

YIKES!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC.

What went on at the YACVic Youth Participation Summit?

article and photo by lise dalla torre

On Monday 2nd of April, 2001 young people from throughout Victoria gathered in North Melbourne Town Hall to partake in YACVic's Youth Participation Summit. Participants came from various backgrounds, with different experiences, upbringing, environments and values making the summit all the more interesting through the contributions of the attendees.

Issues addressed during the summit in workshops and by guest speakers were split into three key areas. School participation dealt with the current state of school councils and student representative councils in Victoria and participation and organisation in schools in regards to student leadership. Community based workshops and speakers included the issues of community action within our localities, activist participation and using the media to voice your opinions to a wider range of people in order to gain local support. Government based workshops dealt with barriers that students face over tertiary education issues, the Victorian Youth Round table scheme and the Victorian Government's Youth Strategy with an emphasis on what we the young people believed were important issues.

The summit was valued as a wonderful experience by most of the participants, as it was not only interesting but involved issues involving us as young people instead of us as the old people of tomorrow. Melbourne high student Andrew Thomas commented on this saying that "It was a great experience because a group of young people had the chance to get together and discuss issues relevant to them, now."

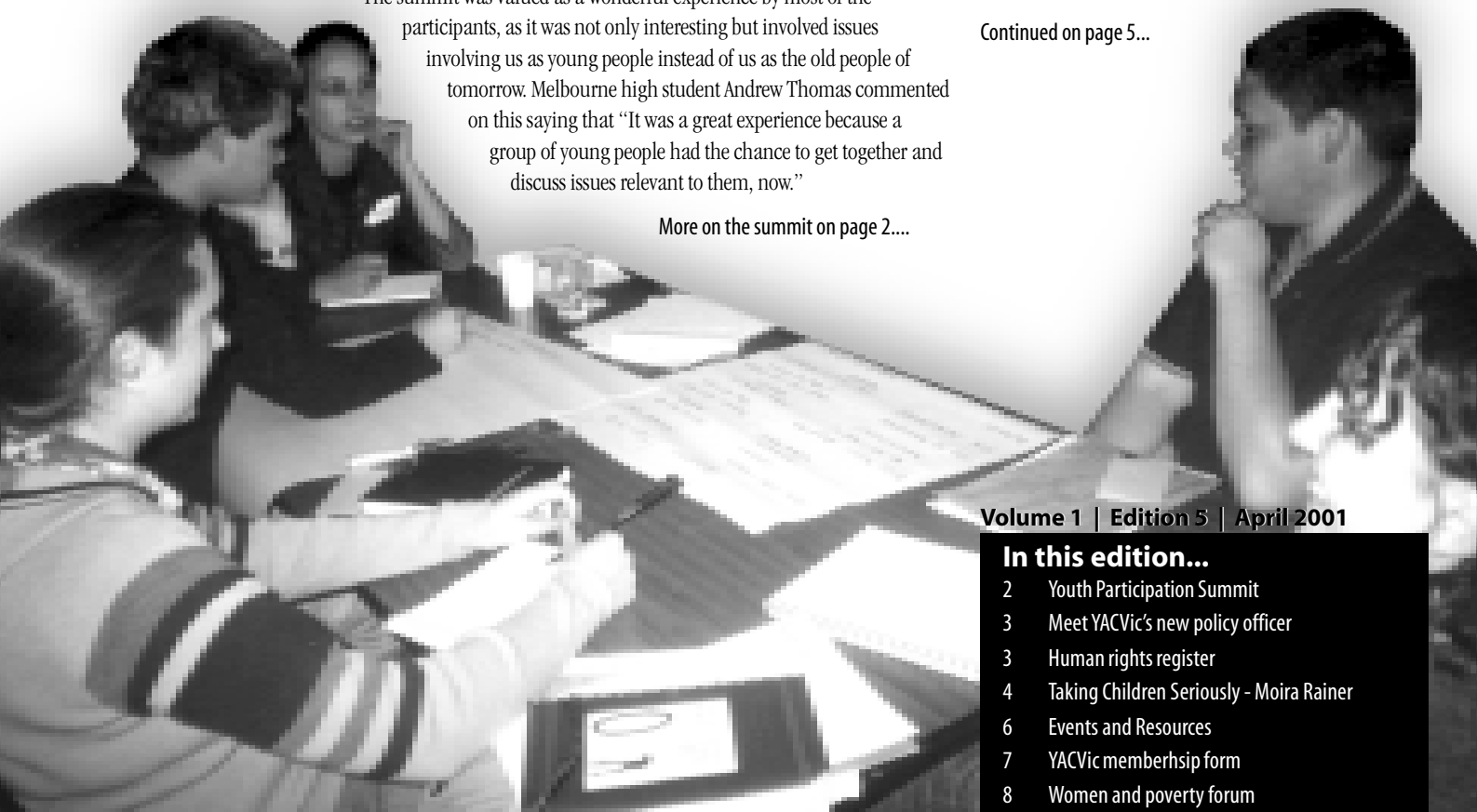
More on the summit on page 2....

The Working Conference on the Rights of Children and Young People update

The Working Conference on the Rights of Children and Young People was attended by 180 people from a diverse range of backgrounds. Lawyers, youth workers, health professionals, bureaucrats, educators, drug and alcohol specialists and youth housing workers were amongst the participants.

The Honourable Justin Madden, the Minister for Youth Affairs, opened the conference, followed by a short presentation from the Honourable Justice Marilyn Warren of the Victoria Law Foundation. Moira Rayner the Director of the Office of the Children's Rights

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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 and its existence is dependent upon on-going funding.

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 the 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.

youth participation summit

Here's some of the issues, ideas and strategies that came out of the summit...

School

What facilitates youth participation in school?

When decision making processes are democratic >>> An ability to fit in with young peoples lifestyles >>> **Taking a bottom up approach** >>> *When young people are be involved in all stages of policy discussion* >>> **Trust and respect** >>> **Schools taking youth participation seriously** >>> Support from class teachers (making time to discuss issues) >>> Setting precedents by demonstrating results >>> **Students on school councils** >>> *When programs are open for everyone not just people on the SRC*

Barriers to participation at school

Apathy > Language >>> **Meeting process** >>> **Lack of funding** >>> Tokenism >>> Location (especially rural areas) >>> *No follow up* >>> Lack of resources for giving young people funding >>> **No say in schools budget** >>> Focus not on young people >>> *Young people are perceived as only interested in having fun* >>> Lack of opportunity >>> Media – negative images of young people >>> **Lack of publicity of youth events** >>> **"Youth" we are not a homogenous group!** >>> Social issues – wealth, geography, nationality, language barriers. >>> **Voting processes**, who gets onto the SRC, what is representative? >>> **Lack of information** >>> Time >>> **Resources** >>> Lack of motivation >>> The "BIG" problem – people don't think that meaningful youth participation is achievable. >>> *Image, some people think it's not "cool" to be on an SRC, or to participate.*

Strategies

Genuine training for SRC's and other students in leadership participation >>> Provide **workshops** on writing submissions for funding grants >>> *Incorporate SRC meetings into the timetable* >>> Publicise youth events >>> **Implement bullying and harassment programs** >>> Implement Year 7 buddy programs >>> *School councils should consist of four parents, four students, four teachers, the government should introduce legislation to support this structure* >>> SRC's should be provided with a **budget and resources** to run conferences and forums >>> **Encourage SRC's to exist in all schools** >>> Schools to provide students with education and support for participation >>> Funding for external consultants to assist schools individually. >>> *Schools should consult with students via opinion surveys, assemblies, forums, discussion groups and discussion papers.*

Victorian Youth Strategy

What do we want from the youth strategy?

Granting scheme: money should be made available to support involvement of young people in decision making >>> The state government should fund local government to promote better awareness of services and participation opportunities >>> Places provided for young people as representatives in decision making structures and processes >>> Raised **community awareness** of the position of young people in society. >>> Enhance the status of young people in the community >>> **Minister for Youth Affairs be a member of key, whole of government social policy making processes** >>> **Establishment of a Children and Young Persons Commissioner** >>> **Audit the government on youth issues** >>> Have a committee that advises the Minister for Youth Affairs that has places for young people as supported, resourced and equal members (like the old youth policy development council)

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) young people and the Victorian Youth Strategy – Context, support group for GLBT young people and youth workers

There is no mention of sexuality in the Youth Strategy Discussion Paper >>> Young people have often been targeted by policy rather than being involved in making and shaping it >>> Research suggests that between 8-11% of young people do not identify as being heterosexual (Writing themselves in – LaTrobe Uni)

Issues facing GLBT young people:

No services >>> People are coming out earlier >>> No education >>> Rural issues, no diversity >>> Mental illness and depression >>> Being treated differently because of stereotypes (implicit homophobia) >>> **Explicit homophobia** >>> **Lack of role models**

Negative experiences for GLBT young people

Have to do what's expected of you >>> Unrealistic fears about sexuality and same sex relationships >>> Inability to identify own sexuality >>> **Negative associations with GLBT** >>> *Sex education is focussed on heterosexuality* >>> Young people don't have opportunity to talk about homosexuality at school >>> Teachers are uncomfortable to talk about issues, no resources or education available to facilitate this >>> Students are scared of **confidentiality breaches** with teachers >>> No point of access at school

Barriers to GLBT young people participating in Government Consultation

Lack of dialogue in school >>> *Lack of acknowledgement of GLBT young people* >>> Attitude that homophobia doesn't exist anymore >>> **Term "diversity" is too broad – what does it mean?** >>> *There must be action not just talk* >>> Rights and legal issues >>> Negative feelings towards authority >>> **Assumption that everyone attends school** >>> **Environment and location** >>> *Issues are individualised not and not recognised as part of a broader problem*

Recommendations:

That a Youth Roundtable focus on sexuality diversity, or if this is too radical the focus might be on gender, ethnicity, sexuality etc >>> That the Interdepartmental Committee for Youth talk to GLBT young people with: A representative for the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Lesbian and Gay Health, A representative from the Office for Youth, YACVic, A representative from the education dept

Community action

What facilitates youth participation in community action?

Inspiration from friends >>> Access to **support and resources** through school, local councils and youth groups >>> **Education** >>> Music, art, creativity, action >>> Through positive action >>> Vive la Revolution! >>> **Discussion** (anywhere, anytime) >>> Access to the internet >>> **YACVic** >>> Lobby groups >>> Local action groups >>> **Collective action**, fighting together not alone >>> Social Movements >>> Editorial (Media)

Barriers

Perceptions of what community action is >>> Adults and baby boomers ruling the roost of community action >>> **Media representation** >>> Lack of political power and influence >>> Lack of understanding, people are not willing to listen, "That's just the way things are" >>> **Self-esteem and self-consciousness** >>> **Location** >>> Work, work, and more work >>> **Adult systems not willing to change or listen** >>> Homophobia, Sexism, Racism >>> Popular definitions of "politics" & what it involves – politics is NOT necessarily the parliament >>> Rigid education system >>> **Fear of change and conservatism** >>> **Access to resources**

Strategies

Writing letters >>> **Direct action, go to a rally** >>> Form a local group on a topic >>> Strike >>> **Start your own radio program** >>> *Ring newspapers with a story* >>> Distribute leaflets >>> Start your own publication or school paper >>> Lobby politicians or interested parties

Meet Paula Grogan, YACVic's new policy officer...

Hi, I'm Paula and I'm really excited to be working for YACVic as the Policy Officer. It's been a busy couple of weeks so far getting to know everyone and learning the ropes. I've also only recently returned from London where I have been living and working for the past two years. I worked for several community organisations there which gave me some great insights into some of the issues affecting young people. One job involved coordinating volunteers to run a shelter for homeless people over Christmas. I also worked for a disability charity providing information and advice to disabled young people about their rights in education and employment. This gave me the chance to speak directly to a lot of young people about issues including discrimination, welfare, finding work and funding studies.

It's great to be back in Melbourne and to catch up on all the things that have been happening here. Some fantastic work is being done around the state but there is still a lot of work to be done. It's a challenging time at the moment responding to the Government's Youth Strategy and I'm looking forward to working with all of you to make sure young people get a better deal.

Human Rights Register 2000 – 2001

Are there specific human rights concerns that you have been concerned about and have been working on that need public scrutiny? The Melbourne Catholic Commission for Justice, Development and Peace is calling for entries to the National Human Rights Register. The aim of the register is to provide an audit of Australia's human rights performance over the last 12 months to be used as a lobbying tool for stronger implementation of human rights laws and treaties.

It only takes 15 minutes to fill out an information sheet for the register for the period of 14 May – 1 May 2001. Once the register is completed it will go to the Government, the Human rights and equal opportunities commission, the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees, the UN Committees of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Civil and Political Rights, Rights of the Child and Amnesty International as the bodies responsible for monitoring Australia's Human Rights Compliance. It forms a valuable alternative and independent source of information for these institutions when commenting on Australia and developing public policy responses.

Taking Children Seriously

by Moira Rainer

This article is an edited version of the key note address entitled “Taking Children Seriously”, given by Moira Rayner, Director, Office of London Children’s Rights Commissioner, to “The Rights of Children and Young People Working Conference” held on 2nd March 2001 at Melbourne Town Hall. An unedited version will be released, together with the conference outcomes, shortly. If you would like a copy but did not attend the conference, please contact Fiona McKay at North Melbourne Legal Service on 03 9328 1885 or nmls@vicnet.net.au.



Because you have come to this conference, I am not going to try to persuade you that children’s rights are important. Instead, I want to remind you that taking children’s rights seriously is an uncomfortable experience.

Janusz Korczak wrote: ‘Know yourself before you try to get to know, children. Become aware of what you yourself are capable of before you try, to outline the rights and responsibilities of children. First and foremost you must realize that you too are a child, whom you must get to know; to bring up and to educate.’

Korczak was a paediatrician, writer broadcaster and educator who wrote in Polish; died anonymously, in 1942, as did millions of others, and who wrote the first version of the UN Convention on the Right of the Child more than 60 years before the UN got round to it, and got around to it because of him. He taught that it is necessary to respect the child, to learn from children, and to teach children by example that they can trust and rely on adults for respect, love and care. He put these theories into practices. His orphanages were run according to laws developed by children and adults as equals, enforced by a council to which adults and children had equal access and infringements were dealt with by child judges to whose edicts teachers and staff as well as children were equally subject. This, he taught, is the way to teach children respect for the law and individual rights.

After the War’s end, the Polish government persuaded the United Nations to proclaim and dedicate the International Year of the Child to Janusz Korczak. His life-long championship of a children’s charter led to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Developing a child-rights culture

We have to put our composure and ease on the line, if we are to promote and protect the rights of children. There is no one right way to put children’s rights at the heart of what we do, and there is no guarantee that we will not mess it up. So how do we make that step-change, from running along as we always have, with good intentions and a desire to do the best for children, to actually putting their rights at the heart of what we do?

There is a legal obligation. Respecting the rights of children is a treaty obligation: Australia ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990 (the year that Prime Minister Hawke promised that child poverty would disappear). It may not be a part of Australia’s domestic law, but it is, as the High Court said in the Teoh case, a binding promise that Governments are expected to consider when its instrumentalities are making discretions and choices affecting children**.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child does not present ready-made methods or solutions. It does set ‘standards’ - for example, that all decisions made about and affecting children must have the, best interests of the child as their point of departure. This is not the case when governments pass mandatory sentencing laws or fail to fund lawyers for children in trouble with the police, or when agencies decide to cut services for children because they don’t or can’t complain. Another Convention standard is, that in all matters affecting a child, the child must be given the opportunity of stating their opinion, and have those opinions taken into account. In other words, the UN Convention is the starting point of a systemic policy perspective that starts

with the child, not the organization, or the workers, in working and decision-making processes for activities that affect children.

What works?

As we know from our eradication of discrimination against women, and developing Action Plans to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act, the only way is to commit to a strategy to change organisational culture and assumptions, and operating our values. That takes commitment: we must change the ways we think and make decisions, and we must hear what children have to say. It must be a commitment from operational management, not merely the specialists, nor even merely the chief executives.

A few suggestions:

- Analyse the role and responsibilities of your agency. How do ‘rights’ fit into it?
- Check your culture. What makes you think - or hope - that there is a culture of respect for rights in the organization? Are you being realistic? What will it do to your support for this, if you’re wrong?
- Aim for an overview, and get someone other than you – you’re too close to it - to check that ‘culture’ and tell you how it really is
- Make sure you have the unequivocal support of management - nothing will happen without commitment from the top
- Make sure you have a Commitment of human and financial resources to do it, short and long-term
- Inform and educate - win hearts and minds through not only a policy statement from the top, but an information, communication and training program that cuts through the

entire organization

- Draw up an action plan with goals, strategies, timeframes and named people responsible for real results
- Make sure you have an advisory group of children from the start, who can give you a good, clear idea of whether your language and concepts are child-friendly, realistic and likely to satisfy what they hope for. Make sure they can contribute at their own pace, on their own terms.
- Work the principles of the Convention into all your business and strategic plans and policies, and modify your codes of conduct, performance and management policies to fit the new policy and the new proposed measures
- Prioritise: don't try to do everything at once
- Before you even issue policy, train up key people to explain it, and its consequences to other people - in and outside the organization
- Look for learning partners, so you're not doing it on your own, particularly if you are in the voluntary sector. It takes time to do it right: share your experience and policies.
- Evaluate, with rigour. Did it work out as you hope?
- Report on it, annually, in the same way as you report on your business plans and objects.

Parting words

I do not imagine this is going to be easy, but it is so important. It is all-important, if we are to make a difference to the quality of children's lives.

I have the great privilege of working in a child-centred, children's rights-based organization, as an independent children's rights advocate. Our office has developed a special relationship with the new regional government of one of the great cities of the world, the Greater London Authority. It has decided to take children's rights as seriously as its statutory obligations.

On universal Children's day last year Mayor Livingstone adopted a children's policy:

London should be a child-friendly city.

The Greater London Authority is committed to respect for the human rights of children. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes children's fundamental rights to the provision of the necessities of a decent life; protection from all forms of violence and exploitation, neglect and cruel or inhuman treatment; and participation in the decisions that affect them and in the life of their community.

The policy framework underlying the Children's Strategy is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The mayor has engaged the Office of the Children's Rights Commissioner for London to develop his Children's Strategy, and established a steering committee that includes the Government Office for London, the brand-new Children's and Young People's Unit in the Cabinet Office, the Association of London Government representing the 32 London boroughs, representatives of the key Departments of Health and Education and of the all-party Parliamentary Committee on Children, members of the Greater London Assembly and his Cabinet - and, most importantly, three children as full and equal participants.

In the office of the London Children's Rights Commissioner, we work to an Advisory Board of children, who were appointed before any staff, and wrote our job descriptions, appointed us and continue as our effective Board.

We can make a difference. I can't give you a template: I can't even guarantee that we will succeed, but we have a vision, and we share that.

** Ed's Note : The Administrative Decisions (Effect of International Instruments) Bill 1999 is currently being debated in the Senate. If passed, this Bill would have the effect of reversing the decision in Teoh, and would allow government departments to disregard human rights treaties without fear of legal consequences.

The Working Conference on the Rights of Children and Young People update continued from page 1

Commissioner, London then gave the key note address. Participants attended two sets of workshops, designed to develop strategies for the better implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The conference was finished with a wrap-up of workshop outcomes and a closing address from Danny Sandor - President of Defence for Children International, Australian section, Board member of the National Children's and Youth Law Centre and YACVic State Councillor.

A full report of all of the workshop outcomes is soon to be published. Some key themes and recommendations were:

- Participation by young people needs to be across all levels of decision making – policy development, service delivery and evaluation, and must be genuine participation owned by young people, not tokenism;
- The need for training and more information within organisations about the Convention. The development of frameworks to implement the Convention in policies and procedures and provide ongoing evaluation. This requires that agencies allocate resources to develop strategies, train staff and management, and support young people's involvement;
- Children and young people, as well as the broader community and mainstream media require more information about the meaning of the Convention and young people's rights as basic human and civil rights. The misconception in the general population that this is a parents vs kids issue needs to be challenged, debated and put to rest;
- All levels of government should renew their commitment to the Convention and develop and implement a Child Impact Assessment process for all decision making processes;
- Overwhelming call for the development and implementation of an appropriate model for a Victorian Commission for Children and Young People.

Women in Prison Conference call for submissions

Call for expressions of interest and papers for an International, National & State Conference. For more info contact: Rebecca Baird PO Box 3407, South Brisbane, QLD 4101
Email: sisters@Irvnet.org.au

noise - media festival, submit your work now!

Submissions are now open for entries to noise, a media based festival happening in October this year. noise will exhibit the creative work of young Australians in magazines and books, on television, the internet and more.
Web: www.noise.net.au

Memorial Trust Scholarship

The Vera Scantlebury Brown Child Welfare Memorial Trust Scholarship is available for female postgraduate studies either overseas or in Australia. For more info call Agnes Farrance, Secretary to the Trust on (03) 5974 3557

Logo design competition for Darebin Youth Consortium

Attention all young graphic artists! Want to help an organisation dedicated to improving the lives of young people? And win \$200 cash? And work with a commercial artist to see your work printed and distributed all over Darebin? For more info call Nik on: (03) 9230 4355

Pulse Magazine, calling for contributions!

For more info contact:
youth_services@boorondara.vic.gov.au

Stonnington Youth Services Network Meeting

10 April 2001, 10:00 am. Toorak Library, 304 Toorak Rd, South Yarra. For more info contact: Lesley on (03) 9823 1198

CWAV Indigenous Services Practice/Policy Forum

12 April 2001, 10 am. Children's Welfare Association of Victoria, 313 - 915 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. An important forum for any organisation that runs an out of home care placement service; has ever had a placement arrangement for an Aboriginal child; or is currently working with Koorie families.
For more info call: (03) 9614 1577
Email: admin@cwav.asn.au
Web: www.cwav.asn.au

Port Phillip Youth Services Professional Development Workshops

Workshop 1, Tuesday 17 April 2001: Working with young people who are bereaved by suicide.
Workshop 2, Tuesday 15 May 2001: Working with same sex attracted young people and challenging homophobia. For more info contact: Johan on (03) 9209 6565

Women and Poverty Forum

24 April, 2001. YWCA, 489 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne Presented by the Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS), the Council of Single Mothers and their Children (CSMC) and YWCA Victoria. For more info contact: For more information contact: kcolvin@vcoss.org.au or phone (03) 9654 5050. To register contact: vcoss@vcoss.org.au

Governance & Partnerships in the Third Sector: Reconciling Agendas for Change

27 April 2001, 8:30 am, Theatre, Dept of Infrastructure, Level 29, Nauru House, 80 Collins St, Melbourne. This conference is the 4th in the series of "Good Governance". It draws on the Victorian and Australian experience as well as International research findings to inform the lessons for the future. For more info contact: Vivien Gunn, Governance & Govt Centre, vgunn@bigpond.net.au

From zero to rockstar in only six weeks

7:00 pm Wednesday nights starting 9 May 2001, Boorondara Young Peoples Resource Centre. 35 Fairholm Grove, Camberwell. A series of Music workshops presented by City of Boorondara and Ausmusic. For more info call: (03) 9882 2621

CIDA Conference 2001: Inclusion, the Next Challenge

10 May 2001, Melbourne Park Function Centre. The goal of genuine community inclusion for people with disabilities is yet to be achieved. This conference will turn the spotlight on inclusion, equal rights and equal citizenship for people with disabilities. For more info contact: Council of Intellectual Disability Agencies on (03) 8415 0155. Email: cida@bigpond.com.au

Youth Forum - 2nd Futures

13 June 2001, Bendigo. This youth forum is to be held prior to the Victorian Rural Health Forum being run by CAN (Country AIDS Network). CAN is currently calling for presenters for this conference running from 14-17 June. For more info contact: Neil Roxburgh (03) 5443 8355.
Email: cancan.org.au. Web: www.can.org.au

Human Services: With or Without Seams?

22 June 2001. A conference designed for all parts of the human services sector, to explore the benefits and pitfalls of amalgamating health, housing and welfare services. For more info contact: Social Options Australia on (03) 8327 3460. Email: info@soa.com.au

Plastic Bag Theatre Workshops

Plastic Bag Theatre is inviting any interested young people and community members to be involved in making props and developing a performance for the Garden and Environment Festival at St Kilda Botanical Gardens to be held on 22 April. For more info contact: Naomi on 0419 864 698

Homophobia, Get Over It!

23 July, 2001, Brisbane. Creating safe and supportive schools free from homophobic abuse and violence. Auspiced by the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland.
Web: <http://www.uq.net.au/get.over.it>

Competing Visions

4-6 July 2001, Kensington Campus of University of NSW. National Social Policy Conference run by the Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales. For more info contact: www.sprc.edu.au. Ph (02) 9385 7800

For information on youth events across Australia visit the website of the Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies: www.acys.utas.edu.au

get youth issues on the agenda!

become a member of YACVic...

YACVic ABN: 39 774 045 170

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

- | | |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member with annual income up to \$ 20,000 | \$45.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member — with annual income above \$ 20,000 | \$95.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member — no voting rights | \$95.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Member | \$30.00 |

Individual

- | | |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member | \$45.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts, recreation and leisure | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer and finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiculturalism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> The law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education and training | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexuality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Substance use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Violence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Young women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth participation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media and technology | |

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

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.

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.

presented by



WOMEN and POVERTY FORUM

With

The Hon. Joan Kirner
Elspeth McInnes,

National Council of Single Mothers and their Children
A participant in WVCA Victoria's young women's program

The Hon. Sherryl Garbutt,
Victorian Minister for Women's Affairs

24 APRIL
8:45am-4:30pm WVCA,
187 Elizabeth St, Melbourne
2001

THINKTANK

How would you end
womens' poverty?

Send your ideas to: think@wvca.org.au,
or call 9654 5050 by 10 April

REGISTRATION: Free for women with health care card or low income.
Government support under 99% Community Care Government CCL.

To register, or more information, contact wvca-wvca.org.au ph. 9654 5050

WVCA 2001