

Law and order or exclusion and discrimination?

by Liz Curran

Three years ago, I had the honour of travelling throughout Victoria for many months on a research project with two Aboriginal men. In the course of our journeys their car was stopped repeatedly by police, they were questioned and their car was checked and they were asked for their papers. Although travelling behind them, the police did not pull me up once.



As I chatted to young Aboriginal boys and girls in the main street of country towns, I watched as police came up and openly questioned and searched them in front of the non-indigenous population. It is not until you actually spend time on a daily basis with Aboriginal people that you see how often and ingrained differential policing can be and how one's own whiteness offers protection from a whole range of degrading and demoralising treatment. The saddest thing is that the Aboriginal population have come to expect that they will be treated differently and that their dignity can be unquestioningly impugned. The Australian film *Beneath Clouds*, currently in our cinemas, documents the strong arm of the law in its discriminatory treatment of young Aboriginals.

In my current work as a lecturer, supervising students on clinical placement in an urban legal centre, we regularly hear of experiences of young people of aggressive policing practices when they are in public spaces, particularly if they are from a different ethnic background. They tell of school bags being emptied, of lost or damaged assignments in the process of the search and of bullying and abuse by police. The young people rarely formally lodge complaints about police mistreatment as this has often led to further harassment by police. They do however come to distrust the police and the capacity of the law to protect them from wrongdoing whilst seemingly condoning negative police practices by some police often not much older than themselves.

The recent proposal by the Police Minister Andre Haermeyer to allow police searches where there is "suspicion" rather than a "reasonable belief" with a hefty fine being imposed will present significant practical difficulties for minority groups such as our young people and different ethnic groups. Media reports of the proposals state that the fines may be imposed for a refusal to be searched irrespective of whether the person has a weapon and may be up to \$3,000. People often lack the financial wherewithal to pay such fines and have difficulty accessing legal representation. Furthermore, legislative changes such as this place a further burden on the already strained resources of legal aid and community legal services. The non-payment of such a fine due to poverty may lead to later increased pressures on the correctional system due to higher tariffs being reached.

Also, in an era where members of Force Command have freely admitted that differential policing of certain groups of people occurs because of "limited police resources" the government is proposing the removal of further important checks and balances in police conduct. These are likely to lead to worsened relations between police and some sections of the community. Furthermore, no empirical evidence has been presented to demonstrate that police searches such as those proposed are likely to have any real inroad into a reduction of weaponry carried. In addition, the flow on effect of the change in law has not been thought through.

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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.

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!

Is YACVic's regular newsletter. The views and opinions contained in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of YACVic. This publication is subject to copyright, articles may be reproduced with permission from YACVic.

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 or email: info@yacvic.org.au

news in brief

New Freedom of Information data shows: \$200m in 'fines' push unemployed & students deep into poverty

A new report by the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) using data obtained under Freedom of Information finds that an estimated \$200 million in social security penalties levied in the past financial year pushed unemployed people and students deeply into poverty.

\$32.7 million of this amount is made up by penalties levied on Youth Allowance recipients, that's a total of 72,270 breaches imposed on young people over the past twelve months. The ACOSS report has found that the first Activity Test breach places a Youth Allowance recipient at 41% below the poverty line. After the second breach the gap below the poverty line increases to 47%.

The ACOSS report is available on their website <http://www.acoss.org.au>

Source: ACOSS Media release 5/8/02

Youth Service Grants

The Victorian Government's Office for Youth is seeking submissions for the Youth Services Program from suitably qualified agencies for the period 1 January 2003 to 30 June 2004.

The Youth Services Program funds not-for-profit community service organisations and local government to provide welfare interventions and youth development programs. These programs respond to the issues of vulnerable young people aged between 10 to 25 years and their families.

More information on the program including submission guidelines can be obtained from:

Youth Services Program Manager
Office for Youth
Department of Education and Training
Phone: 9637 2920
Email: todd.virginia.v@edumail.vic.gov.au

Closing date: Submissions should be received in by 4pm Friday 11 September 2002.

Youth Anti-Racism Peer-Education Program

15 young people of refugee and migrant backgrounds from the Western Young People's Independent Network (WYPIN) have been trained by WYPIN and the Equal Opportunity Commission to be anti-racism peer-educators. Using drama and music the peer educators will now deliver their message to other young people, promoting the benefits of migration, cultural diversity and most importantly speaking out against racism.

The Youth Anti-Racism Peer-Education program is a recipient of a *Living in Harmony* grant from the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA).

For more information please call WYPIN on 9362 0257.

Exciting new service for young people!!

Come and talk about your health and legal needs in the same place at the same time. Wednesday evenings 5.30 pm – 8 pm at Frontyard, 19 King Street, Melbourne

Drop in – no appointment necessary. Both services are absolutely free to young people. If you'd like to chat on the phone first, call us: Young People's Health Service – 9611 2409, Youthlaw – 9611 2412.

Your issues and options will be discussed confidentially. We will not tell others what you tell us, unless you want us to. For more info see

<http://www.youthlaw.asn.au>

CMYI Statewide Network Meeting

The meeting will look at Homework Support Groups models and practice, as well as, examining issues of sustainability and co-ordination and advocacy surrounding this topic. Thursday 12th September 2002. @ COASIT 189 Faraday Street Carlton.

For more information call Alli on: 9349 3466 or email on: cpo@cmymy.net.au

What's new at Express Media?

Based in Melbourne, Express Media aims to provide young people with professional and affordable access to Australia's artistic and media communities with opportunities to participate in exhibitions, performances, on-line projects, and various writing, media and arts projects. Here's the latest news from the folks at Express Media.

Voiceworks turns 50: Express Media's flagship, the quarterly magazine *Voiceworks* will be celebrating its 50th edition in September and they're celebrating with a walloping great party on Friday 13 September. Stay tuned to their website for more info. *Voiceworks* is the only national magazine dedicated to publishing the work of artists and writers under 25. The magazine is written, edited and produced entirely by young people.

Babel: In collaboration with the Victorian Writers' Centre, Express Media will be publishing *Babel*, a multi-lingual broadsheet featuring the work of young writers from non-English speaking backgrounds (including indigenous languages) and they are calling for input from young people who live in the City of Yarra. Submissions close Friday 20th September see the website for more info.

Script & shoot: This two-part event exploring screenplay writing and film-making features two inter-related workshops, which can be attended individually or together.

Part One: Screenplay Writing For Beginners, Sat 24th August, 11.00am - 1.00pm

Part Two: No Budget Film-Making, Sat 24th August, 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Where: Express Media, Meat Market Arts House, 42 Courtney Street, Nth Melb. Cost: \$30 full, \$20 concession, \$15 for Express Media members.

Buzzcuts: An annual program presented by Express Media in conjunction with the Melbourne Fringe Festival. Express Media need volunteers to review the length, breadth and depth of the Festival. Contact Express Media to register as a volunteer, workshops to help you develop your reviewing skills will be held in late August.

Express Media has moved: Their new home is Meat Market Arts House
42 Courtney Street
North Melbourne Vic 3051
Phone (03) 9326 8367, Fax (03) 9326 8076
Email: info@expressmedia.org.au
Website: <http://www.expressmedia.org.au>.

Oops!

We made a mistake. The last edition of *YIKES* was listed as Volume 2, Edition 3. It should have been Volume 2 Edition 2. YACVic apologises for any confusion caused.

newsletter of the youth affairs council of victoria inc.



City of Boroondara's FReeZA Committee meet the Minister @ the 2002 Push Summits.

Major players in music industry share career advice with Victorian youth

FReeZA is a Victorian Government initiative that provides drug and alcohol-free cultural and entertainment events for 12 to 25-year-olds in their local communities. Last month Premier Steve Bracks announced the 69 providers that will stage FReeZA gigs across Victoria in an expanded State Government commitment to the program. \$8 million over four years has been invested by the Bracks Government, signalling the government's long-term commitment to FReeZA.

Youth Affairs Minister Monica Gould has announced that producers, band managers and agents will

provide advice on the best courses and career pathways in the entertainment industry on the FReeZA website. "Young people interested in a music career are urged to visit the site and get the most up-to-date advice from those in the know," she said. "The website contains links to 6,000 resources including music courses within Vocational Education and Training (VET), TAFEs, Adult and Community Education (ACE) and universities."

Ms Gould said the Victorian Government was making a major investment in the FReeZA initiative supporting drug and alcohol-free events, organised by young people for young people

Source: Minister for Youth Affairs
Media Release 1/8/02

The Push summits...



Francis Harrison from Care Factor Music talks to FReeZA Committees about the music industry at the 2002 Push Summits.

Phil Harrold (Office for Youth FReeZA Program) with Rohani Osman and Michelle Scavone (Push Youth Advisory Committee) await the arrival of Minister for Youth and Education Services Monica Gould at the 2002 Push Summits.



Youth homelessness report calls for urgent reforms



The results of a youth homeless census conducted in August 2001 among 1,930 schools and Supported Assistance Accommodation Program (SAAP) services across Australia shows that 8.4% more youth aged 12-18 are homeless today than 7 years ago when the last youth census was conducted.

The report, prepared by Chris Chamberlain and David MacKenzie of RMIT University shows that 26,060 young people aged 12-18 are homeless.

The rate of youth homelessness varies greatly between states. Victoria has a rate of 10 homeless per 1000 young people. The average for Australia is 14 homeless per 1000 young people.

When homeless young people drop out of the education system, many become long-term unemployed, which too often entrenches them in long-term homelessness. In Victoria 51 percent of homeless young people are still at school.

The Salvation Army have called for a number of recommendations out of this report.

Recommendations:

Ensure that community youth support workers are integrated into student welfare programs.

Both schools and community-based youth agencies need access to timely and appropriate specialist support for young people who have a

mental illness, drug or alcohol issues, or have been physically or sexually abused.

All young people and their families should have access to a system of career and transitional supports, through and beyond school.

Resources need to be allocated to provide 'student only' housing for those young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Provide additional resources for alternative community-based learning models.

Young people who are, or have been, in the care of the state are over-represented amongst young people who are chronically homeless. Governments and non-government organisations need to develop effective programs to care for these marginalised young people.

The complete RMIT report by Chamberlain and MacKenzie is available at <http://www.salvationarmy.org.au/>

Source: Salvation Army Media Release 16/07/02

Developing a youth homelessness action plan for Victoria

The Victorian Homelessness Strategy signals the need to develop an integrated service response to young homelessness Victorians. The Developing a Youth Homelessness Action Plan initiative provides a framework for continuous improvement to the homelessness service system and related program areas in responding to the needs of this client group.

The initiative provides an opportunity to:

- assess the ability of current models of service delivery to effectively meet the needs of young clients
- review current service linkages between housing, homelessness support and other related services
- identify service development requirements to inform service planning
- identify and promote good practice in the delivery of services
- identify additional training needs for staff including the potential for cross-program training opportunities to enhance the current skill base of the homelessness and related service sectors
- provide input into relevant review and pilot projects particularly those funded under the Victorian Homelessness Strategy to address the needs of young homeless Victorians

The initiative will build on the current understanding of youth homelessness issues through extensive consultation with service users and providers and a range of other stakeholders including peak organisations and research bodies.

A state-wide forum will be held on the 29 August 2002 to launch the initiative and discuss a range of client and service delivery issues.

For further details on the initiative or the forum, please contact either Prue Walker, Action Plan Project Officer on telephone 9616 9814 or Sean Ling, Youth Homelessness Project Officer on telephone 9616 8744.

Youth Power forum

On Wednesday 17 July Werribee Community Legal Service held a forum called 'Youth Power 2002', an event for local young people in the Wyndham municipality to meet, liaise and discuss issues with key leaders in the community.

Around 140 young people attended the day and participated in workshop style discussions with Minister for Youth Affairs, Monica Gould; Federal Member, Julia Gillard; State Member, Mary Gillett; and Mayor of Wyndham, Ian Bunn. The day culminated in an open panel discussion where young people were provided with an opportunity to further challenge government representatives on policies and practices.

Topics of discussion were formulated by Student Action Teams within local independent and state secondary schools and ranged from issues of space and place for young people in the community to discussion of the detention of asylum seekers.

The following speech was given by a Student Action Team member at the Youth Power Forum

Youth Power, a young persons perspective

By Megan Hopper

Power. It's a strange and frightening concept. The Wordsworth Concise English Dictionary even defines it as 'the ability to do anything'. Many of us have been brought up to believe this to be true. Those people who we remember as being inspirational in our youth are the ones who have in some way provoked us to achieve our dreams. They have told us that as young people in today's society we do have the capacity to make a difference.

We've all been tempted, at some stage in our lives to give up. As children, we felt that we were 'too little' to make any significant difference. As teenagers, we hit the awkward stage where everything seems to big, too futile, or where caring about the community and indeed the world, becomes 'uncool'.

That's why those of us who do make the biggest difference must first learn to realise that being stereotypically 'cool', isn't always the best option

— because the best of us, the truly 'cool' people, are the ones who care too much about the greater scheme of things to let social perceptions stand in the way.

In more ways than one these very social perceptions are a major barrier in encouraging 'Youth Power'. Watch the television, read the newspaper, scan for those stories that cover the youth of Australia. You'll find that more often than not, it's the bad that's being highlighted over the good. It's true that many young people do the wrong thing. Gangs do exist. Drugs are a problem. Nobody's denying that. We're not all angels.

But that could apply to any demographic be it based on your age, culture, religion, the town in which you live, the people you associate with. It is not just young people.

That's the problem. As long as articles continue to appear which show up the vices of our peers the evil stereotype being thrust upon us will continue to grow, making any change too difficult.

There is a lot that we can do to reverse this stereotype. In fact plenty is already being done. Young people are being provided a voice, in the form of committees and activities designed just for us and, even better often designed and run by us. Take the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge, every FReeZA event, the annual Battle of the Bands, National Youth Week, Student Action Teams, Student Representative Councils and other committees of which many of you may currently be active members. But there is always room for more.

You could say that my message is being somewhat wasted on those of you in attendance today. After all, by just showing up you have already proven that you do care about what happens to the young people of Wyndham and the young people of today. Everyone of you has already taken the initiative and that's fantastic. But I believe that sharing these thoughts with you is still enormously valuable because each of you now has the chance to show the world YOUR idea of Youth Power.

Today's forum is an excellent starting point. Among us, we have some highly influential leaders all of whom are obviously keen to support us in achieving our common goal — Youth Power. So seize this opportunity to have your ideas heard and to listen to the ideas of others — you never know what you'll pick up along the way!

...Continued from cover

On a practical level what is likely to occur is that more young people or people from different ethnic races will be stigmatised and humiliated for a 'mere suspicion' and will be fined even if they were not carrying a weapon in the first place. Extensive research on crime prevention both domestically and overseas has demonstrated that aggressive policing practices and the further marginalisation of disenfranchised groups is more likely to exacerbate problems of crime rather than reduce them.

In National Crime Prevention's document *Pathways to Prevention: Developmental and Early Intervention Approaches to Crime in Australia* 'risk' and 'protective' factors are examined which lead to anti social and criminal behaviors. It is noted that life experiences involving child rearing, schooling (or the absence thereof), positive role models and mentors (or their absence), family breakup, peer pressure and other social factors are all relevant factors to examine when looking at crime prevention. It is stated that it is these areas that need to be worked on if real inroads in crime prevention are to be made. Governments continue, particularly in the lead up to elections, to take the cheaper simplistic and populist options even though they might not actually work.

What happened to the young men recently in Chapel Street was inexcusable and is a sad tragedy and loss, which has shaken the community. What is being proposed by the Minister for Police however, is the resort to an electorally populist, simplistic, knee jerk punitive response which has little basis to support that it will make any inroad into the problem. Questions around the availability of the range of weapons at the point of purchase and the need for improved education and early intervention have been ignored. Safety and crime prevention are often the results of the establishment of a strong sense of community. Governments should be taking a lead in building up the community through inclusiveness, educational and other opportunities. The problems with the Police Minister's current proposals are that they have very little insight into the practical day-to-day operations of the law.

Liz Curran is Lecturer in Law and Legal Studies, La Trobe University; and Community Legal Education Supervising Solicitor at West Heidelberg Community Legal Service

If you are unhappy about the way you have been treated by police you can complain to the Ombudsman of Victoria. Call them on 9613 6222 or 1800 806 314 for more info.

DrugInfo Clearinghouse

Meeting the need for a centralised drug information service



Premier Steve Bracks at the launch of the DrugInfo Clearinghouse

So what is the Clearinghouse?

The DrugInfo Clearinghouse is your first port of call for information on drugs and drug prevention. Their role is to actively seek out the latest in drug prevention research, strategies and programs, to evaluate and distill the information, and then to proactively disseminate it in the best format for specific target audiences. Using their considerable inhouse expertise of research, health and welfare, youth and communications specialists, as well as their networks in the wider community, they are able to rewrite and repack complex and technical information to make it accessible and user-friendly for workers, students, parents and the general community. Not only is this a valuable timesaver, but it takes the hard work out of searching for information and provides a credible type of 'quality control' at the same time.

Ensuring accessibility

The latest technologies and a proactive approach to information dissemination means the service is geared up to deliver information in ways that suit the user (not only the provider)—ensuring accessibility to all Victorians, regardless of location.

How do they do that?

Firstly, through their Resource Centre, which is centrally located at the edge of the city in West Melbourne and which can be accessed in person or by phone, fax, email or post.

Their website (www.druginfo.adf.org.au) functions as a highly accessible and user-friendly 'virtual' Resource Centre, with state-of-the-art features including the ability to package information and to alert members to new information, resources and services as they become available.

The second-largest specialist drug and alcohol Library in Australia is also housed in the Resource Centre. Its collection of more than 8000 books, 400 videos and 100 regular journal subscriptions focuses on drug prevention

issues including information on school and community education, workplace issues, youth drug issues, health promotion, counselling, problem drinking, drink driving, drug prevention, treatment and harm reduction, government (Australian and international) policy, legislation, theory, statistics and social and cultural issues. If the information or resource you need is not held in their Library or Resource Centre, they'll help you find it—Interlibrary loans and document delivery arrangements are in place to make this a convenient resource, regardless of your location in Victoria. The Information Officer (phone 1300 85 85 84) can also direct you to other avenues for information and services, such as drug treatment agencies, counselling and other resource centres.

What other resources do we offer?

Every two months, the DrugInfo Clearinghouse produces a 'suite' of new resources on a specific drug prevention theme or strategy:

- Drug prevention research evaluation reports
- Fact sheets tailored for specific audiences, such as young people, teachers, parents and workers
- DrugInfo newsletter
- Reading and resource lists
- Drug prevention research register, a searchable online database.

Membership is free!

Join up and experience the benefits. Membership of the DrugInfo Clearinghouse and Library is free to all Victorians. To join, see the website, or drop in or telephone the Resource Centre.

DrugInfo Clearinghouse, 409 King Street, West Melbourne

Phone 1300 85 85 84

Web www.druginfo.adf.org.au

Email druginfo@adf.org.au

Put **YOUNG** people ON the Agenda

Gain invaluable access to a **WHAT TYPE OF MEMBER AM I?**

state-wide network of young people, organisations and individuals who work with young people... join YACVIC!

The Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc. (YACVIC) is the peak body and leading **policy advocate** on young people's issues in Victoria. 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 organisation and our core funding comes from the Victorian Government's Office for Youth.

Having an active youth peak body in Victoria with a strong membership base means that your issues will be heard!

Address: Level 6, 1 Elizabeth St, Melbourne 3000 **Ph:** (03) 9612 8999 **Fax:** (03) 9620 4802
Email: info@yacvic.org.au **Websites:** www.yacvic.org.au

▶ **Organisational Members**

Organisations entitled to become members of YACVIC will be organisations that are generally concerned with direct service delivery for and with young people or organisations run by young people. Organisations that are concerned purely with policy formulation will not be entitled to join as organisational members. Organisations are defined as a legal entity. Each organisation is entitled to join once. Additional membership is available for service streams or regional offices. Local Government Youth Services are entitled to become organisational members. **Voting entitlement:** A maximum of two votes at any general meeting of the Council

▶ **Associate members**

Associate members are generally organisations whose main function is to formulate policy. An associate member of YACVIC is any political party, federal government department, state government department, local government council or local government policy unit. **Voting entitlement:** not entitled to vote

▶ **Additional members**

A service stream, regional or local affiliate of a larger umbrella organisation which is an Organisational Member of YACVIC. **Voting entitlement:** One vote at any general meeting of the Council.

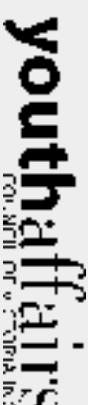
▶ **Individual members**

Any member of the public is entitled to apply for membership of the Council. Young people and those working for and with young people are particularly encouraged to join YACVIC. **Voting entitlement:** One vote at any general meeting of the Council.

Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc. ABN: 39 774 045 170

MEMBERSHIP FORM : TAX INVOICE

This form is for new members only. If you are already a YACVIC member, renewals are sent out on 1 July every year.



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

I/We agree to the purpose and objectives listed* and hereby 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 less than \$50,000	\$55.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Member with annual income more than \$50,000	\$120.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member (no voting rights)	\$120.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Member	\$55.00

Individual

<input type="checkbox"/> Member	\$55.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Member — Concession	\$15.00

Payment: Total amount paid: \$

Cheque or money order payable to Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc.

Credit Card: Visa Mastercard Bankcard

Name on Card:

Card number

Expiry date / Signature

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

* YACVIC's purpose and objectives are listed on our website or may be obtained by calling us on (03) 9612 8999. Any personal information collected by YACVIC is subject to our privacy policy and treated as strictly confidential.

YACVic welcomes your submissions to the calendar. Please email contributions to info@yacvic.org.au or phone us on (03) 9612 8999. Some of the events on this website have been sourced from the Australian Clearing House for Youth Studies calendar see <http://www.acys.utas.edu.au>

what's on

Deadline for contributions to the next edition of yikes is 21:09:02

■ ACWA 2002 Conference: What Works?

Date: 2 September 2002 — 4 September 2002

Hosted by the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies this conference is for practitioners, managers, young people, academics and policy makers in the government and non-government child youth and family service sector.

Where: Swiss Grand Hotel, Bondi Beach, Sydney

For more info: <http://www.acwa.asn.au>

■ Mind the Gap: Transition From All Perspectives — a Roundtable Conference

Date: 23 September 2002

The University of Melbourne Transition Program is hosting this one-day conference aimed at facilitating dialogue between all groups concerned with transition.

Where: Melbourne University

Web: <http://www.edna.edu.au/>

■ The 9th National Conference of the Association for the Welfare of Child Health

Date: 10 October 2002 — 11 October 2002

Healthy justice for Children and Young people — addressing the impact of the justice system on the health of children, young people and their families.

Keynote speakers include: Dr Sev Ozdowski (Human Rights and Disability Discrimination Commissioner), Barbara Holborow (OAM, Former Children's Court Magistrate), Gillian Calvert (The Commissioner, Commission for Children and Young People), Sharon

Tui (Juvenile Justice Officer (Department of Juvenile Justice), Father Chris Riley (Chief Executive Officer, Youth Off The Streets).

Where: All Seasons Premier Menzies Hotel, Sydney

For more info: Conference Secretariat: Ms Louise Pitney, Ph: 02 9437 9333 or Fax: 02 9901 4586

Email: louise@conferenceaction.com.au

■ ATSIC National Policy Conference 2002

Date: 25 October 2002 — 27 October 2002

Improving policy development. The conference will provide an opportunity to share indigenous policy positions and allow policy makers in indigenous affairs to interact with leading indigenous thinkers and practitioners.

Where: National Convention Centre, 31 Constitution Avenue, Canberra

For more info: Conference secretariat, 6281 6624

Email: conference@conlog.com.au

Web: www.atsic.gov.au

■ Futures for Australian Families Conference

Date: 29 October 2002 — 30 October 2002

Presented by the Children's Welfare Association of Victoria.

Where: La Trobe University, Bundoora

For more info: Ph: 9614 1577

Email: admin@cwav.asn.au

Web: <http://www.cwav.asn.au>

■ Youth in Mind: Youth Mental Health Care in General Practice

Date: 7 November 2002

To be held in conjunction with the 4th Annual National Divisions of General Practice Forum 2002. The aim of 'Youth in Mind' is to provide the opportunity for the Divisions Network, GPs, youth mental health stakeholders, young people and carers to come together and discuss the role of General Practice and Divisions in addressing mental health issues affecting young people. Registration fee \$150.00.

Where: Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

For more info: Verity Newnham, National Coordinator National Divisions Youth Alliance - GPs Working with Young People Australian Divisions of General Practice Ph: (02) 6251 7055

Email: verity@adgp.com.au

Web: <http://ndya.adgp.com.au>

■ FECCA National Conference: Setting the Agenda

Date: 5 December 2002 — 8 December 2002

This year the national conference of the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia will have a spotlight on young people, people with disabilities, women and the aged.

Where: Canberra Convention Centre

For more info: ACT Multicultural Council

ph (02) 6249 8994

Email: actmc@bigpond.com

YACVIC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When: 5pm, Thursday 26 September 2002

Where: Richmond Town Hall, 333 Bridge Road, Richmond

Guest speaker: Judge Jennifer Coate, President Children's Court of Victoria

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR:

> YACVIC BOARD > YOUTH REFERENCE GROUP > YOUNG MEDIA SPOKESPERSON > POLICY ADVISORY GROUP

For more info or to RSVP contact YACVic on (03) 9612 8999, info@yacvic.org.au or check out our website www.yacvic.org.au

