

# YIKES!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC.

## Victorian Government Youth Strategy Consultation

If you only respond to one government consultation this year, this is the one! The Office for Youth has just released its Youth Strategy Discussion Paper for community consultation, comment and feedback. The Youth Strategy will be an extremely important document as it will form the basis of the government's approach to youth policy for the Whole of Government. This is our chance to put young women and young men firmly in the centre of the Victorian Government's social policy agenda.



The Discussion Paper provides a vehicle for young people, their families, the broader community, service providers, the private sector and others to comment on a wide range of themes impacting on the lives of young Victorians, including:

- Valuing Young People;
- Involving Young People in Decision Making;
- Community and Cultural Participation;
- Health and Well-being;
- Enhancing Opportunities for Young People to Participate in Education, Employment and Training;
- The Importance of Partnerships;
- Valuing Diversity; and
- Young People's Rights and Responsibilities.

**If you care care about young people in Victoria, sharpen your pencils and get writing!**

In response to the Youth Strategy Discussion Paper YACVic will be organising consultations with interested members in the coming weeks. Information about the consultations will be posted on the YACVic internet site [www.yacvic.org.au](http://www.yacvic.org.au).

In addition, YACVic strongly encourages members to contribute their own submissions to the Youth Strategy Discussion Paper. Written submissions will be received up until **18 April 2001**. Further information is available on the Office for Youth website which can be accessed through [www.youth.vic.gov.au](http://www.youth.vic.gov.au).

This is an important opportunity for those working in the youth sector and other interested parties to have input into the development of what will be the basis of the Bracks' Labor Government's youth policy.

## Current Policy Trends in Employment, Education and Training....

Fundamental changes to the Australian economy brought on by globalisation and the impact of automation have resulted in the demise of a full-time youth labour market and a radical disruption to the traditional pathways between school and work open to young people.

In light of this, YACVic recently undertook research into the area of employment, education and training to see how policies and practices are impacting on the lives of young Victorians.

Here is a **snapshot of the major policy developments** at state and federal government levels in relation to employment, education and training.

### State Government Level

*Ministerial Review of Post Compulsory Education and Training Pathways in Victoria Final Report – The Kirby Report*

In October 2000 the Final Report of the Ministerial Review of Post Compulsory Education and Training Pathways in Victoria (the Kirby Report) was accepted by the Bracks' Government. The Report provides a challenging vision that promises to **reinvigorate post compulsory education** and training with a focus on young people and their needs

In response to the Kirby Report, the Bracks' Government has outlined a number of new initiatives and targets for Post Compulsory Education and Training in Victoria. The cornerstone of the government's strategy in relation to young people is to increase the percentage that

Continued on page 5...

**Volume 1 | Edition 3 | February 2001**

### Inside this edition...

Youthworks Ballarat ■ The Rights of Children and Young People Conference ■ Young people speak out: Action Exchange Project ■ Young People and Shopping Centres ■ Funded Agency Channel on the web ■ Events and Resources ■ Membership Form ■ New YACVic vision statement ■ Call for submissions.

**youthaffairs**  
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VICTORIA'S LEADING POLICY ADVOCATE ON YOUNG PEOPLES ISSUES

## About YACVIC

The Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc. (YACVic) is the peak body and leading policy advocate on young people's issues in Victoria. YACVic's vision is for a Victorian Community that values and provides opportunity, participation, justice and equity for all young people.

The main function of YACVic is to make representations to government and serve as an advocate for the interests of young people, workers with young people and organisations that provide direct services to young people. YACVic's resources are primarily directed towards policy analysis and development through consultation with its constituency. YACVic also resources the information needs of its members through regular updates and by facilitating networking within and beyond the Victorian youth sector.

YACVic is governed by a volunteer Board and managed by a paid secretariat. The Council's core funding comes from the Victorian Government's Office for Youth.

## Vision statement

Our vision is for a Victorian Community that values and provides opportunity, participation, justice and equity for all young people.

YACVic actively works towards this vision as the peak body and leading policy advocate on young people's issues in Victoria.

## Yikes!

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## Contributions

Contributions to Yikes! are welcome. Please note our copy deadlines on the back page.

## Inserts & Advertising

If you wish to include an insert or advert in Yikes please contact the YACVic Communications Officer on (03) 9612 8999.

# BALLARAT Youthworks

## provides a stepping stone for young people

By Natalie Duke, 14 (Ballarat)

### What is Youthworks?

Jac Kreemers (trainer): Youthworks is youth training, working with kids at risk and getting them motivated and heading towards some kind of lifestyle. They basically already tried school and every other program that Centrelink has to offer and we try to get them back into some form of education. That may be a pre-apprenticeship, depending on their age, which will give them a better outlook in their future.

### What is the aim of the organisation?

Wayne Baker (Youth services program manager): The aim of the organisation is to give young people the opportunity to achieve their dreams, learn to communicate and learn to develop plans. The main aim – because of the age group of those who come here – is to get these kids back into fulltime education, and develop the ability to stick at it.

### What age group attends Youthworks?

Jac: The age group which currently attend is 13-19. You could break them up into three categories – the Core group, 15-17, aged below that – Schoolies; drop out from school or doing part time school and part time Youthworks. We try to make arrangements with them, if they agree to do part time school then they can do a couple of days a week there and the rest here.

Wayne: most kids are here because of anti-peer pressure. We try and turn that into a positive peer pressure because we all work in peer groups, everyone has peer pressure. So it's better to be in a positive environment and be able to identify a positive environment rather than a negative one.

### What are the main reasons for which people come to Youthworks?

Wayne: It's usually because they are at risk in some area. We have people with offending behaviours, that have broken the law; kids from broken homes; kids that don't fit into the school system as such; kids that

have been victims of all sorts of things – physical violence of all descriptions.

People say 'kids at risk' and they immediately think of bad kids, but for most kids at risk it's not their fault. Its circumstance that they have found themselves in. It's originally not of their doing. They're not bad kids, they're great kids.

Jac: People think 'oh kids at risk, I'm in danger of being a victim of these kids. There'll be burglaries or bashings or whatever'. It has to be viewed the other way. Kids at risk means they're the ones at risk – at risk of going to jail, of being hurt, taking drugs, peer pressure..

### Who provides the funding for Youthworks?

Wayne: From a number of areas. Human services give us a little, we get a lot of funding through the Office for Further Education and Training, ACFE – Adult Council of Further Education, OTFE, the Salvation Army and we rely on donations from all over.

Then we look at funding for various projects, such as VIC Safe who have been funding our camps for us.

### If Ballarat kids need to come here, how do they become involved in the program?

Wayne: That's easy. They can do it through their school, through their caseworkers, Centrelink, word of mouth – they can come in and see us. So there's lots of ways to become involved in Youthworks.

As long as we've got space, or even if we don't have a space and there's a need there, we'll try and make a space.

### When did Youthworks first open?

Wayne: Youthworks opened in September of last year. It followed up from Musical and Mechanical workshop, which closed in March last year.

So, it's had a long history, although Youthworks has nothing to do with musical and mechanical workshop.

### Is Youthworks an Australia wide service?

Wayne: No, Ballarat, only. We're affiliated with the Ballarat Community Development Centre, which is a national part of Training and Development.

They have offices of different areas right through, so we're part of a bigger organisation but the Youthworks section is Ballarat region only.

### How do you feel that Youthworks helps our community?

Wayne: A lot of things we do are unseen. Because we're helping young people get over their offending behaviour, we're saving the community a lot of money by young people not offending or not repeat offending.

The drug problem. A lot of kids come here with drug habits. What we're finding is that when they leave here they're well on their way to curing that, so we also save the community there. But it's not really a money thing. It's giving kids the opportunity to where they can go and giving them every opportunity.

Just because they're experimenting with drugs or have fallen out of school does not mean that they shouldn't be given those opportunities. They're only mistakes, and we all make mistakes.

So, it's only a growth thing. What we're finding is that about 85% of the kids who go through Youthworks are actually returning to school or going on to employment. The other 15% have still not yet got there. They might come back and repeat or they might go off and do another program for a while. But we are getting a really good success rate.

I think the real major feature for the community is that it's somewhere for these kids to get involved, it's somewhere with a purpose where they can get nationally recognised training so they've got a passport for their future, or a stepping stone for their future, which I think is really important.

A lot of the kids here have very high potential. They have very strong leadership qualities, good IQs and they want to learn, they just don't fit the normal mode of learning.

Once they experience it and learn what learning is all about they want more. That's why they are very successful when they go back to school, because they understand it.

This article originally appeared in 'The Vibe' a news service provided by young people to young people and appears as a regular section in The Courier, Ballarat on 07/12/00. YACVic would like to thank The Courier for permission to reprint this article.

### Friday 2nd March 2001 - Melbourne Town Hall, Swanston Street, Melbourne

The rights of children and young people are again an issue of debate in the community. Recently Victoria has seen increased opposition to the detention of young people, a renewed call for an Office of Children and Children's Commissioner, considerable debate in the community about the use of corporal punishment as a means of discipline at home and controversy about the child's right to a father.



## The Rights of Children and Young People Working Conference

A soon to be released paper from the Federation of Community Legal Centres shows that we still have lots of work to do, to make young people's rights a reality.

This conference will bring together relevant agencies working with young people to develop strategies to enhance children's rights, according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This is a unique opportunity for the youth sector in Victoria.

The conference will hear from Moira Raynor, former Commissioner for the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and currently employed in London as the Director of the Office of Children's Rights. The official opening will include The Honourable Justin Madden, Minister for Youth Affairs.

All enquiries and registrations to Fiona McKay, North Melbourne Legal Service ph 03 9328 1885, email nmls@vicnet.net.au

## Young People Speak Out

Youth radio, youth councils and services for young people in trouble are among seven projects that have been recognised by a leading Australian children's rights group.

The groups have won the right to showcase their innovative approaches through the World Wide Web by being listed as part of the Action Exchange project on the National Children's and Youth Law Centre website. [www.lawstuff.org.au](http://www.lawstuff.org.au).

The contribution of young people in shaping their own lives is evident in all of the projects. Victorian groups involved in the show case are:

- VicSTARS, or Victorian Students That Take Reconciliation Seriously. VicSTARS is a group of people under 17 years old who meet regularly to discuss political, social and cultural issues of reconciliation. VicSTARS put together the first Victorian Youth Reconciliation Forum in August 1998, opened by Gatjil Djerrkura, the former ATSIC

Chairman. That conference brought together 350 students from 210 schools.

- Princes Hill Secondary College, North Carlton Victoria, which set up Student Action Teams to build links with community groups and give them a voice on youth issues.

The Action Exchange competition, organised by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and the National Children's and Youth Law Centre, celebrates the enthusiasm and initiative of young people in speaking up for themselves and participating actively in Australian society for the benefit of other children and young people.

Each winner received a small contribution towards the project and the opportunity to have project details posted on the Lawstuff website, run by the National Children's and Youth Law Centre, for other young people to see.

To see the web pages go to [www.lawstuff.org.au](http://www.lawstuff.org.au) and follow the instructions to reach Action Exchange

The shopping centres which are scattered throughout Victoria have become a site for a modern day street scene. Shopping centres are a focal point of local communities and often provide young people with one of the only non-sporting recreational spaces to meet friends and socialise.



## Young people and shopping centres, a new approach...

The way in which young people use shopping centres as a space to hang out is at odds with the market driven mentality of many shopping centre managements. They believe that if young people are not spending money then they do not have the right to use the space and are moved on. Shopping centres can also become temporary shelter for homeless young people. Currently authorities move these people on and another shelter is found until they are moved on again. A culture of confrontation is created between young people, security guards and shopping centre management.

Open Family Youth Services run a number of youth strategies with the aim of breaking down this confrontational approach traditionally taken by shopping centres. Open Family is a non-profit welfare based organisation which aims to improve the well being and self-worth of alienated and excluded Australian children with the view to reconnecting them with the community. Funded almost entirely with cash donations from the public and with support from the corporate sector, Open Family presently has workers in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Albury/Wodonga, Shepparton, Seymour and Wangaratta.

Nathan Sterling, CEO of Open Family describes their streetwork methodology as being one of a twenty-four seven mentality, "our outreach workers address the needs and problems of these youth and link them back into the community through the appropriate services and by providing ongoing support."

Open Family have implemented their youth strategy at both Highpoint and Knox City Shopping Centres. Carmel Barber is part of a team of three Open Family streetworkers who cover the Dandenong, Springvale and Knox areas. Carmel talks to Yikes! about how Knox City is approaching this issue...

"I have been the Open Family Streetworker at Knox City for around six months. I work in a team of three streetworkers, which covers the Dandenong, Springvale and Knox areas, although each of us has a primary responsibility to one area. My two young colleagues are males aged 25 and 26. We have implemented a team approach to utilise the best of our varied skills to benefit the young people in those areas.

I am told the Knox municipality roughly corresponds to the demographic of the Western Suburbs of Sydney. In a Victoria wide survey of risk factors for youth taken earlier this year by the Centre for Adolescent Health, the City of Knox displayed the highest number of 'Risk' factors and the lowest number of 'Protective factors in relation to youth stability and safety.

The strongest determinants of antisocial behaviours are a lack of 'connectedness' with ones' community, boredom, and a dearth of opportunity to engage with society in a meaningful way. There is also a perception among many adults the young people are dangerous, and young people in groups are gangs who threaten their safety.

With these issues and perceptions in mind, Knox City management and Open Family are taking an innovative approach to youth, in and around the Centre. Rather than taking a punitive / coercive approach to young people around the centre by moving them on and treating them aggressively, Knox City has decided to develop protocols which encourage young people to have a co-operative and positive attitude to participating in the life of the Centre.

We believed that if we could show young people that management cared about their opinions and well being, relationships would improve. Young people (and often parents) are surprised and pleased the Centre offers them help with their problems. We also strongly felt that if we could give young people a sense of ownership of the centre, that they would be less likely to damage it or act in an antisocial way, when on the premises. This idea was widely disseminated among the stakeholders including security guards, retailers and centre management employees, who received it enthusiastically.

The Open Family Youth Strategy has significantly reduced vandalism. Graffiti incidents are down by more than 25%. Shop front damage and broken windows have almost ceased to occur. Confrontations with security are rare, and the guards are happier in their relationships with young people as there is a reduction in stress. Gang fights are also rare. Evidence of drug use is down."

Ideas for youth activities presented to the Knox City management by Open Family workers include an extreme sports competition, a local battle of the bands, street theatre, a youth artist in residence and a number of other public arts based initiatives, an annual youth festival to be run during youth week, and a job interview/ training day.

**Many thanks to Carmel Barber, Open Family Youth Worker for providing the information for this article.**

Contacts for Open Family:  
PO Box 1170 South Melbourne VIC 3205;  
Telephone: (+613) 9 699 5588  
Facsimile: (+613) 9 696 3326  
E-mail: [openfamily@labyrinth.net.au](mailto:openfamily@labyrinth.net.au)  
Website: [www.openfamily.com.au](http://www.openfamily.com.au)

## Proposal for Development of a Funded Agency Channel

The Victorian Government has included the development of "Channels" as a key feature of its Government Online strategy. In this context, the Department of Human Services (DHS) has launched two channels to date – the Better Health and Clinicians Channels.

DHS has also identified a third possible channel initiative to support the large voluntary not-for-profit sector which plays a significant role in the delivery of health, housing and community services in Victoria.

The key aims of this initiative are to provide streamlined online access for these non government agencies to relevant information, create mechanisms for online communication and collaboration between the Department and agencies, develop a framework and vehicle for online transactions between the Department and agencies, and to explore the potential for an online marketplace for goods and services relevant to the human services industry.

**This is expected to ease the administrative burden on agencies, improve relationships, foster a partnership approach, and provide relevant business supports to facilitate a strong, dynamic human services industry.**

To facilitate discussion on this proposal, a "Funded Agency Channel" prototype has been developed, and placed on the Department of Human Services website at [www.dhs.vic.gov.au/fac](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/fac) for consultation to the end of March 2001.

A Feedback Form for direct comments to DHS is located on the prototype site. Alternatively, DHS has arranged for an online discussion for people to participate on the Infoxchange website at [www.infoxchange.net.au](http://www.infoxchange.net.au)

The contact point for this project within the Department of Human Services is John Hedditch. John can be contacted on 96162632, or via e-mail [john.hedditch@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:john.hedditch@dhs.vic.gov.au)

### Current Policy Trends in Employment, Education and Training continued from page 1...

complete Year 12 or the equivalent. The Government believes that this can be achieved through implementation of a number of **inter-sectoral partnerships** between business, schools, young people and the broader community.

The Kirby Report also recommended that the Government develop a state-wide structure of **local planning networks** to improve the range and quality of programs and services for young people. It acknowledged that students need more effective guidance and advisory services, in the form of **Pathway Plans**, and that this requires a strengthening of case management approaches for young people in the transition years.

The Kirby Report represents a significant move towards cross-sectoral cooperation and community support for young people at a state-wide level.

### Federal Government Level

At the Federal Government level there continues to be a number of policy developments in the area of employment, education and training. Here, we outline the current state of play of key policy initiatives and the surrounding debates.

#### Job Network Evaluation

The Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business (DEWRSB) undertook an evaluation of the Job Network which was delivered in late May 2000.

The Stage One report addresses access and quality of service issues, but does not examine the effectiveness of Job Network in securing **sustainable employment** for job seekers. Overall, the DEWRSB evaluation found that the Job Network was implemented well and appears to be operating successfully. However, the following areas are identified as requiring improvement:

- improving access and equity to the Job Network particularly for Indigenous job seekers; and
- balancing the need for quality service with the need for flexible service delivery

Of particular interest in the Job Network Evaluation is the qualitative finding that young job seeker's contact with employment services reduced with the introduction of the Youth Allowance and the Job Network.

#### Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) Analysis of the First Stage of the Official Evaluation, Is the Job Network working?

In **response** to the DEWSB evaluation, ACOSS undertook an analysis of the methodology and key findings of the Stage One Report. The key finding of the ACOSS analysis was that the first phase of the **Job Network failed many long-term unemployed people** by denying half of them access to Intensive Assistance and achieving poorer employment outcomes than previous Federal Government programs.

Unemployed people did not get the mix of paid employment experience, work preparation, education and training, and job matching they needed to boost their

chances of securing a job. These failures were found to have stemmed from a combination of **poor targeting and inadequate funding**.

#### Work for the Dole Pilot Program Evaluation

An evaluation of the **Work for the Dole** Pilot Program conducted by DEWRSB reported that there is strong support from all stakeholders for the Work for the Dole programme. Effective integration between elements of the **Mutual Obligation** arrangements and Job Network was an area identified in the evaluation as requiring further consideration as part of the evaluation.

#### Does Work for the Dole lead to Work for Wages? Australian Council of Social Service

In response to the evaluation of the Pilot Work for the Dole Program, ACOSS released findings in September 2000 that **strongly contradicted** those put forward by the DEWRSB.

The ACOSS paper concluded that Work for the Dole is **poorly designed** as a labour market program to assist unemployed young people overcome barriers to employment. Only 27% of participants were found to be in employment three months later.

ACOSS suggest that the main reason for this poor outcome is that Work for the Dole is not really designed to help young people into employment. According to ACOSS, the **missing ingredients** in Work for the Dole are:

- substantial employment experience in mainstream jobs;
- relevant vocational training; and
- ongoing personal support.

### Current Evaluations and Forthcoming Reports

#### The Youth Pathways Action Plan

The Youth Pathways Action Plan Taskforce was convened in response to a key recommendation of the Prime Minister's Taskforce on Youth Homelessness. The work of the Taskforce is designed to have a major impact on the development of youth policy and aims to provide an opportunity to develop and implement a **whole of government** approach.

The Taskforce is due to deliver its Youth Pathways Action Plan to the Federal Government in February 2001.

#### JPET Evaluation

The Job Placement, Employment and Training (JPET) program is aimed at assisting students and unemployed young people aged 15-21 years who are **homeless** or at risk of becoming homeless.

Currently the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs is reviewing the JPET program. Submissions addressing the Terms of Reference are being sought from interested individuals, organisations and stakeholders.

Submissions should be sent to the evaluators, Consulting Insights, between now and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2001.

## **2-24 February 2001**

### ***Helping Families Change, Melbourne***

Host: Parenting and Family Support Centre,  
Queensland and the Victorian Parenting Centre

Broad topics interest areas include: community-based intervention; prevention and early intervention for addictive behaviours: risk and resilience in childhood; dissemination of child and family interventions; cross cultural issues in parenting; problem behaviours of childhood; couple relationships and family outcomes; and families with special needs.

Contact: Email: [shylaja@psy.uq.edu.au](mailto:shylaja@psy.uq.edu.au)

Web site: <http://www.pfsc.uq.edu.au>

## **13 February 2001**

### ***Cop this: young people's rights and obligations under the law.***

Interactive seminar, Perth WA This seminar will cover: dealing with police; overview of the juvenile justice system. Contact: Community Legal Education, Youth Legal Service, 8 Pier St Perth WA 6000; fax: (08) 9202 1699

## **15-16 February 2001**

### ***Social Entrepreneurs Network: Inaugural conference, University of Sydney***

Target audience: community leaders, social sector innovators, regional developers, local government, policy-makers, philanthropists, business leaders, investors

Contact: Social Entrepreneurs Network, 2 Elm St North Melbourne Victoria 3051;

Ph: (03) 9326 8245; fax: (03) 9326 8030

email: [hotahmuc@sub.net.au](mailto:hotahmuc@sub.net.au)

## **19-21 February 2001**

### ***4th Australian women's health conference: politics, action and renewal, Adelaide***

Adelaide Convention Centre, South Australia  
Hosted by the Australian Women's Health Network

Aim: to continue the development of action for women's health in Australia and to refresh and reactivate the National Women's Health Policy.

Themes: the politics of women's health work; the status of women's health both nationally and internationally; how to strengthen the relationship between research, knowledge and practice and how to support creative responses to women's health in practice.

Contact: Conference Secretariat, Festival City Conventions Pty Ltd, PO Box 949, Kent Town, South Australia, 5071

Ph: (08) 8363 1307; fax: (08) 8363 1604

Email: [info@fcconventions.com.au](mailto:info@fcconventions.com.au)

Web site: <http://www.awhn.org.au>

## **22 February 2001**

### ***YACVic Youth Participation Summit planning meeting***

See the back page of YIKES! for more info.

## **21-23 February 2001**

### ***International school-based police officers conference: Early intervention "Does it Work?" Western Australia.***

Venue: Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Western Australia.

Themes: 1: Early Intervention; 2: Pro-active vs Re-active; 3: Partnerships; 4: Accessing resources; 5: Professional development; 6: Policing in schools; 7: ASPA - Australian School Policing/Service Providers Association

Contact: Conference Secretariat, Promaco Conventions Pty Ltd, PO Box 890 Canning Bridge, Western Australia, 6150, Ph: (08) 9332 2900, Fax: (08) 9332 2911

Email: [promaco@promaco.com.au](mailto:promaco@promaco.com.au)

Web site: <http://www.promaco.com.au>

## **23-25 February 2001**

### ***History of youth and community work study conference, Durham***

Venue: Ushaw College, University of Durham.

Themes: Interest in the historical development of youth and community work has grown considerably in recent years. Unfortunately there have been few opportunities for those interested in this topic to get together to share their ideas.

'Youth and Policy' is therefore sponsoring a second study conference.

The weekend will be organised around a series of one-hour workshops. In addition to workshops there will be two sessions led by invited speakers.

Contact: Angela Emerson (History Conf), Community and Youth work Studies Unit, University of Durham, 45 Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 3HB United Kingdom

## **2 March 2001**

### ***The Rights of Children and Young People Working Conference***

Melbourne Town Hall, Swanston Street, Melbourne. See page 2 of YIKES! for more info

## **4-7 March 2001**

### ***National Rural Health Conference: Good Health - Good Country, Canberra***

Venue: National Convention Centre, Canberra

Contact: National Rural Health Alliance

Ph: (02) 6285 4670

Email: [conference@ruralhealth.org.au](mailto:conference@ruralhealth.org.au)

## **6-8 March 2001**

### ***Global Directions: Local Solutions: International policing conference, Adelaide***

Venue: Hilton Adelaide

South Australia Police, in partnership with the Australasian Centre for Policing Research, the Australian Institute of Police Management and the Australian Institute of Criminology is convening the International Policing Conference in Adelaide.

Contact: Hartley Management Group Pty Ltd, PO Box 20 Kent Town, South Australia 5071

Ph: (08) 8363 4399

email: [ipc2001@hartleymgt.com.au](mailto:ipc2001@hartleymgt.com.au) Web site: <http://www.ipc2001.org>.

## **2 - 6 October 2001**

### ***Poverty + Sustainability + Social Capital + Environment***

The International Young Professionals Summit is being held 2 - 6 October 2001 on the Gold Coast, Australia, in parallel with the 2001 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Brisbane, Australia.

The aim of the Summit is to gather speakers and young professionals aged 18 - 35 years from all over the globe to address the following key issues facing humanity which stem from the four summit themes of poverty, sustainability, social capital and environment.

For more info see [www.iyps.org](http://www.iyps.org)

**Many of the events in this calendar are reproduced with the kind permission of the Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies.**

**For more info visit**

**[www.acys.utas.edu.au](http://www.acys.utas.edu.au)**

# get youth issues on the agenda!

## become a member of YACVic...

When you become a member of YACVic you gain invaluable access to a **state wide network** of organisations and individuals who work with young people.

Being a member of YACVic means that you will receive a regular newsletter, policy issues papers, campaign updates and other materials. YACVic members are also encouraged to become involved in our policy development process.

### Membership form tax invoice

Having an active youth peak in Victoria with a strong membership base means that your issues will get heard. Join now!

Title  First Name  Surname  Position

Organisation Name  Approx No of members in organisation

Address

Suburb/Town  State  Postcode

Phone Number  Fax Number  Mobile

Email  Website address   please tick if you DO NOT want a link to your organisations website included on the YACVic website

I/We agree to the purpose and objectives listed and hereby  **renew**  **apply** for membership to the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc.

Signature  Date

#### Fees (all prices are GST inclusive)

##### Organisational

- Member with annual income up to \$ 20,000 \$45.00
- Member — with annual income above \$ 20,000 \$95.00
- Associate Member — no voting rights \$95.00
- Additional Member \$30.00

##### Individual

- Member \$45.00
- Member — Concession \$15.00

Cheques are payable to the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc

**TOTAL PAID** \$

#### Areas of policy interest

So that we can actively involve you in our policy discussions please tick one or more boxes:

- Arts, recreation and leisure
- Consumer and finance
- Disabilities
- Education and training
- Employment
- Environment
- Health
- Housing
- Indigenous
- Media and technology
- Mental health
- Multiculturalism
- The law
- Rural
- Sexuality
- Substance use
- Violence
- Young women
- Youth participation

**If you are under 25 and would like to be involved in our youth consultation processes tick here**

#### Vision statement

Our vision is for a Victorian Community that values and provides opportunity, participation, justice and equity for all young people.

YACVic actively works towards this vision as the peak body and leading policy advocate on young people's issues in Victoria.

#### Purpose

To influence the structures which affect young people towards a more equitable distribution of power and resources to young people, recognising that there are wide discrepancies between groups of young people in terms of their access to such power and resources.

#### Objectives

- To assist young people to participate meaningfully in the various processes which formulate and implement social policy in Victoria.

- To develop a framework which integrates youth affairs into social policy processes and to use that framework to advocate to government and other institutions on matters affecting young people.
- To provide a focus for organisations and individuals who support the purpose statement, to share perspectives on youth affairs issues.
- To provide an information and resource base which will:
  - (a) assist groups of young people working on issues of concern to them;
  - (b) assist service providers to increase their effectiveness;
  - (c) inform the community about issues affecting young people.

#### Membership

Membership is renewable on 1st July on a yearly basis

#### Associate members

Entitled to all printed material dispatched from YACVic. Associate members have no voting rights

#### Individual and organisational members

Organisational and individual members are entitled to all printed material dispatched from YACVic.

#### Voting Rights

- Government Departments are entitled to become associate members only
- Individual Members have only one vote at the YACVic AGM
- Organisational members have 5 votes at the YACVic AGM

# Submissions

## The Racial and Religious Tolerance Legislation

YACVic has recently received information from the State Government which proposes new legislation to promote racial and religious tolerance. The Racial and Religious Tolerance Legislation will prohibit certain behavior which involves vilification of people on the basis of race or religion.

The Government is interested in obtaining as many views as possible in relation to the proposed legislation, and is now distributing copies of the Discussion Paper and Model Bill.

Discussion papers are available [www.dpc.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au) or call 1300 366 356. YACVic will put in a submission in response to the Discussion Paper, the **closing date for which is 28th February**.

YACVic members may also be interested to know that the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs is planning to consult with community and special interest groups around Victoria. A timetable of consultations is available shortly from the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs on (03) 9651 6465.

### JPET Review

The Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DETYA) is reviewing the Job Placement, Employment and Training (JPET) programme. To complement evaluation techniques such as data analysis, client interviews, service provider interviews and surveys, submissions addressing the evaluation Terms of Reference are sought from interested individuals, organisations and stakeholders. Refer to: <http://jpet2000.detya.gov.au/Information/JPET%20Evaluation.asp>

JPET targets young people between the ages of 15 and 21 who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, ex-offenders, refugees or wards of the state who face multiple barriers to education, employment and training.

The evaluators - Consulting Insights - are keen to receive your submissions addressing the Terms of Reference between now and 16 March 2001. Submissions can be from individuals, individual services or a group of services and can be sent in hard copy to: Consulting Insights, PO Box 3218, Manuka ACT 2603

If you have any questions regarding the evaluation, please email:

Paul Magarey [paul.magarey@detya.gov.au](mailto:paul.magarey@detya.gov.au) or  
Jenny Drynan [jenny.drynan@detya.gov.au](mailto:jenny.drynan@detya.gov.au)

## YACVic Vision Statement

The YACVic December State Council Meeting adopted a new vision and mission statement:

Our vision is for a Victorian Community that values and provides opportunity, participation, justice and equity for all young people.

YACVic actively works towards this vision as the peak body and leading policy advocate on young people's issues in Victoria.

## CONTRIBUTE!

Contributions to Yikes! are welcome. Please note the following deadlines:

**Edition four, March**  
14 February, 2001

**Edition five, April**  
16 March, 2001

**Edition six, May**  
16 April, 2001

**Edition seven, June**  
18 May, 2001

## YACVic Youth Participation Summit

What is participation? Ensuring that decision-makers in our society properly reflect the diverse composition and concerns of Australian society. This is not simply a matter of social justice or equity, it also makes good political sense.

YACVic is committed to enhancing participation of young people in all aspects of Victoria's social and economic life. Towards this goal we are seeking to engage young people in the organisations that represent them and influence the policies and programs that influence their lives.

Many young people feel disenfranchised from the institutions that shape their lives. They often feel powerless to contribute to government policy through lack of support and opportunity. Young people need to feel that their voices will be listened to and that their contribution will have an impact. Listening to young people's voices will guarantee a greater awareness and knowledge of how government policy can impact their lives.

To this end the YACVic Youth Reference Committee will be hosting a **Youth Participation Summit** during **National Youth Week** (April 1-8). The Summit will be an opportunity for young people to discuss youth participation issues in all areas of decision-making roles such as committees and boards, and creating opportunities for greater youth participation.

Young people who participate in decision making experience the satisfaction of knowing their work can make a real difference, and they provide models and inspiration to other young people who are considering taking the plunge.

YACVic's involvement in National Youth Week is a great opportunity to showcase young people who have made positive contributions by participating in their community. It is important that the community hear about such achievements by young people, especially as media portrayals of young people are often very negative.

On the **22<sup>nd</sup> of February** there will be a **planning meeting** for the Summit. The planning meeting will begin the process of sharing perspectives, particularly around directions for supporting and enhancing youth participation in Victoria. True to YACVic philosophy, the young people attending the planning meeting will decide on the program for the Summit. The Summit will also serve to develop a strategy to consolidate and extend YACVic's consultation with young people, and provide avenues for young people to participate in major policy decisions made by YACVic.

YACVic will support four major outcomes of the Participation Summit:

- A report of the summit, including recommendations and plans written by YACVic;
- The implementation of recommendations arising through advocacy and organisation where appropriate;
- Continued input to YACVic policy and program approaches through an enhanced Youth Reference Group;
- The organisation of further youth conferences particularly around specific topics, such as "Young people and the Media"

For more information contact Meredith Gawler, YACVic young media spokesperson, on 0402 822 488 by Friday 16 February, or contact YACVic on (03) 9612 8999 email: [info@yacvic.org.au](mailto:info@yacvic.org.au). Space is limited so please RSVP as soon as possible.

**Youth Participation Summit  
PLANNING MEETING  
Thursday February 22  
6 - 9pm @ YACVic**