varney
Alan Wu
Anna Wood
Jess Askew
Amy Caughey

2003-04 year in brief

EVENTS AND FORUMS RUN BY YACVIC

- Proposed volatile substances legislation open forum - 21 July 2002
- 'Out of the Blue': New responses to young people and homelessness - 4 September 2003 (In partnership with the Council to Homeless Person's and the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare)
- Inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation focus group with Parliamentary Committee - 12 November 2003
- A professional association of youth workers forum - 30 April 2004
- 'Is getting pissed getting pathetic?' - 21 June 2004 (in partnership with the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association)
- Youth Referral and Independent Person Program launch - 24 June 2004 (in partnership with the Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues, Victoria Police, the Federation of Community Legal Centres, Crime Prevention Victoria and the Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child Roundtables - April 2004 (in partnership with Youthlaw)

SUBMISSIONS, REPORTS AND DISCUSSION PAPERS

Submissions:

- Submission to the Inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation
- Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee Inquiry into the Provisions of the Disability Discrimination Amendment Bill 2003
- Young people and child protection: Protecting Children: The child protection outcomes project
- Submission to the Senate Student Income Support Inquiry

Policy Papers:

- That Old Chestnut! The professionalisation of youth work in Victoria

(Year in Brief continued on page 10)

It's always difficult to remember everything we've done over the past year because there have been so many policy discussions we've engaged in. Here are just some of the highlights.

senior policy officer's report

The Professionalisation of Youthwork

Over the past decade or so, there have been ongoing debates about the professionalisation of the youth sector and the establishment of a professional association for youth workers in Victoria. To move the debate forward, an open forum was held in August 2003 to discuss the development of a professional association for youth professionals. Around 70 people attended the forum and participants resolved that an interim working group should be formed to further investigate the establishment of a professional association.

YACVic worked with the interim working group to resource this investigation. We developed a discussion paper, That Old Chestnut, to stimulate an informed discussion about the establishment of a professional association. A second forum was organised in April 2004 which was attended by about 100 people. The key speakers at this forum included Elory Hamilton-Smith, Judith Bessant (ACU) and John Harris (ASU). Participants unanimously agreed that there is a need for increased advocacy regarding the professional and industrial concerns of youth workers and another working group was established to continue the investigation. Nominations were called for from across the sector and the group has recently met for the first time. This is an issue to watch over the next year.

CROC Consultations

Over recent years, there has been an increasing concern about the implementation of human rights conventions, laws and treaties in Australia. For those working with children and young people, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CROC) is of primary relevance.



YRIPP launch: Paula Grogan, Rowena Allen,

YACVic has always tried to work within a human rights framework and this year we've had the opportunity to look more closely at CROC. We've been working with Youthlaw to examine the implementation of CROC in Victoria. Youthlaw and YACVic believe it's essential to raise the profile of CROC because we're aware of continuing resistance to CROC and confusion about what it means and how it can be implemented in daily practice. Youthlaw and YACVic worked in partnership to organise two roundtable discussions about CROC and how it can be better implemented in practice. We hope to continue this work into the next year.

Out of the Blue

The Out of the Blue: New Responses to Youth Homelessness forum was a joint initiative of the Council to Homeless Persons, the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare and YACVic. Out of the Blue provided an opportunity to share information about new policy, research and program developments in relation to youth homelessness.

Is Getting Pissed Pathetic?

The issue of youth binge drinking has attracted quite a bit of interest recently and there is a perception that young people are binge drinking more than ever. The Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA) and YACVic organised a forum, *Is Getting Pissed Getting Pathetic?* to explore the complexities of the issue. Speakers included Dr John Howard (Ted Noffs Foundation), Professor Margaret Hamilton (Turning Point) and Mr David Crosbie (Odyssey House). Two members of YACVic's Youth Reference Group, Brad Rowswell and Donna Gross, also spoke at the forum. The forum explored the use of alcohol in society and it was clear that binge drinking is not just a youth problem. Strategies must address the entrenched culture of drinking in our community rather than simply target young people.

Joint Custody Enquiry

In 2003, the Federal Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs held an Inquiry into Child Custody Arrangements in the Event of Family Separation. The inquiry attracted significant media attention that tended to focus on the rights and responsibilities of parents post separation. There was very little discussion about the views of the children and young people involved and several members contacted YACVic to ask us to raise the profile of young people in the debate. We contributed both written and verbal submissions to the Inquiry. We also organised a small focus group to enable the Committee to hear directly from young people.



paula grogan

policy officer

Review of Child Protection

The Child Protection Outcomes Project was initiated in 2002 to consider policy, legislation and practice relating to Victoria's Child Protection system. YACVic participated in several consultations as part of this review and we raised concerns about the lack of attention to young people and their specific issues within the protection system. We've been pleased to be involved in ongoing consultations about these issues and we will continue to work with the Government as the review proceeds.

Children and Young People's Commission

In 2002, YACVic - along with the Victorian Council of Social Services, Youthlaw, the Law Institute, the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare and Defence for Children International, Australia - established the Children and Young People's Commission Coalition to strengthen the campaign for a Victorian Children and Young People's Commission. We now have over seventy members representing a diverse range of community agencies. This year the Coalition worked with the City of Melbourne to host the inaugural Say and Play: Victorian Children's Summit, a forum for children under twelve years of age. The Summit provided children with an opportunity to talk about what would make the world a better place for them. About 120 children and their parents/guardians attended on the day and their views will help further the campaign for a Commission.

As always thanks to the Board, the Policy Advisory Group and the Youth Reference Group for their support and advice. Thanks also to all the YACVic members who have contributed to this and other work throughout the year.

Paula Grogan

2003-04 year in brief (cont)

ATTENDANCE AT EVENTS, FORUMS AND CONFERENCES

Australian Council for Children and Youth
Organisations Launch
Adolescent Health Conference
Australian Institute of Criminology Volatile
Substance Inhalation Conference
Anti-poverty Week Launch
Consumer Affairs Victoria Working Together Forum
Centre of Excellence Launch
Department of Human Services - Secretary's
Partnership Forum
Engine Innovate Conference
Local Government Youth Services Conference
NEXUS Youth in Action Forum
Not Another Youth Conference
Plan Australia Conference
Sorry Day
SPEAKOUT Conference
Victorian Council of Social Services Congress
Victorian Indigenous Youth Advisory Council
Youth Gathering
Department of Victorian Communities Women's Summit
Women in the Youth Sector Conference

PARTICIPATION IN PRACTICE CONSULTATIONS

Australian Research Alliance For Children
And Youth Consultation
Centre for Adolescent Health - Young People's
Health Service Consultation
Cardinia Youth Consultation
Department of Infrastructure Rural Transport Consultation
Department of Family and Community Services -
JPET Consultations
Turning Point Youth Service System Review
Bairnsdale Creating Real Action through Youth Visions
Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee - Harmful
Alcohol Consumption Seminar

YACVIC REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Children and Young People's Commission Coalition
Commonwealth Games Community Participation
Working Group
Community Building Resource Group
Drug Info Clearing House Advisory Group
Department of Family and Community Services Youth
Protocol Working Group
Job Watch Committee of Management
Ministerial Roundtable on Juvenile Justice
Police External Youth Reference Group
Professional Youth Workers Association Working Group
Gateway Reconnect Steering Committee
Statewide Steering Committee to Reduce Sexual Assault
Victorian Council of Social Services Peaks Meetings
Volatile Substances Protocols Committee
Youth Homelessness Policy Reference Group
Inner City Regional Youth Committee
Western Regional Youth Committee
Youthlaw Committee of Management

(Year in Brief continued on page 12)

Just looking at the sheer number of publications, submissions and events that comes out of the YACVic office, you'd be forgiven for thinking that YACVic has a staff of hundreds.

communications officer's report

That it is all produced with a secretariat of six (EFT staff of 3.8) is testament to the strong team work and dedication of the staff. The Communications Officer role is one that stretches right across the organisation - from policy documents to sector consultations to the regular email and print newsletters that we produce. Here are some of the main highlights from the year.

Media

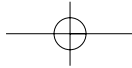
The last year has been one of both consolidation and renewal for YACVic. We have seen this change as an opportunity for renewing YACVic's media presence with regards to both the issues we tackle and the approach we use. This renewal culminated in the media kit and media briefings we undertook at the beginning of 2004. This helped to develop a more personal relationship with some of the principle journalists we deal with on a daily basis, which, we hope, will translate into a firm basis from which we can use to set the agenda on issues relating to young people in the media.

We have continued to provide timely media comment and information to the media on issues affecting young people. We are quite often the first port of call for journalists seeking either comment or contacts within the sector and background on a particular issue. This year we have coverage a good range of issues - from youth unemployment to Medicare and mobile phone debt. We have also continued to use press releases to good effect.

I'd especially like to acknowledge the efforts of our Young Media Spokesperson Michelle Blanchard who has done superb work throughout the year representing YACVic and promoting the voices of young people in the media.

YACVic's New Look

This year we have redesigned the YACVic 'look'. We have redesigned the YACVic logo, but maintained a sense of continuity with our previous logo. The new look YACVic logo has a strong character without losing its professional feel. You may have already seen parts of our redesign, with the new Yikes!, or the change in our letterheads and envelopes. We are also working on a new website, which will be online within the next six months.



Yikes!

At the start of this year, we decided to review Yikes! -its contents, format and style. We sent out a readers' survey with the December 2003 edition. The results of the survey were published in the first edition of 2004. Overwhelmingly our members were happy with both the content and format of Yikes! Most respondents suggested minor changes to both, but made a point of requesting that we didn't change Yikes! too much! Two of the main changes requested through the survey were regular news updates from the State government, and opinion pieces. Both of these were implemented with the new format. One of the things we have not changed is the breadth of issues that we cover in each edition of Yikes! Most respondents told us that this was the thing they liked most about Yikes! People said that the diversity of issues, and the profiles of organisations within the sector creates a sense that the issues and challenges that people face are shared by others within the sector; that Yikes! created a sense of community and help people feel less isolated within their work.

Yikes! has continued to raise issues of importance to the sector, from the State governments proposed productivity and indexation cuts to the sectors funding, police use of sniffer dogs, and the proposed model for a Children's and Young Peoples Commission.

YACVic Online

YACVic has streamlined and regularised our fortnightly email newsletter 'Email Bits' which is now sent to over 740 individuals and organisations. Our website continues to serve as a useful tool both as an archive for our policy papers, submissions and reports, and as a sector resource. The website is currently being redesigned, and we hope to go live with the new site by the end of 2004.



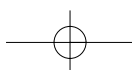
nik beuret

communications officer

The Year Ahead

The year ahead will be an exciting and interesting one for YACVic, especially as the 2004 YACVic State conference, 'Fringe Benefits? Young people on the edge of policy and place', is taking place in early October. It promises to be an engaging and exciting event. Our new look will continue to be implemented, and our relationships with the media will grow and strengthen. No doubt there are other changes on the cards as well. But these changes will be for another Communications Officer to implement. As many of you will already know, I am leaving YACVic after being with the team for the last year. It has been a wonderful learning experience for me, and I want to thank both the entire secretariat, the reference groups and board, and the members for their engagement and their support. I would like to wish YACVic and its new Communications Officer all the best for the future, and hope that Louise enjoys the job as much as I have.

Nik Beuret



2003-04 year in brief (cont)

MEETINGS AND NETWORKING:

KEY CONSULTATIVE AND ADVOCACY MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT AND POLITIANS

Ms Jacinta Allan, Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs
 Mr Robert Doyle, Leader of the Opposition
 The Hon Andrew Olexander, Shadow Spokesperson for Youth Affairs
 The Hon Damien Drum, Deputy Leader of the National Party
 The Office for Youth
 Department of Human Services - Disability Services
 Consumer Affairs Victoria
 Crime Prevention Victoria
 Victoria Police
 Victorian Institute of Teaching
 Victorian Law Reform Commission
 Victorian Multicultural Commission

KEY CONSULTATIVE AND ADVOCACY MEETINGS WITH NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

AGORA
 Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation
 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services
 Australian Youth Affairs Coalition
 Catholic Commission for Justice, Development and Peace
 Centre for Adolescent Health
 City of Whittlesea
 Community Building Resource Service
 Community Child Care Victoria
 Dulin Project
 Eritrean Youth Association
 Foundation for Young Australians
 Gambler's Helpline
 Gateway Reconnect
 Goulburn Plains Youth Services
 Green Corp Alphington group
 Human Rights Alliance of Alliance
 Hume Youth Services Interface Councils
 Human Service Directors
 Law Institute Victoria
 Victoria Legal Aid
 Maribyrnong Workers with Young People
 Melbourne Community Foundation
 Melton Youth Advisory Network
 Melton Youth Services
 Mental Health Foundation
 Moorabool Youth Services
 Moreland Youth Services
 Mornington Peninsula Youth Services
 Nillumbik Community Health Service
 Nillumbik Youth Services
 Orygen Youth Mental Health
 Peninsula Youth and Family Services
 Peter Crowley, Melbourne Docklands Plan International
 Princess Hill Secondary College .
 Reconciliation Australia
 Reconciliation Victoria
 Reichstein foundation
 SCOPE
 Shelter Victoria
 Secretariat of National Aboriginal Islander Childcare



jen rose

project officer

Southern Peninsula Health
 Southern SAAP network
 Sticky - youth zines
 SYN FM
 Thomas Car College, Werribee
 Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association
 Victorian Council of Social Services
 VICSRC
 Victorian Indigenous Youth Advisory Council
 Whitelion
 Wodonga Youth Services, Wodonga Action Crew
 Word of Mouth, Community Capacity Building Project Shepparton
 Wyndham Youth Services
 Youthlaw
 Youthlaw Werribee
 Youthgas
 YWCA

Over the last financial year, I have been lucky enough to work at YACVic in two different roles.

project officer's report

In 2003 I worked as the Participation in Practice Project Officer and in 2004 took on a role with the more concise title of Project Officer. This was a new role created at YACVic to focus on a range of projects currently spanning from research work to events management. Before I detail what I have been doing as Project Officer, I'll report on the Participation in Practice Project which started in February 2003.

Participation in Practice

Participation in Practice (or PIP for short) has been a joint initiative between YACVic and the Office for Youth, Department of Victorian Communities. It involved the production of three handbooks about young people's participation in their communities. Consulting Young People about their Ideas and Opinions and Young People on Boards and Committees are aimed at organisations and agencies wanting to know more about successfully engaging with young people in decision-making processes. The third book of the series *Creating Change in Your Community* is directed at young people and provides information about how young people can get informed, get vocal, get organised, get active, get connected, get creative and create change in their communities.

All three handbooks draw on the knowledge of young people and those working with young people in many different settings across the state. I was lucky to spend a lot of time on the road chatting with young people and workers about various initiatives and programs they were involved in and find out what made them work and what difficulties they had experienced. The project was guided by a steering group of young people and workers, whose contributions were invaluable in the process of developing the handbooks. YACVic finished the writing of the handbooks in December 2003 and they will be produced by the Office for Youth. We're expecting an October launch and the books will be distributed broadly throughout the sector and to young people.

Some training around the handbooks has been delivered with the most popular being training for young people around creating change. We will continue to develop training based on the handbooks.

Project work

As the Project Officer I am lucky to have a very varied role which keeps me on my toes. This role has involved working on our very exciting statewide conference *Fringe Benefits?* Young people on the edge of policy and place, a conference for young people, workers with young people and policy makers. The fringe theme focuses on the way in which young people can experience being on the fringe geographically, culturally and politically. Hosted at the Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre, in the City of Whittlesea, the conference will take place in an urban fringe local government area.

The issues facing young people and workers with young people on the urban fringe of Melbourne has been an area of policy focus for YACVic this year. A key part of my role involved researching and writing a paper exploring these issues. I have been undertaking consultation with young people and service providers in fringe municipalities including Wyndham, Melton, Hume, Whittlesea, Nillumbik, Yarra Ranges, Cardinia, and the Mornington Peninsula. An issues paper outlining the key issues will be released shortly.

My role has also involved working on ways in which YACVic can better advocate for the interests of Indigenous young people in Victoria. In order to be an effective peak body, it is imperative that YACVic is able to effectively advocate on behalf of all young people in Victoria and as such we are beginning to build stronger links with Indigenous community organisations. To develop YACVic's understanding of the experiences and aspirations of Indigenous young people in this state, we've undertaken a variety of strategies including working closely with the Victorian Indigenous Youth Advisory Council, providing YACVic staff, board and committee members with the opportunity to receive cultural awareness training and by working hard to include Indigenous perspectives in our policy and advocacy work.

It's been an exciting year to be YACVic's project officer and there are many things still to look forward to in the year ahead.

Jen Rose

The Policy Advisory Group (PAG) provides policy advice to the YACVic Board and staff.

policy advisory group

PAG members are appointed by the Board following each AGM and members represent a broad range of organisations and services in the youth sector. PAG has a broad knowledge of youth affairs and each member has specific knowledge about particular issues impacting on young people in Victoria.

This year members included:

Maree Sidey
(Orygen Youth Health)
Ben Rossiter
(Frontyard Youth Services)
Anita Doyle
(Ballarat Community Health Centre)
Steve Francis
(Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues)
Steve Wilson
(Youth Substance Abuse Service)
Denise Francisco
(City of Melbourne)
Christine Harrison
(Nexus Youth Resource Centre, Horsham)
Roger Holdsworth
(Youth Research Centre, University of Melbourne)
Peter Newling/Chris Camwell
(Victorian YMCA)
Andrew Williamson
(Victoria University)
Therese Morgante
(Transport Accident Commission)
Angelina Tabuteau Moore
(Dulin Inc)
Esther Singer
(Orygen Youth Health)
Matt Dixon
(Young People's Health Service)
Donna Gross
(Youth Reference Group representative)
Amy Caughey
(Youth Reference Group representative)
Dave Hamra
(Board representative)

Policy discussions throughout the year addressed the following issues:

- YACVic Strategic Plan
- YACVic's Fringe Benefits? Young People on the Edge of Policy and Place conference
- Inquiry into Issues Relating to the Development of Body Image among Young People
- Young people and child protection: The child protection outcomes project
- Inquiry into child custody arrangements in the event of family separation
- The professionalisation of youth work
- Inquiry into strategies to reduce harmful alcohol consumption
- Inquiry into the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Amendment Bill 2003
- Volatile substance inhalation legislation and protocol development



matt dixon, anita doyle, therese morgante



paula grogan, ben rossiter, rys farthing and matt dixon



anita doyle, donna gross and steve francis

In direct response to feedback from our Strategic Planning consultations, YACVic created a new position in early 2004. The Information and Participation Officer's role is to facilitate participation in our organisation particularly from young people.

information and participation officer's report



rys farthing information and participation officer

Hello to all the YACVic's I am yet to meet! I am the new Information and Participation Officer here at the Youth Affairs Council. In this exciting new position, I have both a role in supporting the YACVic team as well as working closely with YACVic Members, especially young people, to try and promote their active participation with the organisation.

Since starting as the Information and Participation Officer in April, YACVic has been trying to connect further with both young people and the youth sector. To this end, YACVic has been running a series of talks to raise our profile with young people and youth workers. We have been presenting at TAFEs, Councils, Student Bodies... to anyone that is interested! The talks have been highlighting the relevance of YACVic to both Young People and the Youth Sector, and have so far increased the diversity and breadth of our membership.

Membership Mapping

In keeping with trying to keep our membership base representative, we have recently mapped our membership. By mapping our membership across local councils, we have identified where YACVic is both strongly represented, as well as regions of low representation. Currently, we are trying to forge stronger links in Victoria's regional West in response to our mapping activities, and have contacted Councils and Youth Services in these regions.

SRC Membership

To increase young people's participation within YACVic, we have targeted Student Representative Committees in our membership call. This way, YACVic will be able to reach a broader diversity of young people, and increase our representation within the education sector. We are in the midst of contacting every school within Victoria!

Youth Reference Group

The Youth Reference Group has been meeting regularly and contributing immensely! Their ideas and expertise have become readily sought, and they have become the 'reference group' for a range of other organisations beyond YACVic, including the Australian Drug Foundation and the Australian Electoral Commission. This has ensured that young people continue to be represented right across the Victorian community.

Library

YACVic's resource centre has been revamped and revived. The library has been updated and reorganised, making it more user friendly. The layout of the resource centre is also set for an upgrade to make the space a more valuable resource available to the youth sector.

Information Requests

YACVic is quite often the first port of call for information requests about the youth sector, or from young people themselves. These can be as simple as advice on how to become a youth worker, for which we have recently prepared an information sheet, to advice on which services exist for young people suffering specific hardships. Dealing with these requests is often timely, but is one of the invaluable services YACVic provides.

Rys Farthing

Imagine you're a producer for ABC radio. It's 6.30am and you've just checked the morning newspapers and heard that the previous evening Mark Latham has announced a 'new' employment strategy that will impact on young people.

young media spokesperson's report



michelle blanchard young media spokesperson

Who do you call? The YACVic Young Media Spokesperson of course!

At 7am the phone rings, waking a house full of University students. 'It's the ABC,' my housemate hollers down the hallway. 'You didn't happen to watch the budget reply last night did you?' the producer asks expectantly. Suddenly regretting making a decision to watch Rove instead, I answer in the negative.

A few minutes and couple of (wake up) calls later, I've been briefed on the issue and by 8am I'm on air taking questions.

Taking on the role of Young Media Spokesperson for the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria has provided me a valuable opportunity to learn how the media operates and how a community organisation like YACVic can manage their relationship with the media.

Over the past year I have given comment on a range of issues including the media representation of young people, internet usage patterns amongst young people, young people's access to education and training, the casualisation of the workforce and issues affecting young people on the urban fringe.

This year has again been a quiet year on the media front, but this does not seem to have coincided with a decrease in the number of young voices in the media. What this indicates, is that the media is slowly beginning to realise how important it is to engage young people in media debate around issues that affect them, while also realising that getting young voices in the media is not just about grabbing the first articulate

young person you can find and asking them what they think. It's about providing opportunities for the very young people affected by various issues and policies to be able to give their opinions and have their voices heard. There have been a number of cases this year where we have been able to refer media enquires on to other organisations we work closely with or to other young people active within YACVic who are directly affected by particular issues.

It's been a privilege to be interviewed by so many young people working in the media including the crew from Pluck TV, SYNfm and S-Press who are providing fantastic opportunities for young people to participate in the production of media in Victoria.

Promising also is the increase in the range of media outlets, including national television current affairs and radio programs, contacting YACVic or myself in search of comment surrounding particular issues. While few of these instances turned into actual media coverage, it is great to know that these media organisations are aware that YACVic is available to comment on a range of issues.

In concluding my term as Young Media Spokesperson, I would like to thank the members of YACVic for providing me with the opportunity to fulfil this role in 2004. I'd also like to thank the Secretariat and the Board for their support, as well as the Youth Reference Group who have kept me up to date on the various issues they feel deserve media attention.

Michelle Blanchard

YACVic has a good pick-up rate for our media releases and are regularly contacted by journalists and researchers for comment on various issues. We are also regularly asked for background information on youth issues.

media overview

MEDIA RELEASES

- 22 August 2003 - Australians unite to tackle youth homelessness
- 12 September 2003 - Opposition call for an independent Children's Commission - a step in the right direction
- 29 September 2003 - Support for legislation
- 5 February 2004 - Latham attack on youth centres unjustified
- 30 March 2004 - Children and young people deserve more
- 28 April 2004 - Budget boost for young Victorians
- 12 May 2004 - Night clubbers soft targets for police sniffer dogs
- 14 May 2004 - 'Youth Guarantee' misses the mark

This year we decided to re-introduce ourselves to a variety of media outlets and introduce the new team (Georgie Ferrari, Executive Officer, Michelle Blanchard, Young Media Spokesperson and Nik Beuret, Communications Officer). We developed a media kit to distribute to journalists and have noticed increased media contact over the past year. Media outlets we've been involved with this year include:

- The Age
- The Herald Sun
- South-East Newspapers
- Financial Review
- RRR
- Melbourne Times
- 774 ABC
- JJJ
- 3AK
- Channel 31
- Southern FM
- S-Press
- 3CR
- MPG
- SBS Television
- 60 Minutes
- Hume Leader
- Maroondah Leader
- Light FM



Participation in Practice focus group members



Participation in Practice focus group members

What a year it has been! This year, YACVic has been a key partner in the development and launch of the Youth Referral and Independent Person Program (YRIPP).

YRIPP - youth referral and independent person program

The program is being piloted in nine, 24 hour police stations across Greater Dandenong, Hume, Darebin, Maribyrnong/Brimbank and Shepparton.

YRIPP has brought together an eclectic mix of agencies including YACVic, the Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues (the program's auspice), the Federation of Community Legal Centres, Crime Prevention Victoria (who provide funding to the program under Safer Streets and Homes, the Government's Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy), the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, Victoria Police and the Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

An Independent Person is a volunteer who generously donates their time to sit in on police questioning of a young person when a parent or guardian cannot be present. YRIPP consolidates and streamlines the provision of Independent Persons for police interviews through providing standardised training and a centralised rostering system accessible to police by a 1300 telephone number.

Police and Emergency Services Minister André Haermeyer, in association with Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon, launched the YRIPP on June 24th 2004. The launch was held at Sunshine Police Station and was attended by around 80 representatives from government and community agencies operating in the legal, youth, multicultural and Indigenous sectors.

The development and implementation of YRIPP represents the culmination of years of work by partner agencies aiming to address the ongoing overrepresentation of young people in the criminal justice system, as well as concerns about the numbers of young people from newly arrived migrant and refugee communities entering the justice system.

The YRIPP team is:

- working with existing volunteers and recruiting new volunteers to fulfil the role of Independent Person in the pilot areas;
- providing training to Independent Person volunteers, not just in relation to police and legal processes, but also in understanding young people and understanding culturally diverse and Indigenous young people;
- providing training to Independent Persons to provide young people with referrals to culturally appropriate health and welfare support services after the police interview, as required;
- providing police with access to a 1300 telephone number to call for a trained Independent Person to be deployed to the pilot stations for interviews as required;
- working towards the provision of free, 24 hour a day, 7 day a week telephone legal advice for young people at pilot police stations;
- establishing (or consolidating) Local Youth Justice Networks to act as local reference groups for the program and mechanisms through which strategic partnerships can be formed to address issues relating to youth offending.

I, and the YRIPP team, would like to thank the program partners as well as all those agencies and individuals who have provided support for the program at the central and local levels. We are looking forward to the continued implementation of the program over the next year and to working with Government and community agencies towards ensuring the sustainability of the program in the longer term.

Sally Reid



YRIPP team - Paul Teusner, Rebecca Wolstenholme, Sally Reid, Liz Coleman and Debbie Brown, absent-Sharon Murphy

2003-04 MEMBERS

- Anglicare Eastern Youth Services
 - Ardoch Youth Foundation
 - Association for Children with a Disability
 - Australian Red Cross
 - Ballarat Community Health Centre
 - Banyule City Council
 - Barwon Adolescent Task Force (BATFORCE)
 - Baw Baw Latrobe Local Learning and Employment Network
 - Bayside City Council - Youth Services
 - Bayside Glen Eira Kingston- Local Learning & Employment Network (BGK LLEN)
 - Baywest Youth Housing Group
 - Bendigo Community Health Services
 - Berry Street
 - BEST Inc.
 - Brimbank/Melton Local Learning & Employment Network
 - Brophy Family & Youth Services Inc.
 - Cardinia-Casey Community Health Service
 - Catchment Youth Services Refuge
 - Central Goldfields Shire Council
 - Central Grampians LLEN
 - Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA)
 - Centre for Adolescent Health
 - Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues (CMYI)
 - Child & Family Services - Ballarat Inc
 - City of Boorondara
 - City of Casey
 - City of Glen Eira (Youth Services)
 - City of Greater Geelong
 - City of Kingston - Youth Services
 - City of Maribyrnong
 - City of Moonee Valley
 - City of Port Phillip
 - City of Whittlesea
 - City of Wodonga
 - City of Yarra
 - Clockwork-Young People Health Service
 - Colac Adult & Community education Inc
 - Colac Area Health
 - Connections
 - Cutting Edge Youth Services (CEYS)
 - Department of Education Science and Training
 - Dulin
 - Eastern Access Community Health
 - Family Access Network Inc.
 - Family Planning Victoria Inc
 - Federation of Community Legal Centres (FCLC)
 - Fitzroy Legal Service
 - Foundation for Young Australians
 - Frankston Youth Resource Centre
 - Frankston/Mornington Peninsula Local Learning & Employment Network (LLEN)
 - Fusion Australia Ltd. (Vic)
 - Gippsland Accommodation & Rehabilitation Support Services (GARSS)
 - Gippsland East Local Learning and Employment Network
 - Goldfields Employment and Learning Centre
 - Goldfields Local Learning and Employment Network
 - Greater Dandenong Community Health Services
- Continued on page 20



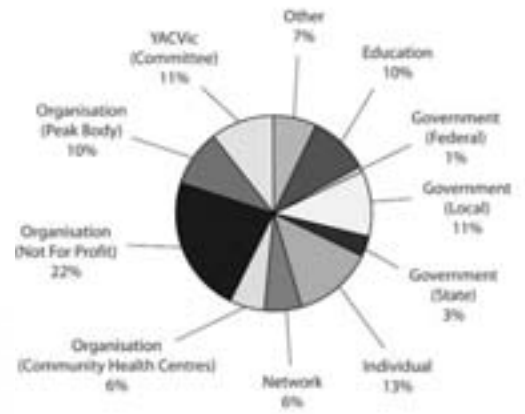
Laurel Sutton (Victoria Police), Inspector Bill Mathers (Victoria Police), Katie Wright (CPV), Nick Chiam (DIMIA), Carmel Guerra (CMYI), Sally Reid (YRIPP), Ian Urquhart (CPV), Sergeant Malcolm Hull (Victoria Police), Dr Santina Perrone (CPV)
absent - Georgie Ferrari (YACVic), Sarah Nicholson (FCLC)

2003-04 MEMBERS (continued)

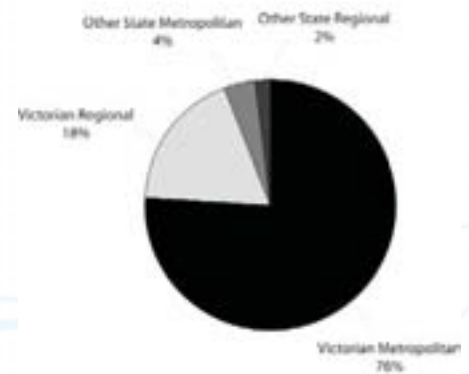
Guides Victoria
 Hanover Welfare Services
 Highlands Local Learning & Employment Network Inc (LLEN)
 Hume City Council
 Incolink
 Inglewood & Dostricts Health Service
 Inner South Community Health Service
 Jesuit Social Services
 Job Watch
 K.Y.M. Employment Services
 Kids Helpline
 Kildonan Child and Family Services
 Lakes Entrance Community Health
 Latrobe City Council
 Lighthouse Foundation
 MacKillop Family Services
 Mallee Accommodation & Support Program Inc
 Manningham Youth & Family Services Inc.
 Marist Transition School
 Maroondah City Council - Youth Services
 Melton Shire Council- Youth Service
 Menzies Inc.
 Mildura Rural City Council (Youth Services)
 Mill Park Leisure Centre
 Monash University Gippsland Student Union
 Moreland City Council Youth Services
 Murray Mallee Community Legal Service
 Nexus Youth Resource Centre
 North Central Local Learning & Employment Network
 North East Support & Action for Youth Inc
 North Melbourne Institute of TAFE
 Office of the Public Advocate
 Open Family Australia
 Orana Family Services
 Orygen Youth Health
 Plus 119 Individuals
 Probation Officers & Volunteers in Corrections Inc
 Royal Women's Hospital
 Salvation Army - Crossroads/ Youth & Family Services
 Salvation Army South East Services Network SESN
 Salvation Army Victoria
 Secretariat National Aboriginal and Islander Childcare Inc. (SNAICC)
 Sexual Assault Youth Outreach Service
 Shire of Campaspe
 Shire of Strathbogie
 South East Local Learning & Employment Network
 Southern Family Life
 St John Ambulance Australia
 St Kilda Youth Service Inc
 St. Lukes Family Care - Anglicare
 Streetwork Outreach Service
 Sunraysia Community Health Services
 Taskforce Community Agency Inc.
 The Bridge
 The Push
 The Salvation Army - Eastcare Network
 Toorong Scout Centre
 Uniting Youth Ministries
 University of Ballarat -Tippett Library
 SMB Campus

University of Melbourne - Library
 Upper Hume Community Health
 Upwey High School
 Victoria University - Youth Studies
 Victorian Association of Youth in Communities (VAYC)
 Victorian Council of YMCA's
 Victorian INDEPENDENT Education Union (VIEU)
 Victorian Young Farmers Inc.
 VIVAIDS
 VLGA
 Wellington Shire Council
 Werribee Legal Service
 Western Region Accommodation Program
 Western Young People's Independent Network (WYPIN)
 Whitelion
 Wombat Housing and Support Services
 Wodonga Inst TAFE
 Workco
 Wyndham Youth Service
 Yarra Ranges Youth Services
 Yarra Valley Community Health
 Young Unionists Network
 Youth Futures - Mission Australia
 Youth Law
 Youth Projects Inc.
 Youth Research Centre
 Youth Substance Abuse Service (YSAS)
 Youth Support Services - St. Vincent de Paul

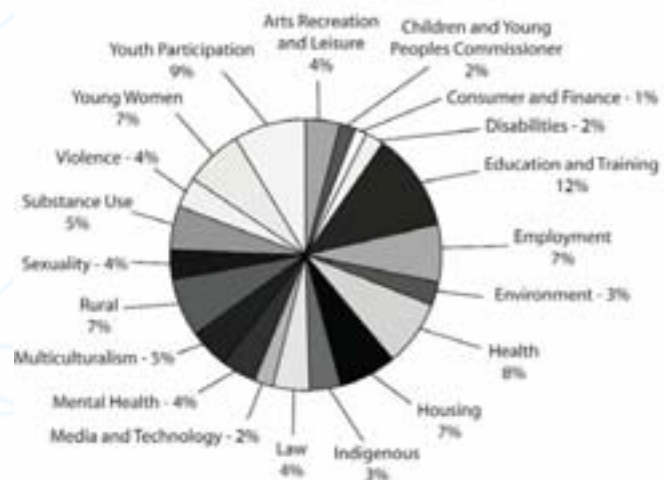
* Please note, for privacy reasons no individual members are listed.

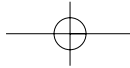


Membership Location



Policy Interests





YACVic membership has remained stable over the last few years, both with regards to numbers and general composition.

membership report

This year's membership provides more detailed information on the breakdown of membership by location. This information gives our members a better picture of how YACVic is fairing with regards to engaging with the sector geographically.

YACVic members have consistently shown a high level of interest and commitment to the organisation. This is demonstrated by the excellent attendances at our forums and great response rate we have from information sent out via our communication networks.

Types of YACVic membership

YACVic has five main membership categories: organisational members, associate members, additional members, individual members and reciprocal members. All members are entitled to all printed materials despatched from YACVic. Government departments (not including Local Government Youth Services) are entitled to become associate members only. Additional members are affiliates of a larger umbrella organisation that is an organisational member of YACVic. Reciprocal members are organisations that exchange periodicals with YACVic.

What kinds of organisations and people are members of YACVic?

The mainstays of our membership are not-for-profit organisations and individuals who are committed to YACVic's ongoing work. Combined, these groups make up exactly half of our membership base. The not-for-profit category is mostly made up of direct service agencies that specialise in youth services along with neighbourhood centres, community legal and health centres, research and policy agencies and other organisations that are not necessarily part of the youth sector but whose work deals with the needs of young people. The individual membership category consists of young people and students along with people who have worked with in the youth field in a variety of capacities and have carried their individual membership with them through a range of organisations.

Local Government, educational institutions and peak bodies are the next three largest membership categories. The majority of local government members work in the area of youth services (note: local government youth services are entitled to organisational membership of YACVic, however any other part of local, state or federal government must be an associ-

ate member). The category of peak bodies consists of both Victorian peaks or umbrella organisations and youth peaks that are the equivalent of YACVic in other states. Secondary schools, university department and student representative bodies make up the category of education institutions.

State government includes the Office for Youth, and the networks category refers to Local Learning & Employment Networks, Regional Youth Committees and School Focussed Youth Services.

What are YACVic members interested in?

When you become a member of YACVic we collect information about what areas of policy you are interested in. This assists us in focusing our work and also enables us to draw on the expertise of our members around particular issues, such as substance abuse or homelessness. As you can see from the graph the spread of interests are quite even with youth participation, rural issues, housing, health issues and employment, education and training standing out as some of the major areas our members are interested in.

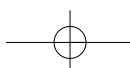
Location of YACVic membership

While the basic statistics on the location of our membership has not changed significantly over the last few years, this year we have access to a higher level of detail on exactly where our membership is located.

Three quarters of our membership is located within the Victorian metropolitan region. Within the metro, the largest single concentration of members is within the local council area of Melbourne. There are also large concentrations in Yarra, Moreland, Darebin, Port Phillip, Boroondara, Whitehorse and Maroondah.

18% of our members are located in regional and rural Victoria. The areas they are primarily located within are Greater Geelong, Ballarat, Greater Shepparton, and the shires to the north and east of Greater Shepparton. There are also a significant number of YACVic members in Hume, Mornington Peninsula, Melton and Manningham.

Outside of Victoria, 4% of our members are located in metropolitan areas and 2% in regional and rural areas.



Financial Report 2003 - 2004

Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc

YACVic has recorded an operating surplus of \$288.00 for the year ended 30 June 2004.

treasurer's report

In my first year as Treasurer it is pleasing to be able to report a small operating surplus for the 2003-2004 year. This is a remarkable achievement given unforeseen expenditures during the year as well as seeing a small increase in hours for some of the Secretariat given the increased workload on YACVic as a whole. During the year we have seen an increase in the number of projects YACVic has taken on board which has assisted in increasing our revenue base to allow for this expansion in activities.

This last year has seen the successful transition of Executive Officers from Janet Jukes to Georgie Ferrari. We have also seen Matt Bubb step down from both his roles of Treasurer and board member. It was also the year in which we undertook a strategic planning process which has enabled the Board to focus on key priority areas for the next three years. This will position YACVic well for the future and coincides with the successful signing off of our triennial funding agreement with the Department of Victorian Communities.

The year ahead however does provide YACVic with some very real challenges as we take on more projects the need for additional resources to support these projects becomes more urgent. This next phase should see us explore ways in which YACVic can receive funds from philanthropic organizations thus ensuring we have eligible PBI (Public Benevolent Institution) status. There may be opportunities to partner with other organizations who are seeking to co-locate with services similar to their own. This would prove a significant advantage given the space issues facing the current YACVic Secretariat.

Thanks to both Georgie Ferrari, Executive Officer and Sally Goldner, Finance Officer for those early morning finance meetings throughout the year which have enabled us to both plan and monitor the budget process on a monthly basis. In particular I would like to thank Sally for her fantastic efforts in both orienting me to YACVics finances and her skill and expertise in this area. It has certainly made my job as Treasurer that much easier. I, on behalf of the Board, would also like to take this opportunity to thank Matt Bubb for his role as Treasurer over the past three and a half years, again because of his work it has made my transition a relatively smooth one. It is with pleasure that I present to you the financial report on pages 23 to 27 for the 2003 - 2004 financial year.

Craig Hodges

Treasurer



craig hodges treasurer



sally goldner finance officer

financial report 2003-04

Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2004

	Note	2004 \$	2003 \$
Current Assets			
Cash	7	84,427	153,426
Receivables		11,313	3,436
Prepayments		3,462	2,638
Total Current Assets		99,202	159,500
Non Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	18,915	24,110
Total Assets		118,117	183,609
Current Liabilities			
Payables		15,161	20,087
Provisions		28,381	27,258
Grants in advance	6	9,600	68,750
Other		1,570	4,397
Total Current Liabilities		54,712	120,492
Net Assets		63,405	63,117
Members Funds			
Cash based Reserves		44,490	39,007
Fixed asset based reserves		18,915	24,110
		63,405	63,117

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

	Note	2004 \$	2003 \$
Revenue from ordinary activities	2	343,691	342,128
Employee expenses		(245,421)	(231,143)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses		(12,753)	(14,745)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(85,230)	(95,415)
Surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities	3,4	288	826

Increase/(decrease) in reserves from prior year adjustments

	288	826
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The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

	Note	2004 \$	2003 \$
Cash Flow from Operating Activities			
Receipts			
Receipts from members		15,142	21,801
Operating grants		195,646	258,540
Interest Earned		2,363	3,074
Other receipts		60,364	85,859
Payments			
Payments to suppliers and employees		(334,763)	(331,570)
Cash Flow from Operating Activities		(61,249)	37,704
Cash Flow from Investing Activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(7,750)	(8,185)
Cash Flow from Investing Activities		(7,750)	(8,185)
Cash Flow from Financing Activities			
Cash Flow from Financing Activities			0
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash held		(68,999)	29,519
Cash at the beginning of the year		153,426	123,907
Cash at the end of the year		84,427	153,426

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

financial report 2003-04

Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

NOTE 2: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 [Vic]. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

As a prescribed company the financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 [Vic] and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AAS 1	Statement of Financial Performance
AAS 4	Depreciation
AAS 5	Materiality
AAS 6	Accounting policies
AAS 8	Events occurring after reporting date
AAS 28	Statement of Cash Flows
AAS 36	Statement of Financial Position

No other Australian Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following specific accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

FIXED ASSETS

Fixed assets are included at cost, and are depreciated over their estimated useful lives, commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Provision is made for payments to employees for their pro rata entitlement to annual leave.

FUNDING GRANTS

General operating support grants, from the Department of Education, Employment and Training are made on an annual basis and are fully brought to account during the financial year.

Specific project grants, generally made on a non profit or loss basis, are brought to account over the duration of the project, on the basis of actual costs incurred. Unexpended grants at year end, are carried forward in the balance sheet, as a liability to be matched against expenses in future periods.

Where the project period extends beyond year end, an assessment is made at year end as to the financial progress of projects by comparing actual year to date costs against budgeted year to date costs. Where a significant cost overrun has been

financial report 2003-04

Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

incurred, a provision for overrun is raised in the accounts to ensure that any significant losses are recognised in the period to which they relate.

The Board has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and therefore, there is no requirement to apply Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in the preparation of these financial statements. The Board have determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the accounts.

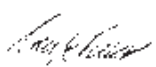
In the opinion of the Board the financial report:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc. as at 30 June 2004 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:



Rowena Allen
(Chairperson)



Craig Hodges
(Treasurer)

Dated this 15th day of September 2004.

NOTE 2: REVENUE	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Operating activities		
Government grants	308,396	307,814
Membership subscriptions	17,969	18,813
Interest received	2,685	3,074
Publications	4,471	2,695
Forums and training	-	2,455
Other income	10,170	7,278
Total revenue	343,691	342,128

NOTE 3: SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities has been determined after		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	12,753	14,745
Remuneration of auditor		
- audit services	1,486	1,187
- other services	-	-
Total remuneration	1,486	1,187

financial report 2003-04

Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

NOTE 4: INCOME TAX

The Association is specifically exempt from tax under s(50)10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act, and in accordance with the restrictions imposed by exempt status, no asset or income of the Association may be transferred to any member of the Association.

NOTE 5: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Furniture and fittings - at cost	4,435	4,149
Less Accumulated depreciation	(1,560)	(1,126)
	2,874	3,023
Leasehold improvements	6,028	6,028
Less Accumulated depreciation	(2,132)	(1,530)
	3,896	4,498
Office equipment	49,946	46,836
Less Accumulated depreciation	(37,801)	(30,248)
	12,145	16,588
	18,915	24,109

NOTE 6: GRANTS RECEIVED IN ADVANCE	2004	2003
	\$	\$
City of Whittlesea	3,000	
VicHealth	6,600	
DEET funding		68,750
	9,600	68,750

NOTE 7: CASH FLOW INFORMATION	2004	2003
	\$	\$
A) Reconciliation of cash		
Cash at the period's end as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:		
Cash	84,427	153,426
	84,427	153,426
B) Reconciliation of net cash provided by operating activities to operating surplus		
Operating surplus	288	826
non cash flows in operating surplus		
depreciation	12,753	14,745
Provisions	1,123	(587)
loss on sale of assets	192	
other non cash flows		
movement in reserves		
Changes in assets & liabilities		
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(4,926)	(4,427)
Increase/(decrease) in other liabilities	-	
Increase/(decrease) in grants received in advance	(59,150)	
Increase/(decrease) in membership received in advance	(2,827)	2,987
(Increase)/decrease in other current assets	(825)	
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(7,877)	24,159
	-61,249	37,702



INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
To the Members of YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC.

SCOPE

We have audited the attached special purpose financial report comprising the Statement of Financial Position, Operating Statement, Cash Flow Statement and Notes to the Financial Statements, of **Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc.** for the year ended 30th June 2004. The Committee of Management is responsible for the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the constitution and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of **Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc.** No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members. The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee of Management's financial reporting requirements under the constitution. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements. (These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and UIG Consensus Views).

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

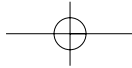
In our opinion, the financial report presents a true and fair view in accordance with the accounting policies to the financial statements the financial position of **Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc.** as at 30th June 2004, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, and gives a true and fair view of the **Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc.** during and at the end of its last financial year.

Janet L Collyer
J L COLLYER AND PARTNERS

26th July 2004

DIRECTORS
 JANET L. COLLYER FCPA, LIONEL R. ARNOLD CA B.BUS, ANTHONY E.G. FEDLER CA B.BUS





thankyou

So many people and organisations have helped YACVic over the past 12 months, it is almost impossible to name them all but we are going to have a go at it...

bryan Andy

Carol Bennett, VAADA

Robyn Broadbent, Victoria University

Matt Bubb, former Treasurer

Kavitha Chandra-Shekeran, WYPIN

Peter Chellew, The Push

Coleen Clare and the CWAV Team

Tim Corney, Incolink

Jamie Crosby, Australian Youth Affairs Coalition Chairperson

Juli Drugdale, Melbourne City Mission's Agora

Carmel Guerra and the CMYI Team

Jonathon Goodfellow, Disability Discrimination Legal Service

Niti Gupta and Anne Mustow, Blake Dawson Waldron Lawyers

Jon Kanoa, Victorian Indigenous Youth Advisory Council

Janet Jukes, former Executive Officer

Peter Newling, Victoria YWCA

Trent McCarthy and Ben Purdy, Dramatic Solutions for Human Communication

Bernadette McMenamin, Choose with Care

David Murray and the YSAS Team

Sarah Nicholson, Youthlaw

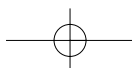
Danny Sandor

Cath Smith and the VCOSS Team

Angelina Tabuteau-Moore

Deb Tsorbaris and the CHP Team

Irene Verins, VicHealth





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COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC.