

# YUWKES!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC.

## Taking young people seriously



Alan Wu of the YACVic Youth Reference Group stars in the *Taking People Seriously* booklet

**O**n November 1 a bunch of Parkdale Secondary students yelled loudly at Monica Gould, Minister for Youth Affairs and Education Services: “I want a mobile phone!”.

They were taking part in an experiment being conducted by Janet Jukes, YACVic Executive Officer during her speech at the launch of the *Participation in Practice* project. She egged them on again, this time to yell at the Minister: “I want a mobile phone, PLEASE!”. The room reverberated. “Can you hear them Minister?” Janet asked, the Minister nodded. “Are you going to give them all a mobile phone?” Janet asked, the Minister shook her head.

The experiment illustrated that even though politicians and decision makers can hear young people, for a variety of reasons, they don't always act on the wishes or needs of young people. The importance of youth

participation is generally recognised at a policy level but how this rhetoric may be translated into practice is less well understood. This is why we need to actively support young women and young men to get involved in decision making processes in ways that will be most effective for an organisation and young people.

As the peak body for youth affairs in Victoria, YACVic is often asked by members about how young people can be more meaningfully engaged in decision-making processes. Over the last two years, this issue has been particularly evident at our forums and consultations, specifically at our *Youth Participation Summit* and the *Reversing the Drift Summit* about rural and regional youth issues. We also work closely with the young people in our Youth Reference Group and are aware that young people also want more information about being actively involved in their communities. Key issues for both young people and workers include the

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## State election priorities

As you all know, YACVic advocates for young people to all political parties and is careful to engage in debates without taking any political side, except of course the side of young people! That means that during the election campaign we will be seeking information from the various major and minor parties about what they plan to do for young people and we will convey this information through to our members.

We will also continue to advocate for the policy positions that we have been publicly lobbying for over the past year or so and we will analyse and comment on proposals as they are raised during the campaign.

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VICTORIA'S LEADING POLICY ADVOCATE ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S 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 contact us for info on deadlines for 2003.

## 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](mailto:info@yacvic.org.au)

# news in brief

## Australian Clearing House for Youth Studies

Did you know that ACYS has regular email newsletter called Youth Field Xpress? This newsletter is issued free of charge to those who request it at the end of each month. You may like to tell staff at your office how to subscribe to the newsletter, especially those new to your organisation. To get on the mailing list for Youth Field Xpress (and receive one email a month with news gathered by the Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies) just send an email from your preferred email address, e.g. [someone@yacvic.org.au](mailto:someone@yacvic.org.au) to [yfx-on@mail-list.com](mailto:yfx-on@mail-list.com). You will be sent a confirmation message.

## Centre for Public Policy

The Centre for Public Policy runs evening forums on a variety of policy issues. Notes from these forums are now available on their website <http://www.public-policy.unimelb.edu.au>. Past forums have included 'Law and order: missing stories in the tough on crime debate' and 'Police, power and accountability'.

## CWAV election manifesto

A state election manifesto, released by the Children's Welfare Association of Victoria (CWAV) claims that over 38,000 children will be reported as being abused and neglected to the Government's Child Protection Service in 2002 and of these about 60% (25,000 children) will be reported more than once. CWAV also states that about 7,000 children a year need to be protected from severe harm by removing them from their homes and placing them in State Government care. Their manifesto calls for Victorian Government commitment and action in the following key areas:

- Government Investment in Children in Care
  - Government Investment in Early Intervention
  - Government Investment in Quality Improvement
  - A Children and Young People's Commission
  - Update the Children and Young Persons Act
  - Government Investment in the Viability of the Community Care Sector
  - Responding to Cultural Diversity
- State election kits on child protection issues are available from CWAV by calling 9614 1577 or see their website for more information <http://www.cwav.asn.au>

## Directory of Youth Researchers

An on-line directory of Australian Youth Researchers has been established by the Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies and the Youth Research Centre. You can search it, or add yourself to the directory if you are a 'youth researcher'. The website address is <http://www.acys.utas.edu.au>.

## DrugInfo Clearinghouse: school-based drug education

The DrugInfo Clearinghouse provides information to workers, researchers, and the community on drugs and drug prevention. They bring out a newsletter and resource sheets every two months on a range of issues. Their most recent suite of products is focused on the latest in school-based drug education research, policy and best practice. For more info call 1300 858 584 or see their website <http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au>.

## Reversing the Drift

Reversing the Drift was a solutions summit for young people and workers

with young people is rural and regional Victoria held in Shepparton in May this year. A report detailing proceedings from the summit has been produced and is available from the YACVic website, along with audio files of the keynote speakers. See <http://yacvic.org.au/reversing> or call us on 9612 8999 for a hardcopy version.

### **RMIT youth work degree**

The Bachelor of Social Science (Youth Work) has been developed by RMIT University for introduction in Semester 1, 2003. The Youth Work degree will replace the Bachelor of Arts (Youth Affairs), which has been taught on RMIT University's Bundoora campus for many years. The new Bachelor of Social Science (Youth Work) will be taught on the city campus.

An information session will be held for potential applicants. The session will outline detail of the Youth Work program, discuss career outcomes, and answer questions. The session may assist potential applicants to clarify options between related programs, and to more clearly understand the relationship between programs and careers. When? Wednesday 18 December, 5.00pm, RMIT City Campus, Kaleide Theatre, 342 Swanston Street Melbourne

More information see

<http://www.rmit.edu.au/tce/ssp/ap/youthwork>

### **Streetwize wins prevention award**

The 2002 Ted Noffs Award for Prevention recognising excellence in the drug and alcohol field was awarded to Streetwize Communications for groundbreaking dual diagnosis comic *On the Edge*. Following the story of Dom, the comic addresses the issues surrounding young people

experiencing dual diagnosis (mental health and drug related issues). These include the build up of symptoms, what happens during an episode of psychosis, peer support – what friends can do, what services are available and what will happen, the stigma young people feel about mental illness and the decision to stop using. The comic also has harm minimisation advice pages for people who are using drugs and contact details of relevant organisations. For more info see the Streetwize website

<http://www.streetwize.com.au/who.html> or give them a call (02) 9319 0220.

### **Youth Research Centre**

The Youth Research Centre is part of the Faculty of Education at the University of Melbourne. Current research at the Centre includes;

- a three year longitudinal study of participants in youth development programs in three states;
- a cluster evaluation of five Victorian projects supported by VicHealth to enhance the mental health of young people through increasing their economic participation;
- an outcomes evaluation of the operation of Student Action Teams in 36 Victorian primary and secondary schools;
- a national study of young people's responses to careers and enterprise education;
- the development of middle schooling approaches in five Victorian schools;
- the understanding of physical activity by young people;
- an extensive study of the effectiveness of student welfare training within the Catholic education sector;
- a study of community conferencing as a component of restorative justice;

- the continuation of a 10 year study into the 'life patterns' of young people and their changing priorities for work happiness and health etc.

For further details on any of these projects contact the Youth Research Centre on (03) 8344 9633

### **VUT Master of Education**

The Victoria University School of Education has revamped the delivery of its course - the Master of Education Experiential Learning and Development. The course is structured around three areas of specialisation - Youth Development, Wilderness Adventure Based Therapy and Community Arts.

Students choose one of these specialisations as their major. Experiential Learning is now understood as a best practice model of working and developing programs within a broad educational context, with specific communities, particularly young people/young adults.

As of 2003 the course will be delivered in a flexible delivery mode, block and online and so will be able to accommodate people from Victoria and interstate.

Check out the web site for info and proposed dates for 2003.

<http://www.iyec.com/master>

### **Women's safety strategy**

The State Government have released a women's safety strategy which aims to reduce the level and fear of violence against women in Victoria by providing a coordinated approach within government and between government, non government organisations and the broader community. Copies of the strategy can be obtained by calling (03) 9651 0530 or you can download a copy from the Office of Women's Policy website <http://www.women.vic.gov.au>.

# Networking Victoria?

By Erin Clark

**W**hen I first found out that I had become a member of the National Youth Roundtable, I was completely speechless, which is quite rare! I still wasn't exactly sure what it was, or what I was required to do, but who is going to pass up an opportunity like that? As it turns out, the Roundtable is a Federal Government initiative, where the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) gather together 50 young people from throughout Australia.

The expectation is that they complete a community project of their choice. Based in the key areas of rural, pathways, the environment, social cohesion and creative cultures, roundtable participants are given resources to pursue projects, whether they are targeted at the local, state or federal level.

My project centred on the operation of youth councils. After working in my local community for over two years to establish a youth council, I was interested to know whether the same problems that I had encountered at a local level, were experienced elsewhere and whether there was anything that could be done about it. Flicking through the Roundtable reports of previous years, it appeared that there had been numerous roundtable projects that had been simply to form a youth council at a local level.

Initially, my project focused on the formation of youth councils and I produced a booklet called *How to start a youth council*, which will soon be linked to several youth websites. However, consultations and surveys with young people completely changed my approach. It became very clear that the thing that young people in this field lacked the most was the capacity to network. Frustrated, many youth councils continue to watch their youth workers attend numerous network meetings, luncheons and the like. But, what about the people in the youth councils? The limited surveys and consultations that I completed under the roundtable concluded that there was strong support for a state-wide network of young people.

Initial consultations with youth workers and youth policy officers have highlighted that while many networks exist on a national scale, there is no grass-roots support for

young people, who often are unaware of initiatives outside their own towns. By creating a network, completely driven by young people specifically for young people, it could be moulded to suit their needs. An online youth portal would be the most cost effective and convenient way of facilitating this process, as this allows young people to be involved in the project's development every step of the way. Hopefully this will be extended to include quarterly meetings.

It is envisioned that this portal will not be limited to young people involved in youth councils, but will include relevant and diverse content for all young people that have an interest in becoming positive contributors to their communities. The portal will engage these young people to develop skills and forge networks with other young people within their district. Members of state and federal youth activities also have already expressed interest in using such a forum to gather information for their projects and to keep in touch with each other.

The unique aspect about this project is that it will be driven by the young people that it targets. Those engaging the portal will be able to influence its content to suit their needs. This ensures that all users of the portal will have an ownership of it, maximizing usage and productivity of the initiative. This project aims to include an extensive period of consultation to gather opinions from the stakeholders in this project to research similar initiatives that operate in other parts of the country and, to evaluate their effectiveness.

This youth portal hopes to provide a social, networking/information gathering, and a developmental function. It is hoped that it will grow to become a network for all young

people within Victoria that are interested in making a difference in their communities. Diversity of the material available on the portal will ensure that it remains relevant to a broad cross section of young people.

Interestingly, SA has already embarked on this process with their online youth council network. Holding discussions with their project officer has taught me many things, including that you need to be paid to be capable of executing such a large project! But the most important thing that I learnt is that for this project to succeed, every youth council in Victoria must know about it. The project needs to be driven entirely by youth, for youth. It must also have real outcomes, and continue to be relevant for the young people that use it.

Where to from here? The National Youth Roundtable has ended with a few hugs and tears. When I was dragging my two suitcases home behind me, I couldn't help but question whether my past six months of work was going to make any difference to anyone. I question whether anyone "important" is going to be reading my report, and I just hope that they recycle it... But, while the roundtable may have finished, I hope that my project has only just begun. When my exams finally end in December, I will pick up where I left off, gathering support from individual youth councils located throughout Victoria.

If anyone would like to become involved in the *Networking Victoria* project, or to find out more information, please contact me by email [little\\_erin\\_clark@yahoo.com.au](mailto:little_erin_clark@yahoo.com.au), or 0419 577 873.

# Age discrimination reform update

In the June 2002 Edition of *YIKES!* we reported that the Federal Government were developing legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of age. Since then the Government has made significant progress on these reforms. Here's an update from the Federal Attorney-General's Department:

The Federal Attorney-General's Department has completed initial consultations with over 90 business, employer and employee groups, and community organisations, and has written to a further 180 organisations, providing them with information about the proposed age discrimination reforms and an opportunity for comment. The Attorney-General has also recently established a Core Consultative Group (CCG) to assist the Government to develop a detailed proposal for the legislation. The Core Consultative Group comprises a wide range of organisations including those representing business, employees, financial services, health services, youth, older people, social welfare groups, families, and other community organisations. The Government aims to make a decision on the detail of the age discrimination legislation before the end of 2002.

The CCG first met on 22 August 2002. It considered complex issues concerning possible prohibitions on age discrimination, as well as necessary exemptions. The CCG considered existing anti-discrimination laws, issues raised in the consultations to date, and the range of areas of public life that the legislation might cover. The CCG also considered the role the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission may play in administering the legislation, including education and awareness-raising, complaint-handling, and policy development.

The CCG established Working Groups on Health, Superannuation, Employment, Children and Youth, and Commonwealth Laws and Programs. These groups met throughout September to discuss these issues in detail.

Further information about the age discrimination reforms and the Core Consultative Group can be found at <http://www.ag.gov.au/> under 'Recent Additions'. The contact person for this project is Catherine Hawkins phone: (02) 6250 6691, email: [catherine.hawkins@ag.gov.au](mailto:catherine.hawkins@ag.gov.au).

Editors note: Our national youth peak, the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) has been taking part in this process. For more information on AYAC see <http://www.ayac.org.au>.

## YACVic state election priorities

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Specifically we will continue to call for:

- A Victorian Children and Young People's Commission.
- Young people to be placed at the centre of the Government's policy by moving the Office for Youth to the Department of Premier & Cabinet.
- The establishment of a ministerial advisory level Youth Policy Advisory Council with a membership of at least one third young people.
- Legislation to ensure student representation on school councils and the provision of resources for students to participate fully in key discussions about their school communities.
- The cost of the Tertiary Students Concession card to be brought into line with the Secondary Students Concession card.
- Every major and minor party to declare support for the Duel Track detention system for Juvenile Justice 'clients'.
- The jurisdiction of the Children's Court to be raised to the age of 18.
- A review of the Children and Young Person's Act.
- Ongoing policy resources for the youth homelessness sector so that they can meaningfully engage in the policy discussions that are already underway as a result of the Victorian Homelessness Strategy.
- Greater recognition of the additional expenses associated with the provision of services in regional and rural areas and to have funding formulas recognise this.
- Treasury imposed "efficiency cuts" to be abolished and for all funding contracts to include annual CPI adjustments.
- Longer term funding contracts for ongoing services (eg. 3 or 5 year contracts).
- Strategies to dispel negative stereotypes and negative media representation of young people.
- A Youth Impact Assessment tool to monitor the development of initiatives across government.
- An enquiry to be undertaken into the role of local government in youth service provision.
- A small grants scheme to be established to support young people to participate in activities and develop skills or to organise community building events.
- Recognition that young people are not a homogenous group. That as well as coming from diverse backgrounds, young people are developing diverse futures.
- Continued support (or support) of ongoing funding of YACVic.

We encourage you to meet with your local members and candidates (of all major and minor parties) and to talk to them about these and other issues affecting young people in your area.

We have contacted each of the major parties asking them a series of questions about their youth policies. As these policies are released, we will collate their responses and provide this information to members via our email list and the website.

# Why You Should Vote

In most countries people only won the right to vote after risking their lives fighting for it. In many places this is still going on. So it seems pretty silly that almost half the 18-21 year olds in Australia have not even been bothered getting themselves on the electoral roll so they can vote in federal and state elections.

There are plenty of ways you can work to change things you don't like about Australia, or to keep things you do. Voting is just one of them, but it's the easiest – you pick up an enrolment form from a post office, fill it in, get one other person to sign it and send it off. You don't even have to pay for the stamp. Then come election time you roll out of bed, head to a nearby school hall or church, get your name crossed off, and fill out a few squares – not exactly difficult. And voting is the one thing you will do where you are exactly equal to everyone else – in may not happen anywhere else, but inside the polling booth you are equal with a Noble Prize winner, a billionaire or the Prime Minister.

## How to enrol

You can't vote until you are 18, but you can get on the roll when you are 17. If you enrol when you are 17, you will automatically be able to vote as soon as you turn 18.

When the election is called you only get three days to enrol, so it is a good idea not to wait until the election is called, by the time this article goes to print the electoral roll will have closed but hopefully you saw our reminder to enrol to vote on the YACVic website and in our email newsletter (if you're not subscribed to our email newsletter then hop to it! See the YACVic website for more info <http://www.yacvic.org.au>).

If you move house it is important to tell the electoral commission – otherwise eventually they will find out you are not at your old address and cut you off there, without knowing where your new address is. The commission has systems in place for people who are homeless to enrol – call them on 13 18 32 if this applies to you.

If you don't vote you can be fined, \$20 for state and federal elections and \$100 for local elections. If you don't want to vote for any of

the candidates, you don't have to – just turn up, get your name crossed off and put the ballot paper in the box blank. But if you do this you will be missing one opportunity to make a difference.

## When you vote

Once you turn up to vote it helps to know how the voting system works in Victoria, but even if you don't voting is not that hard.

At the polling booth you will get two ballot papers, one for the Lower House (Legislative Council) and one for the Upper House (Legislative Assembly). The Lower House decides who will be the government and initiates most decisions, but for any law to be passed both houses have to support it.

Each ballot paper is likely to have between two and ten candidates on it. All you need to do is decide who you like best, and put a number 1 in the box next to their name. Then decide who you like second best and put a 2 next to their name. Then continue until all the squares have numbers next to them. Don't use the same number twice on the one paper or your vote will be invalid. Then do the same thing on the other ballot paper, starting from 1. There will be people handing out How-to-Vote cards outside the polling booth, and you can use these for advice, but you don't have to follow any of them exactly.

## What happens to your vote

At the end of the day all the votes are placed in piles according to who the voter put number 1. The numbers of votes for each candidate are tallied up and recorded. Even if the candidate you voted for does not win, people will take notice if he or she gets more votes than expected. Voting for someone can make a difference even if they are not elected.

Once these votes have been totalled, the candidate with the lowest number of votes is eliminated. Each of the lowest candidate's votes is looked at, and then put on the pile of the person who got the number 2 on that particular ballot. Once again the votes are tallied, then the next lowest candidate is eliminated, and all their votes are passed on once again.

Some people worry that if they vote for someone who is unlikely to win their vote will be wasted. This can happen in some other countries (like America) because they use a different voting system, but in Australia it is impossible – if the candidate you vote for does badly your vote will get passed on to the person you put second – in other words you will actually get two votes for the price of one.

## An example

Let's say there are four candidates: John Smith, Jane Jones, Tran Nguyen and Deb Camilleri. You decide you like Tran best, then Jane, Deb and John. All you have to do is number them 1 Tran, 2 Jane, 3 Deb and 4 John. Then go on to the other ballot paper. Simple really.

If Tran comes last, he will be eliminated, and your vote will go on to Jane. If Jane is first of second your vote will stay with her, perhaps even helping her get elected. If she comes third, your vote will go on to Deb. You might not like Deb much, but if you think she's better than John you've still helped play a part in keeping the person you think would be worst out.

More information is available from the state and federal electoral commissions (<http://www.vec.vic.gov.au> or <http://www.aec.gov.au>) or at the booth on polling day.

# Victorian Young Unionists Network

In October this year the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) held a National Young Unionists forum in Melbourne with the aim of providing a space for young union and community activists to meet and discuss issues of importance to young people at work and in the community.

In light of this, a Victorian Young Unionists Network is being set up which will be open to all young unionists and activists. This network will be auspiced by Trades Hall, the central organisation in Victoria for representing union issues to the public and the government.

So far the network has met twice and is in the process of developing a strategy for the next year. The network hopes to get young activists involved in cross union campaigns and also to provide outreach to young workers and students about their rights at work. Trades Hall are hoping to establish a 12 month support worker for the network.

The aims of the network are to:

- engage young activists and officials in cross union campaigns and issues
- promote the sharing of experiences in campaigning and organising
- focus on industrial and other issues of importance to young workers (including education, skills, student support etc.)
- promote unionism to young workers and students
- build alliances between younger unionists and community/student organizations with a focus on young people
- link with younger activists internationally on campaigns/experiences

The network also plans to run a number of activities in 2003 including:

- holding a young unionists conference;
- speaking about the role of unions and rights at work at uni's, schools and TAFEs;
- providing information at uni orientation week activities and at youth/music events
- providing information about rights to apprentices and trainees, including starting a campaign on this issue.

If you'd like to get involved in the Victorian Young Unionist Network contact the Victorian Trades Hall Council on (03) 9662 3511 or see the Trades Hall website <http://www.vthc.org.au/>.

# JPET Shakeup

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. The JPET program is in the government's frontline of service delivery to significantly disadvantaged young Australians. It has been providing a holistic model of service delivery and life enhancing outcomes for young people and their families for many years.

As many of you may be aware there has been a major shakeup of the JPET program nationally with over 50% of current Victorian providers losing funding. The shakeup has meant that most if not all gender specific and multicultural or refugee programs around Australia have been defunded. Country areas have also been hit hard in Victoria and other states with some towns losing the only funded youth service available. This has led to a formal complaint being made by key JPET providers. The basis of the complaint centred around four issues:

- that the selection process was not clearly explained to applicants who believed that they were entering an expression of interest process;
- that previous experience in delivering the service was not considered and the local context was not taken into account ie. what other services are available in the area or consideration for the strong local linkages that have been built up over years of successfully delivering the program;
- that insufficient information was provided through the expression of interest process for the Department of Family and Community Services to determine whether the financial requirements could be met by the provider;
- the selection panel process was not transparent.

This process was not in line with Government policy positions that value community capacity building and raises serious questions about the commitment of the Federal Government in developing genuine partnerships and building joined-up service delivery at the local level.

In response to this complaint, the Federal Government has announced that all current JPET providers will be rolled over until March 30 while a review is undertaken into the expression of interest process. JPET providers have been asked to make submissions to the inquiry by November 22 (that's less than two weeks).

If you are a non JPET service it is important to contact your local JPET provider and offer your support. It's also important to write to your local Federal Member of Parliament and to the Federal Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Larry Anthony.

More info contact Paula at YACVic on [pgrogan@yacvic.org.au](mailto:pgrogan@yacvic.org.au).

# Respect: the government's vision for young people in Victoria

## YACVic's response

The Minister for Youth Affairs, the Hon. Monica Gould MLC, launched *Respect: The Government's Vision for Young People*, on 22 August 2002. *Respect* outlines the Government's policy and program priorities in relation to young people. Following is a summary of YACVic's response to the *Respect*



YACVic Youth Reference Group members Lise Dalla Torre, Michelle Blanchard and Patty Etcell with Minister Gould at the *Respect* launch

YACVic welcomes the launch of *Respect*. We shared the sector's frustrations about the time it took to develop this document and the way in which this delayed process impacted on other policy decisions. With the launch of *Respect*, we have a clearer understanding of the Government's policy and program priorities and the sector can now work with the Government to ensure positive changes for young people.

In particular we welcome the way in which *Respect* is underpinned by the principles of diversity, respect and partnership. However, there is always a concern that principles can remain as rhetoric. The challenge is to turn this rhetoric into reality by implementing structures and initiating processes that will entrench *Respect* into practice.

### What's missing?

Although we welcome the general policy directions outlined in the document, we are disappointed by the absence of a strategic framework. There is no implementation

plan specified which begs the question of how the Government intends to realise its vision. In addition, although each section details ways in which the Government will demonstrate its progress in achieving its goals, there is no indication as to how these milestones are to be measured.

We are particularly concerned about the way in which youth participation is featured in *Respect*. A key problem is that 'involvement' is a theme rather than a key principle. Principles of participation are intrinsic to each area and should not have been isolated as a separate theme. Although the Government says it is committed to involving young people, the main theme running through the document is actually one of consultation. YACVic believes there should have been greater emphasis on engaging young people in more meaningful decision-making processes.

Finally, young people in particular have expressed disappointment that the framework focuses on the Government's vision for young

people. A key problem is that the framework was developed without the active contribution of young people. To address this concern it is important that young people are now welcomed as part of the planning and implementation processes.

### The way forward

The framework is not a destination but rather the first step in the developmental process and YACVic believes that the Government, in partnership with the wider community, should implement structures and initiate processes to move the vision forward. YACVic proposes several initiatives that could assist in this process. Details about these initiatives is provided in the full response. The key strategies are:

- Children and Young Person's Commission
- Moving the Office for Youth into the Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Youth Policy Advisory Council
- Youth participation information tools
- Youth grant makers
- Youth Impact Assessment Tool
- Transport concessions
- Student Councils
- Representation on LLENs
- Youth participation small grants
- Youth Arts Board

Copies of *Respect* can be downloaded from the Office for Youth website

<http://www.youth.vic.gov.au>  
or by calling OFY on (03) 9637 3164.

YACVic's full response is available on our website <http://www.yacvic.org.au> (under the policy section) or by calling us on (03) 9612 8999.

# Taking young people seriously



*Continued from cover*

barriers to youth participation, overcoming these barriers and providing ongoing resources, support and skill development for young people.

For these reasons, YACVic has identified a need to develop a practical tool to assist young people and organisations to develop effective models of youth participation and to help young people to develop their skills and talents to allow them to be actively engaged.

The 'Participation in Practice' project is a partnership between YACVic and the Office for Youth (OFY). This twelve-month project will look at these issues by developing a range of publications to assist young people in developing their skills and talents, and help organisations to set up effective structures that will encourage young people to get involved in a meaningful way. A reference group made up of young people and representatives from YACVic and OFY will steer this process.

A project worker will be housed at YACVic from January next year to develop the publications through a series of state-wide consultations.

This initiative recognises that different models of youth participation are required for different situations so the publications will consider:

- Young people, governance and decision-making – participation on boards and committees.
- Young people and democracy – participation in local communities and communities of interest.
- Young people and consultation – asking young people about their ideas and opinions.

These handbooks will draw on lessons learned from local, national and international youth participation initiatives. Each handbook will cover issues such as the importance of youth participation, the different models of participation, selection and recruitment and ongoing support and skill development. Importantly, the handbooks will outline policy and legislative issues impacting on youth participation that are unique to Victoria. These publications will be primarily targeted at young people and organisations in the public and community sectors.

The handbooks will also address, where appropriate, key issues around working with marginalised young people and specific communities of young people such as refugee, indigenous, culturally and linguistically diverse and same sex attracted young people.

YACVic is currently seeking funding for a training component which will assist young people and organisations in implementing the models outlined in the booklets.

If you would like to be involved in the development of the Participation in Practice Handbooks please contact YACVic on 9612 8999 or keep an eye on our website

<http://www.yacvic.org.au> and email newsletter.



# Who's who at YACVic

In the lead up to our Annual General Meeting (AGM) around August each year, YACVic calls for nominations for our Board of Governance, Young Media Spokesperson position, Youth Reference Group and Policy Advisory Group. The Board of Governance and Young Media Spokesperson are then elected at the (AGM) and the two advisory groups are selected by the new Board shortly after the AGM. To ensure organisational stability members of the Board have two year terms with half of these positions being elected each year. The following pages provide an overview of each of these groups.

## Board of Governance 2002 - 2003

The Board of Governance is the ultimate authority for the successful operation of YACVic. The Board is comprised of four officers and three ordinary members. The four officers are the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Treasurer and the Young Media Spokesperson.

Members of the Board are elected by the YACVic membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). At the first Board meeting following the AGM the new Board decides on the officers for the coming year - with the exception of the Young Media Spokesperson who is directly elected at the AGM.

The Board operates under a governance framework which means that they are concerned with the overall strategy and direction of the organisation. The management of day-to-day decisions are left up to the Executive Officer who is accountable to the Board in respect to these operational matters.

The Board takes advice from both the Policy Advisory Group and the Youth Reference Group, but ultimately decisions regarding the governance of YACVic are made by the Board.

**Rowena Allen (Chairperson):** Rowena is the CEO of Cutting Edge Youth Services-UnitingCare, in Shepparton. She has held positions in the area of community development and direct youth services with rural and metropolitan local governments including the City of Greater Shepparton, City of Stonington and Waverley. Row is currently the chairperson of the Goulburn Regional Youth Committee, a member of the Learning Employment and Skills Commission as well as a member of Minister Thwaites Advisory Committee on Gay and Lesbian Health. Active in the Uniting Church, Row has worked for the Social Justice Questions Committee and Victorian Council of Churches on environment and unemployment projects. She has also represented them nationally and internationally through the Christian Conference (Network) of Asia.



**Mary Aldred:** Mary is a 19 year old working student dealing first hand with many of the issues facing young people today, and aims to become an active voice for young people by working as a link between young people and the government. Mary believes that education is the key to so many of life's doors. Advocating for education is a priority that she takes very seriously. Mary is also interested in focusing on young people and the law, in particular drug related crime.

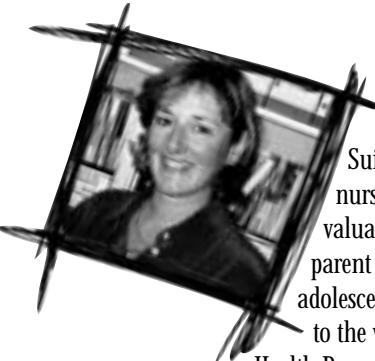


**Matthew Bubb (Treasurer):** Matt is a solicitor at Blake Dawson Waldron, in Melbourne. Matt works in the Financial Services Group at Blakes and specialises in corporate and project finance work. Matt has always had an interest in working with young people and after a number of years of focussing on his career, felt it was time to put something back into the community. Matt's aim for the Board for the coming 12 months is to work with the Secretariat to broaden the funding base of YACVic so that the organisation can continue to grow and enhance the services provided to members without being inhibited by the level of government funding.




**Felicity Sloman (Deputy Chairperson):** Felicity's role as State Manager is to ensure that Kids Help Line is well known by young people and the professionals that work with them. Felicity also project manages the Kids Help Line Peer Skills Program. Prior to working with Kids Help Line, Felicity spent 6½ years at the Centre for Adolescent Health in Melbourne working predominantly in the education and training of professionals working with young people as well as parents. Whilst there she completed a Graduate Diploma in Adolescent Health and Welfare run by the Centre, through the University of Melbourne. She has been working closely with service clubs in Melbourne and in 1997 received a Certificate of Appreciation

YACVic Youth Reference Group at their orientation day

from the Rotary Club of Brighton North for her work in the area of Youth Suicide. Originally Felicity trained as a nurse at the Alfred Hospital and gained valuable skills following that by becoming a parent herself. Felicity is the parent of two adolescents, now aged 14 and 16. After returning to the workplace she did further studies in Health Promotion at Deakin University.


### Lise Dalla Torre (Young Media Spokesperson):



Lise is a very passionate 16 year old student who has been the YACVic Young Media Spokesperson for the past year. In her first term Lise fulfilled her role by providing comments to the media, running countless presentations and forums including a youth participation forum at YACVic's rural conference *Reversing the Drift*, and producing a YACVic radio show on SYN FM. She also participated actively as a member of Youth Reference Group. Lise is particularly concerned with avenues for youth participation and the problems of underage drinking and drug taking amongst suburban young people. She's also interested in the media and is currently working on developing a media forum with YACVic, the Inner City Regional Youth Committee and the Centre for Adolescent Health. Lise is highly committed to YACVic and has dedicated much time and energy to the organisation.

**Dave Hamra:** Dave has post graduate qualifications in policy and research and currently works in Youth Services at the City of Melbourne. Over the past four years at the City of Melbourne, Dave has developed policy on issues relating to children, families and young people, including development of the Melbourne City Council's

newsletter of the youth affairs council of victoria inc.



youth strategy. Dave has a detailed knowledge of the youth sector, community and government programs and their associated issues, particularly in relation to the inner city and metropolitan Melbourne. He has a keen understanding of political and government decision making processes and how to influence them. Dave has an appreciation of the multi-dimensional lives most young people lead and is often disappointed that young people's ideas and efforts are ignored or derided. He's committed to the development of innovative and creative ways for young people to inspire and inform their family, their friends, their communities, youth workers and government.

**Joanna Scott:** Jo is currently an IT contractor for NIKE and is responsible for systems and business analysis. Jo has spent considerable time in the music industry working for both Brash and Sanity, holding positions such as assistant buyer for recorded music POS/EDI (Point of Sales and Electronic Data Interchange) Project Manager and business analysis for Sanity/Sanity.com. Prior to this Jo has held various positions within the youth sector. These have included Parkville Youth Training Centre, Manager of a Drop-in center in Mitcham and working part-time as a Residential Youth Worker for Wesley Youth Services in Mooroolbark. On a personal level, Jo has led many youth camps and activities, hand been a member of a number of church committees including the Uniting Church Prisons Task Force. Jo has also done some personal research and interviews with varying members of the police force in relation to Community Policing and Police and their relationship with young people. Jo brings a hard work ethic, strong contacts in the corporate, business and music industry as well as a passion for young peoples issues.



If you have any questions about the organisational structure of YACVic and how to get more actively involved check out our website <http://www.yacvic.org.au>.

## Youth Reference Group

The Youth Reference Group (YRG) is a practical demonstration of YACVic's commitment to the participation of young people in the structures, processes, debates and environments which shape their lives.

It exists to provide a forum for young people to develop proposals, campaigns and projects in relation to YACVic's overall policy. This group also provides advice to the Board about YACVic's youth participation and consultation processes.

The YRG is comprised of between 6-15 members and, following an open call for nominations, is appointed by a selection committee determined by the Board. An exemption under the Equal Opportunity Act allows membership of this group to be restricted to young people aged between 12 and 25 years.

**Minal Ansell:** Minal is a 15 year old student from Mitcham and a member of the White Horse Youth Committee. She works well with people and loves being around them. She relates well with young people who are in difficult situations and is committed to help them in any way she can. She plans in her future career to work with teenagers who come from broken and disadvantage homes.

**Michelle Blanchard (Convenor):** Michelle is a 19 year old student completing an arts degree (Psychology and Politics) at Melbourne University and is the Victorian spokesperson for National Youth Week 2003. She is very passionate about youth issues including young people's mental health, access to education, media representation of young people, and the availability of meaningful opportunities for young people to participate in their community. Michelle is also a Youth Ambassador for Reach Out.

**Jennifer Blyth:** Jen is 22 years old, currently employed at Youthworks, a youth service run by the Shire of Yarra Ranges, and also works as a volunteer at Knox Youth Services. Jennifer is a member of the Youth Advisory Committee for Yarra Ranges Health Service, and a member of the Reference Group for SSPLAY. She is also the voluntary editor of a youth magazine called *Purple Bus*.

**Sarah Brandhoff:** Sarah has completed Certificate Four in youth work, and is currently working on the Job Pathway Programme (JIP) in central Victoria. Through this programme she works closely with local schools, which includes running life skills classes and working with young people at risk of leaving the education system, homelessness and disconnection with local community and family.

**Stephen Brown:** Stephen is in Year 12, planning to study youth work next year. He plays an active role in school activities as a school prefect and also has involvement in the "Supportive Friends" program. As a supportive friend he deals with issues surrounding the health and well-being of those students attending his school, and makes himself available anytime for students who may encounter difficulties. He is also the youth group leader in his church for young people aged between 12 and 22.

**Ashley Creighton:** Ashley lives in Moe, the rural town where he grew up. He is currently completing a Bachelor of Behavioural Science at Monash Uni Gippsland. He has a diverse employment history starting out as a casual youth worker with the local council at the age of 20. Along with his study Ashley now works for the Gippsland Accommodation and Rehabilitation Support Service providing intensive support to young people with a serious mental illness.

**Patty Etcell:** Patty is currently studying youth work at the Australian Catholic University and runs a peer support program at Southern Family Life. Patty is interested in issues around bullying, youth participation and young people's access to services.

**Michael Feller:** Michael is a student at Monash University completing a Bachelor of Arts. He is currently working as a Project Manager for the Telecommunication, IT branch at The Department of Justice. He is a member of Reach Out Youth Advisory Board and as well as a volunteer editor and producer of World Vision's Youth magazine.

**Donna Gross:** Donna is currently studying Youth Work and Drug and Alcohol at RMIT. She is the chairperson of the Youth Advisory Committee at the Push and is very passionate about assisting, supporting and representing Australia's young people. Donna was a keynote speaker at YACVic's Reversing the Drift conference in May 2002. She has a lot of experience in events management and other music industry related skills.

**Paul Van Holsteyn:** Paul has Bachelor of Arts and Commerce from University Of Melbourne. Currently he is enrolled in The Environment Management Mentorship Program at Monash Environment Institute and works for the Asia Education Foundation.

**Prue Hill:** Prue is currently studying Public Policy and Management at University of Melbourne. She works as a receptionist, and personal assistant at Bennison Mackinnon & Association. She is currently completing an internship at YACVic researching the media's portrayal of young people and young people's participation in the media.

**Claire Hunting:** Claire is currently in year 10. She is a member of Bayside City Youth Advisory Group, was elected as a member of the Student Representative Council at her school and is an active Member of United Nations Youth Association. She has participated in various youth forums, as well as leadership conferences and is involved in the Local Learning and Employment Network. Claire is passionate about all youth issues but in particular employment, the law and education.

**Erin Johns:** Erin is in year 10 and is involved in the South East Local Learning and Employment Network and the City of Casey Young Leaders program. Erin is also involved in Scouts.

**Jade Nolan:** Jade is 23 years old and has a Bachelor of Social work from RMIT. She is currently working as youth housing and support worker at Whittlesea Housing and is interested in issues around housing, media and sexual health for young people. Jade has also been involved in Reconnect and the Catchment Youth Refuge.

**Anna Wood:** Anna is currently in her second year studying Social Work at La Trobe University. She was a member of the Chronic Illness Peer Support group (CHIPS) at the Centre for Adolescent Health for 8 years and worked at YACVic for one year. She is interested in issues around health, drug use and youth homelessness.

**Alan Wu:** Alan is studying an Arts Law degree at the University of Melbourne. He has experience in youth consultation through his participation in groups such as the Foundation for Young Australians, The Inspire Foundation, and student representative bodies at school. He also has high degree of knowledge and participation in a number of issues such as media and the environment.

## Policy Advisory Group

The Policy Advisory Group (PAG) provides a forum for members who wish to be involved in the ongoing policy development and policy setting processes of the organisation.

The PAG provides a structured avenue for members to actively shape the policy setting of the organisation. It is comprised of between 6-15 members and, following an open call for nominations each year, is appointed by a selection committee determined by the Board.

**Dr Julian Bondy:** Julian works as a Senior Lecturer and Program Coordinator at RMIT University in the Department of Justice and Youth Studies. He has wide experience in public policy relating to young people, justice and community safety. He also has experience in reporting and evaluation of youth, community and criminal justice programs and services in the public and non-government sectors.

**Liz Davies:** Liz works as a Program Manager at the Centre for Adolescent Health. She has extensive knowledge and experience in youth health and welfare and has been involved in the development of policy in the youth sector over many years at a state, national level and international level.

**Anita Doyle:** Anita works as a Program Coordinator for Youth Housing at Ballarat Community Health Centre. She is member of the Regional Youth Committee and Community Action for Youth. She is presently on several working parties including: Grampian and Victorian Homelessness Strategy, West Wendouree Community Renewals Project, Ballarat Suicide Prevention Network, Anger Management Project and Same Sex Attracted Youth Project.

**Steve Francis:** Steve is currently the Policy & Projects Coordinator at the Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues. He is also completing his PhD study in Anthropology at the University of Melbourne. He has extensive experience in policy development including the creation of community development models for at risk migrant young people, action oriented project initiatives and the development of best practice protocols. He has comprehensive project evaluation experience within community and government sectors, along with extensive high-level research expertise.

**Denise Francisco (Convenor):** Denise works as a Project Officer-Social Planning and Projects at City of Melbourne. She has 12 years of experience in youth services and is currently working in social planning relating to young people, multicultural and indigenous portfolios.

**Christine Harrison:** Chris is the manager of the 'one stop shop', Nexus Youth Resource Centre in Horsham. She is interested in substance abuse issues, health promotion and peer education and is committed to involving young people in decision making processes at all levels.

**Roger Holdsworth:** Roger works as a Senior Research Fellow and Manager at Youth Research Centre in The University of Melbourne, particularly working on Student Action teams, Civics and Citizenship, Education, and Youth Development Programs.

**Sheree Limbrick:** Sheree is the Manager of Service Development at Berry Street Victoria. She has experience in youth drug policy, out of home care and critical incident management. Over recent years she has been involved in a range of regional, state-wide and national forums and projects.

**Craig Marshall:** Craig is currently holds the Policy Development Manager at the Children's Welfare Association of Victoria and is shortly moving to the position of Service Coordinator Youth and family support, City of Melbourne. He has had an interest in youth policy development and advocacy for many years. He helped establish the Victorian Youth Advocacy Network and has held policy development positions in local government and other appointments, including Regional Consultative Council, Council on the Control of Liquor Abuse, and Inner City Regional Youth Committee.

**Peter Newling:** Peter is the State Manager of Youth Services for the Victorian YMCA where he is responsible for the development and implementation of YMCA youth service philosophy, policy and strategic directions, state-wide. Peter has many years of experience of management in the youth sector, and has an excellent understanding of the scope of programs and services across the sector.

**Rosalind Riley:** Ros is a Youth Support Worker at MacKillop Family Services and is interested in youth homelessness, refugee issues and out of home services. She is also involved in the Lead Tenant Practice forum.

**Ben Rossiter:** Ben is the Community Liaison Officer at Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society at La Trobe University. He has extensive experience working and researching in the youth and homelessness sectors over the last two decades. He has published and presented papers on matters related to young people particularly relating to those living on the street.

**Heather Stewart:** Heather is the Field Education Officer for Youth Studies at the Australian Catholic University, as well the Professional Supervisor at Marist Education Welfare Services. She has worked in the youth sector for over 16 years in direct service delivery and in policy, training, teaching and research positions. She has worked with and for both state and national youth affairs and housing peaks, and in local government youth services.

**Andrew Williamson:** Andrew is the Training Manager at Student Training for Hospitality Services, delivering vocational education and training to over 1,000 students. His main area of policy interest is the empowerment of young people through education. He has extensive links within the school system, careers and placement counselling services, the TAFE system and the hospitality industry.

**Stephen Wilson:** Steve works as the Training & Support Worker at the Youth Substance Abuse Service. He has over 15 years experience working in the youth sector and has an excellent knowledge of sports and cultural diversity policies. Steve is particularly interested in issues concerning alcohol and drug use, cultural diversity, homelessness and statutory residential care.

# Can't pay your fines or don't think you should have to?

**An increasing number of young people are accumulating thousands of dollars worth of fines for public transport, parking and a myriad of other minor infringements. Most can't afford to pay them and many believe they did nothing wrong and should not have to pay. Most try to hide the fines under the bed and pretend they didn't arrive - this is what you shouldn't do - read on to work out what you should do...**

## The fines process

If you take no action, the issuing authority (eg: Victoria Police, Hillside, Bayside, Connex, etc) will contact the PERIN Court. The PERIN Court is a computer court that operates as an arm of the Magistrates' Court. The PERIN Court will send letters requesting you pay the fine, adding agency costs each time. If you continue to ignore letters from the PERIN Court, a warrant may be issued for your arrest by a Sheriff. Instead of doing nothing, here are some suggestions.

## Challenging fines

If you believe that you were in the right, but still have received a fine, you should challenge the fine - the first step is to write a letter to the issuing agency explaining the situation and why you think the fine is wrong. For example, many young people who are eligible to travel on concession rates receive fines for failing to have their health care card on them. Writing a letter explaining this, including a copy of your valid health care card may be enough to get the fine cancelled.

If this doesn't work, seek legal advice about taking the matter to open Court for hearing.

If you are already receiving letters from the PERIN Court about your fines, it is a bit more complicated and you should seek advice from your local financial counsellor or community legal centre. You will need to make a statutory

declaration explaining your situation, and ask the PERIN Court to send the fine back to the issuing agency.

## Can't afford to pay?

There is now a new scheme, the Enforcement Review Project, to assist those who have no capacity to pay fines and can show 'special circumstances'. This includes if you have many fines, and if you have or are experiencing an intellectual disability, mental illness, alcoholism, substance abuse, severe social dysfunction or homelessness. Special circumstances may also cover clients from a non-English speaking background, if this is the reason that resulted in the fine. For example if you did not understand the system because of a limited English language capacity. If you think you might have a chance of fitting the criteria you should make it - get help from your local financial counsellor or community legal centre to do so.

If your application is successful the issuing agency looks at the fines again and decides whether or not to cancel them. If they do not, your case is sent to the "Special Circumstances" list for a Magistrate's Court hearing.

If you are unsure about what fines you owe - the first step is to get a copy of all outstanding fines from Civic Compliance Victoria located on Ground Floor, 120 Spencer Street, Melbourne. Or call them on 9611 7600 or 1800 150 410 and have one sent to you.

## More info...

Don't just rely on information in this article. It is best to get advice specific to your situation. Contact your local community legal service through the Federation of Community Legal Centres on 9602 4949, or contact Youthlaw on 9611 2412.

## About Youthlaw

Youthlaw is the first specialist young people's community legal centre in Victoria. The service is free for young people.

Youthlaw can answer questions about:

- Getting around - rules for riders and drivers
- Public transport - dealing with transit police, inspectors and fines
- Police - your rights, going to Court, what to do about unfair treatment
- Security Guards - when can they search you and your bags?
- Alcohol and drugs - smoking, marijuana. What does the law say?
- Family issues - your parents are breaking up, who listens to you?
- What to do about violence or abuse at home - when can you leave home?
- Relationships - laws about sex, becoming a young parent and personal safety
- Schools - suspension, expulsion, harassment from other students
- Discrimination - what is it, when is it unlawful and what can you do about it?
- Financial support - what if Centrelink says you are not eligible for benefits or cancels your benefit?
- Working - do young casual workers have any rights?

# Put yOuNg peOple ON the AgeNda

Gain invaluable access to a 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 **Website:** www.yacvic.org.au

## WHAT TYPE OF MEMBER AM I?

### ▶ 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.

**youthaffairs**  
COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC.

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

- Member with annual income less than \$50,000 \$55.00
- Member with annual income more than \$50,000 \$120.00
- Associate Member (no voting rights) \$120.00
- Additional Member \$55.00

#### Individual

- Member \$55.00
- 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:

- 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

\* 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

# The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition is coming to Melbourne!



**AYAC is having their members meeting and Annual General Meeting in Melbourne. Everyone is welcome.**

## Members meeting

**When: Monday 25 November 2002 (10am - 4:30pm) and Tuesday 26 November (9:30am - 4pm).**

**Where: Equal Opportunity Commission of Victoria, Level 3, 380 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.**

**What: Key elements of this meeting will include the development of policy principles and further organisational planning.**

## 2002 Annual General Meeting

**When: 1:30pm, Monday 25 November 2002.**

**Where: Equal Opportunity Commission of Victoria, Level 3, 380 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.**

**Keynote: Mr Andrew McCallum, ACOSS President.**

## Is your YACVic membership up to date?

**If not this is the last edition of YiKES! you will receive until you renew your membership. This is your last chance!**

Membership renewals were sent out in July and we'll be sending out reminders by the end of November, so keep an eye out.

YACVic relies on a strong membership base to ensure that young people are kept on the agenda.

If you would like any YACVic membership forms to distribute at your organisation, school or in your community please call Dalal on (03) 9612 8999 to have some sent out to you.

## What is AYAC?

The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) is Australia's national youth affairs non-government peak body. Officially launched at their first Annual General Meeting on 16 and 17 May 2002, AYAC's formation is the result of several years of work, by state youth affairs peak bodies and a number of national youth sector organisations, following the wind-up of the previous peak body AYPAC in 1999.

Currently AYAC is unfunded and has no paid staff but is managed by an elected Executive Committee of volunteers. They are in the process of seeking funding so that they can provide an strong independent voice for young people and organisations that work with young people in Australia.

AYAC aims to:

- represent the rights and interests of young people at a national and international level;
- promote the well-being of young Australians;
- promote the participation of all young people in Australian society;
- provide policy advice to government and the broader community on issues affecting young people and the youth affairs field.

The organisation's immediate focus is to seek further resources to become a more viable body. Members hope that limited advocacy on issues affecting young people will be possible.

Show your support for a national voice for young people in Australia by joining AYAC. See their website for more info <http://www.ayac.org.au>.