

YUWKES!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC.

We won't wear that!!

Students get attitude on sweatshop school uniforms reports the FairWear campaign...



'I have been an outworker for 10 years. My family life is getting harder by the day. My boss paid me by piecework, and I got paid about \$3 an hour, and it is getting lower. There have been times I have not been paid simply because my boss was unsatisfied, with no reason. I hope that the government will have the real law to protect outworkers very soon because until now outworkers do not have any laws to protect them. I cannot believe this kind of slavery happen in Australia.'

Quang, outworker Australia

'The problem is that we're not paid fair salaries, which means we don't have the opportunity to get ahead economically.'

Reina, outworker Honduras

Honduras is a long way from Australia but the experiences of people, mostly women, who work making clothes in their homes or in sweatshops seems to map the same story across the world. As it becomes more evident that outworkers are now making school uniforms in exploitative conditions we must think about how we can activate change within our local communities. 'Made In Australia' does not necessarily mean made under just conditions. As many clothing manufactures join the race to the bottom seeking the cheapest suppliers despite the social cost, some local manufacturers are stitching ethical responsibility into their products. FairWear has got some positive news on the No SweatLabel and ways that we can think globally and act locally.

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What's it to you?

**National Youth Week 2003
5-13 April 2003**

Combine more than one million young Aussies, a swag of home-grown talent, hot celebrities, and thousands of website surfers... what do you have? The largest, single celebration of young people on the Australian youth calendar of course!

Planned for the 5-13 April 2003, National Youth Week (NYW) aims to raise awareness of youth issues and celebrate the value of all Australians aged 12-25.

NYW is a Commonwealth, State, Territory and Local Government initiative designed to give young people a voice. The theme - *What's It To You?* is a call to action for young people to make the most of their week.

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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. Email info@yacvic.org.au for copy deadlines.

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

In the spotlight YACVic media forum

We've had an overwhelming response to this forum which is being held on 19 February at the St Kilda Town Hall.

Registrations have now closed.

Speakers include Michael Gawenda – Editor, The Age; Jo Curtin – Station Manager, SYN FM; Alison Dean – Journalist, Melbourne Times; Angela Carey – Deputy Editor, Ballarat Courier, Mark Gardy – Editor, MX; Lee Burton – Australian Children's Television Foundation and Belinda Hawkins – ABC's Australian Story and Melbourne Press Club. There will also be a workshops on a variety of topics including: How the media works; Independent media; Freelance Journalism; Cartooning; Producing a newspaper and Community radio.

Info from the forum will be posted on the YACVic website.

Have your say on radio

Tara Vickers is the producer of a radio program called *Bush Telegraph* on ABC's Radio National and is looking to speak to people who are living in regional, rural or remote parts of Australia who have something on their mind and who want to be able to express it.

Every day on the program, they run a segment called *Country Viewpoint*. The segment invites people from all over the country to express a view about a current feature or aspect of regional, rural or remote area living.

The segments may be funny, serious, topical, historical, political or just about something that's irritating. Through these segments, they hope that Australian audiences will get an insight into what people are talking and thinking about around the country.

If you're thinking this is something you'd like to be part of, Tara would love to hear from you! Contact her on (03) 9626 1261 or email: vickers.tara@abc.net.au

The ATOassist webspace for non-profits gets a new look

In October last year, the For Non-Profit Organisations webspace on ATOassist was replaced by a new user-centred design developed in consultation with the non-profit sector.

To access these resources go to <http://www.ato.gov.au/> and follow the link to the non-profit section.

The Tax Office has also launched the Non-Profit Infoline. By phoning 1300 130 248 non-profit organisations have direct access to staff trained to deal with non-profit enquiries.

FACS Reconnect program evaluation

The Federal Minister for Children and Youth Affairs has released *Making a Difference: First Report of the Longitudinal Evaluation of the Reconnect Program*. The report can be found at <http://www.facs.gov.au>.

Source: Youth.Comm 28/01/03

Changes to mental health services in western and north-western Melbourne

From December 2, 2002 ORYGEN Youth Health is concentrating its service toward young people in the 15 to 24 year age range (inclusive). From that date, referrals of young people aged between 15 and 24 (inclusive) for all serious mental health disorders should be made to ORYGEN Youth Health. In the past the referral criteria for services has been complex. Previously referrals of young people aged between 19 and 24 with non-psychotic disorders were made to the Adult Area Mental Health Services (AMHS) and for young people over 25 with psychotic disorders were made to ORYGEN Youth Health. After December 2, referral of people aged 25 and over with any disorder should be made to the Adult AMHS in the person's catchment area.

A brochure detailing the referral information is available from ORYGEN Youth Health.

If you have any questions about this change please contact Robyn Duff, Program Manager on 9342 2865. If you would like to speak to their Triage worker regarding a referral the number remains the same: 1800 888 320.

Community Building Demonstration Projects

Community Building Demonstration Projects are a three-year whole of government initiative that comprises ten locality-based projects and one with the indigenous community. The Demonstration Projects will assist government to reform the way it works with and provides services to these communities.

Over the three years each project will test new approaches to identify and address priority community issues, mobilise local skills, and develop leadership and partnership opportunities.

East Gippsland Shire Council has auspiced a youth specific Community Alliance & Action Building (CAAB) demonstration project.

For more information see the Department of Premier and Cabinet Website <http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au>

Youth Studies Australia

Youth Studies Australia is a peer reviewed journal published quarterly by the Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies. The December edition is out now. Feature articles in this issue include: Socioeconomic status and youth aggression in Australia; Pros and cons of early intervention; The second national census of homeless school students; Young Australian women: Circumstances and aspirations and 'Hanging out': Print media constructions of young people in 'public space'

To subscribe contact Kath Robinson, Sales and Subscriptions Manager, Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies (03) 6226 2591 or email ACYS@educ.utas.edu.au.

National Youth Week ...continued from front page

what's it to you?

During NYW 2002 young people across Australia organised over 2,500 events from skateboard competitions to music concerts and more, and this year is set to be even bigger.

At the national level, youth representatives play a vital role in directing the shape and success of NYW. YACVic's own Michelle Blanchard (YACVic Youth Reference Group Convenor) is one of eight NYW youth representatives from across Australia. Michelle says that one of the most important issues for young people today is feeling like they belong and are part of their community, 'Young people want, and need, to feel valued by society. I believe we need to provide more opportunities for young people to participate in community life as feeling like you belong makes it easier to deal with the challenges we all face.'

There are heaps of ways to get involved in NYW. You can take part in one of the National Talent Competitions - RockIT (music), WriteIT (writing), ShootIT (film) and DesignIT (design) - which encourage young people across Australia to showcase their talents and be rewarded for their efforts with a stack of fantastic prizes. Or you can host an NYW event. The Victorian Office for Youth have small grants available for NYW events, applications for grants close on 6 February.

Victoria is also staging an interactive session on the topic 'Multiculturalism. What's It To You?' during National Youth Week on 5 to 13 April 2003. The Office for Youth will be looking for people aged 12- 25 who are interested in participating in the Session. For further details contact Georgina Snaddon on (03) 9637 3173 or email youthweek@edumail.vic.gov.au.

See <http://www.youth.vic.gov.au> for more info on what's available and what's happening in Victoria. Further details on nation-wide events and National Youth Week can be found on the official website, <http://www.youthweek.com>. ■

Local Learning and Employment Network conference

The LLEN conference is on May 18 & 19 in Melbourne (venue TBC). The theme is *LLEN'S building pathways to the future 2003 and beyond*.

For more information contact your LLEN. See <http://llen.vic.gov.au> for contact details.

Kids River Health Conference

It's on again! The highly successful Murray-Darling Commission (MDBC) *International River Health Conference* will run from October 17 to 21, 2003 in Mildura. The Conference, which first ran in 1999, attracts over 600 students and teachers from across Australia and countries around the world.

For more info contact Arron Wood ph 03 9329 3736, email arron@fire-starter.com.au or see the conference website <http://www.riverhealth.com>.

ACOSS survey holds mirror up to community services

Despite delivering more services to more people, higher costs and heavy demand are forcing community welfare agencies to turn more people away. Many services are struggling to meet higher insurance costs, manage and train staff and volunteers and meet accountability requirements.

These are the findings of ACOSS's national report of how community sector agencies are faring. *Australians Living on the Edge* provides a snapshot of 700 agencies which together provide services to two million Australians a year.

Australians Living on the Edge is a unique report and required reading for all policy makers.

For more info see <http://www.acoss.org.au> ■

Participation in Practice project update

Hi my name is Jen and I'm the new Participation in Practice (PIP) worker here at YACVic. You would have seen the article about this project in the last edition of *YIKES!* but to fill you in on some more details here's an outline of what the project will entail over the next 12 months.

Basically it's my job to come up with a set of three publications documenting issues around youth participation. To do this I'll be working with a project steering group made up of young people and representatives from various organisations. Guided by the expertise of the steering group I'll hit the road in early February to begin a series of consultations with young people and organisations across the state on what works and what doesn't work.

So that we can come up with a quality youth participation resource we are going to need your help. If you have any feedback or ideas based on your experiences let me know! Consultation sessions will be advertised on the YACVic email announcement list (if you're not subscribed see our website <http://www.yacvic.org.au>).

Jen Rose Participation in Practice project worker
Ph (03) 9612 8920 Email: jrose@yacvic.org.au ■

JPET Update

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.

A formal complaint was lodged with the Department of Family and Community Services about the 2002 funding allocation process and, as reported in the last *YIKES!*, a review of the process is currently underway.

On December 20th 2002, the review team held a consultation in Melbourne with stakeholders who had submitted to the review process.

At that meeting it became apparent that despite the roll-over of current funding until March 2003, some incumbent JPET providers were already closing or preparing to close in order to fulfil staff entitlements such as annual leave. This meant that many young people were without support over the holiday period. Providers have also not had sufficient time to implement transition plans for their clients.

Following the meeting, the Prime Minister and other Commonwealth Ministers were contacted and asked to address this situation immediately by providing a longer period of roll-over funding and addressing gaps in JPET service provision.

The JPET review team are expected to finalise their report in January. For more info contact Paula at YACVic at pgrogan@yacvic.org.au ■

Young farmers find good times

CALLING young rural Victorians - are you looking for more from life? Want to meet other young people with similar interests? Moving to the city and want to stay in touch with other young people from the country? Finding out more about Victorian Young Farmers (VYF) could set you on the right track.

VYF is a social, cultural and agricultural organisation catering to men and women aged 16-30 and it now has 500 members in clubs across the state. Many members work on farms or associated industries, while others work in non-rural industries - but most members live or have lived in the country and offer true country hospitality to prospective members.

The Dandenong and Werribee clubs are the closest to Melbourne and many of their members have moved to town for study or work. VYF clubs hold regular social activities during the week and/or on weekends and offer opportunities for leadership, travel, new life experiences and establishing new friendships within your area, region, state and across Australia. Annual state competitions include Young Farmer of the Year and Public Speaking and Debating, plus the chance to participate in other events involving young rural Australians.

Clubs are structured around a president, secretary and treasurer and each club is located within a region, also with these positions. A state executive committee oversees the entire organisation. But VYF is not one of these organisations that swamps your life and pushes you into roles - you choose how you want to be involved.

You may have heard the funding problems VYF faced last year, but the organisation has survived - as it has since 1947. Reliable funding and strong leadership will ensure VYF lives up to its motto: 'To help young people participate in and enjoy life'. Four clubs have been formed within the past year and more are in the pipeline. Ask around and you will be surprised just how many older generations have benefited from their time in VYF. Clubs now exist at:

- Gippsland: Leongatha, Yinnar, Yarram, Maffra and Glenaladale;
- Central region: Dandenong and Werribee;
- Western region: South West (Colac), Hamilton, Horsham and Waubra;
- Mallee region: Yaapeet and Nyah West; and
- Northern region: Heathcote, Macorna, Dookie College, Nathalia and Corryong.

If none of these clubs are near you, there's nothing stopping you from starting your own - support officers are available to help. To find out more, phone head office on Wednesdays on (03) 9650 8561. ■

All I ask for is protection: Young People Seeking Asylum in Australia

Publisher: Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues
ISBN: 0-9750233-0-6 (paperback) 0-9750233-1-4 (electronic format)

In December last year the Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues (CMYI) launched *All I Ask For is Protection* a research report on young people seeking asylum in Australia. The purpose of the report is to provide an opportunity for young people from refugee backgrounds to speak about their experiences, hardships and discoveries in the process of seeking protection and sanctuary in Australia. The report highlights the issues and needs of this particularly vulnerable group whose voices have yet to be heard in the current debates on border protection, asylum seeking and international population movements.



In recent years, Australia has witnessed significant changes to policies concerning immigration and the settlement of refugees. Prior to 1999, any person deemed to be a refugee was granted permanent protection in Australia and given access to government-funded support services. In October 1999, Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs) were introduced as a new visa category for on-shore applicants. This new visa type delayed access to permanent residency. In September 2001, the visa regime was further amended with the result that some refugees can never be eligible for permanent residence. This shift to temporary protection was intended to deter asylum seekers from continuing their journey to Australia.

As the policy is translated into practice, it has become increasingly obvious to CMYI and to other government and non-government organisations, that the changes have had a significant impact on both asylum seekers and those working with them.

All I Ask For is Protection represents a challenge to some views about refugees in the community and in the media. Australians should rightly take pride in our nation's commitment to resettle refugees and internally displaced persons. Since the Second World War, more than 600,000 people from around the world have come to Australia under the Refugee and Special Humanitarian Program.

In June 2002 CMYI undertook four focus groups with 44 young people aged 12 to 25 from culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) backgrounds. Arriving in Australia through a variety of means, focus group participants fled from a range of nations in conflict (or formerly in conflict) including Afghanistan, Iraq and East Timor. While some of the young people were granted entry through Australia's Humanitarian Program, others sought asylum and were granted a Protection Visa. Some focus group participants are still waiting for a response to their claims, many years after arrival.

The report explores their experiences through a variety of means. In effect, *All I Ask For is Protection* aims to:

- provide information about the movement of young refugees to Australia;
- provide information about the legislative and social responses to this movement;
- raise awareness about the issues facing young asylum seekers;
- address the implications of immigration policy on young people and those who work with them.

The paper begins with a brief overview of the history of refugee movements. It then looks at the political history of three countries that are the primary source of young asylum seekers in Australia today: Afghanistan, Iraq and East Timor. The discussion then moves to an examination of Australian immigration policies and legislation relevant in the context of refugee movement. Finally, a significant portion of the paper is dedicated to the voices of young asylum seekers.

It is hoped that by enabling young people to raise their concerns and discuss their experiences, increased awareness may be engendered through a greater understanding of the impact of current policy. It is only on this basis that positive change may occur.

Copies of the report may be obtained from CMYI ph: 9349 3466 or email: info@cmyi.net.au ■

Young people's involvement in media

Prue Hill, a member of the YACVic youth reference group recently completed a study placement at YACVic as part of her degree in public affairs. During her placement Prue undertook research into young people's participation in the media. The following is an executive summary of the report *Having a say: Young People's Involvement in the Media*.

The media's misrepresentation of young people is well documented. Previous research suggests that the media focuses on problematic issues, such as crime and drug use, when reporting youth affairs. This results in the public perception that young people are a problem. When news media do report young people positively it is predominantly in cases of outstanding achievement. The media tends to exploit the binary distinction between good and evil as a way to increase the conflict, dramatics and controversy of a story.

This report considers the effects of the journalist's networks, the economy of news production, news values, and the limitations of young people's knowledge, resources and social status as barriers to balanced reporting. It is hypothesised that the media portrayal of young people is unbalanced largely because young people are not given the opportunity to participate in and contribute to public debate on issues that affect them. Young people are not regarded by the media as an authoritative voice and as such are often not given the opportunity to speak for themselves. Therefore, the focus of this report is to investigate how young people can participate in media activities to promote balanced reporting.

The key research questions underpinning the report are:

1. How are young people portrayed in the media?
2. What factors influence the portrayal of young people in the media?
3. To what degree are young people involved in media activities throughout Victoria?

This report is based on a variety of information sources including a review of relevant literature concerning the

representation of young people in the media, and information about opportunities that exist for young people provided by metropolitan, suburban, regional and rural newspapers and radio stations in Victoria. The findings do not display all opportunities that exist for young people in Victoria and consequently this report does not provide an exhaustive critique.

Findings suggest that young people in Victoria are participating in the media in a variety of ways. Work experience, training, contribution, production and encouragement have been recognised as the predominant ways in which young people are involved in media activities. Different levels of participation are useful for different reasons and can improve the current position of young people in a variety of ways. Tools developed by Gerard De Kort to classify levels of participation have been considered in the analysis of findings. Briefly these categories

Young people are not regarded by the media as an authoritative voice and as such are often not given the opportunity to speak for themselves.

are: Non-participation, Passive Involvement, Influence, Partnership and Self-mobilisation. Although the themes uncovered in this research cannot be categorised as distinctly as De Kort's levels, they do provide useful indications of the way in which young people are involved. The key findings include:

- Work experience can be paralleled to passive involvement. Work experience is often intended to impart a general understanding of the industry to the young person and subsequently the
- participant's role is generally as an observer. As such there is a one-way information flow and a minimum level of 'hands on' experience in industry practice and decision-making processes.
- Training opportunities rely on partnerships between young people and experienced adults. The scope of the training offered ranged from practical skills training (video and television production, equipment use and editing), to media theory training that involved teaching students how to influence and penetrate the media.
- Most commonly media outlets allowed young people to make contributions. Organisations that encourage contributions specifically for young people are predominantly within the realm of community or alternative media sector. Passive contribution can limit opportunities for young people to learn from their experience.
- The most developed level of participation was production. This is often seen as the most meaningful form of youth participation as it gives young people full control over the way they present themselves and are represented to their audiences.
- Many organisations displayed an array of different opportunities for young people such as competitions encouraging and rewarding youth participation in the media.

Children, Young People and Media Globalisation

Publisher: UNESCO International Clearinghouse on Children, Youth and Media
ISSN: 1403-4700 ISBN 91-89471-15-6

This publication is the fifth yearbook of the UNESCO International Clearinghouse on Children, Youth and Media. It brings together research experts on media globalisation and academics active in the field of children, young people and the media to examine the impact of media globalisation on the lives of young people throughout the world.

The yearbook recognises that there is an abundance of research on both media globalisation in terms of ownership and on the effects of media on children and young people but little on the complex relationship between these two areas. The book therefore aims to stimulate debate, policy development and empirical research into this burgeoning field of study.

Thirteen articles by researchers from many different parts of the world look at the consequences of media globalisation in relation to the rights of children, cultural identity, market forces and technological development. Most importantly the publication looks at the importance of 'information rights', recognising that access to information is a fundamental human right. Many of the articles highlight the link between existing societal inequalities and the digital divide, advocating for a different kind of globalisation, more 'people centred', than the one we are faced with today.

From the sweeping phenomenon of Pokemon to the survival of small national media markets (such as that of Australia) and the successes of educational television in post-apartheid South Africa, this publication covers a variety of academic approaches to the issue of media globalisation.

The way in which Danish children receive and adapt Disney films to a domestic context, or how Israeli children use the media as a form of social escapism and the meaning of television for young people from low income families in Argentina are some examples of areas covered.

How do young Indians remember news media events? Or what does media globalisation mean to children in the least developed country in the world - Sierra Leone? One article specifically focuses on the role of new media: if everyone in the world

had access, could the internet really provide a democratic means of communication? What is the impact of commercial forces on the development of new media?

The second section of the book provides demographics on the life circumstances of children across the globe and the current status of media in the world. A disturbing statistic from this section (p236) reveals that the worlds richest 5% of people receive as much income as the poorest 57%.

A comparison of these statistic starkly demonstrates what most of us already know; that the concentration of media ownership and use is overwhelmingly situated in the richest countries. For example in Africa between 0.8% of the population use the Internet compared to 33.3% in North America. The reality is that media globalisation means very different things depending on your position in the global (and domestic) economy.

This publication is an insightful overview of the issues facing children and young people in the context of media globalisation. It is lacking somewhat in children and young peoples creation of and participation in media and the role this might play in encouraging media literacy to confound the impact of globalisation, however overall it an excellent resource for those interested in this area.

A note on the UNESCO International Clearinghouse on Children Youth and Media:

The Clearinghouse is based in Sweden and has been in existence for around five years. It recently changed its name from the International Clearinghouse on Children and Violence on the Screen to reflect the fact that the study of children and media is more complex than focusing on the 'impact' or 'effect' of media in isolation.

The Clearinghouse recognises that children and young people's experiences of media is dependent in the social economic and cultural circumstances of their lives and are now moving their focus more towards the notions of media education and literacy.

For more information and resources on this area see <http://www.nordicom.gu.se> □

- All levels of participation provide useful opportunities for young people to extend their knowledge and contribute to society. Those that include co-operation and partnership between adults and young people provide enhanced learning and meaningful participation opportunities and consequently should be encouraged and supported.

The greatest opportunities exist within the alternative and community media sector. There is a marked lack of opportunities for young people to participate in mainstream media which, arguably, has a greater influence over the opinions and prejudices of society. The findings highlight that there is a necessity for further development of youth friendly practice within mainstream media institutions in particular. Media organisations can learn from the success of existing initiatives that encourage youth participation and recognise the value of young people's contributions. Further the development of tools and training that equip young people with the knowledge and capacity to penetrate the mainstream media is necessary to ensure young people can speak up and not be spoken for.

A full copy of *Having a say: Young People's Involvement in the Media* can be downloaded from the YACVic website <http://www.yacvic.org.au>.

Editors note: With our media forum *In the Spotlight* being held in mid-February and research into media representation of young drug users, YACVic is being particularly active on this issue. Keep an eye out for info and updates on our website. ■

FairWear campaign

Continued from front page



The FairWear campaign is a national community campaign established in 1996 with the aim of bringing about wage justice for outworkers in the textile, clothing and footwear industries. We are seeking to assist outworkers to achieve their rights to a living wage, to organise, and to work in a safe and healthy environment. We are a coalition of community groups, churches, unions, students, artists and individual members. Over the past six years we have worked extensively with a diverse range of groups deeply concerned about the exploitation of outworkers occurring here in Australia. Throughout this time there has been increased community awareness about the issues facing outworkers and the extent to which outworkers are central to the clothing industry in Australia. We are seeking industry compliance to an ethical code – the *Homeworkers Code of Practice* and legal protections for Outworkers in Victoria through the *Outworker (Improved Protection) Bill 2002*, which is currently before parliament (more information <http://www.fairwear.org.au>).

FairWear work with such groups as the Maquila Solidarity Network, UNITE United Needle and Textile Workers, Clean Clothes Campaign, Nike Watch and many other community organisations pushing for better conditions for textile workers globally. As labels continue to allocate large advertising budgets and huge executive bonuses, there is an unwillingness to take responsibility for conditions under which goods are made. In the United States students at 89 Universities and Colleges, determined to change the labour practices of companies producing their college sweaters, appealed to their school administration to join the Worker Rights Consortium (WRC). By mid 2000 WRC boasted close to 50 collegiate members. Students drew clear links between Nike's labour practices in factories in Indonesia and China and its marketing strategy of seeking the right to produce

clothing with their college logos. In coalition with other community organisations US students are seeking the right for these workers to join a trade union, to a genuine living wage, no forced overtime and not to be subjected pregnancy tests. Companies that enter contracts with university membership to WRC must assure that this is the case. In the US campaigns such as University Students Against Sweatshops have served to raise community awareness and have focused on ways of making companies more accountable for their labour practices overseas. They have also made people aware of power we have facilitate change through democratic processes.

It is estimated there are 144,000 outworkers in Victoria, with 329,000 nationally. Outworkers in Victoria still have no legal protection and many continue to be paid rates as low as \$2-\$3 an hour, despite the significant body of evidence documenting the vulnerable position of these workers. 72% of outworkers work between 14-18 hours a day. The results of two national

outworker phone-ins, one in 1994 conducted by the Textile, Clothing and Footwear Union and one in 2000 conducted by the Homeworkers Code of Practice Committee, suggest that rates of pay and conditions for outworkers have actually worsened since the *Hidden Cost of Fashion* report from the Textile, Clothing and Footwear Union of Australia was released in 1995.

You have the right to know that your school uniforms aren't made in sweatshops

If you contact the FairWear campaign they can send you a kit to get things started at your school. Someone can also come out and speak about the issues facing outworkers and educate students about how these exploitative practices have come about in the industry. As well as details about the campaign, a list of FairWear endorsees and sample letters to manufacturers, the kit includes a chart for schools to list uniform suppliers, details of each item sourced as well as a *Statement of Commitment* that the school council or principal can sign and return to FairWear. Once FairWear receives this information they can support schools in encouraging the companies that manufacture the uniform specific to the school to make the pledge and sign the *Homeworkers Code of Practice*. FairWear are finding that one company may make the uniform for three or four schools. By working together a list of companies using ethical work practices can be built.

It is your right to know about the products that you buy and to have the choice to support companies that do the right thing by the community over those that do not. To begin with, if a company has not yet become accredited to the code, this does not necessarily mean that the company exploits outworkers. It is estimated that 80% of the clothes made locally for the fashion industry are made by outworkers and only four

Ship for World Youth

companies are currently accredited (despite more than six years of tireless campaigning), so it is difficult to know if a product is not the result of exploited labour if the company is not accredited. Companies that are accredited bear the *No Sweatshop Label* on their products <http://www.nosweatshoplabel.com>.

In NSW nearly 40 schools are currently supporting the FairWear campaign. In Victoria a number of schools have supported the campaign including: Coomora Primary School, Irymple South Primary School, and Richmond West Primary School. Rosedale Primary School and St Josephs Collingwood have made a strong commitment to asking the same questions.

Between July and November last year FairWear held workshops at Karingal Park High School and Loreto Mandeville Hall. Some students developed role plays about how the community could encourage retailers and manufacturers to take responsibility for ensuring that workers weren't exploited. FairWear is currently seeking funding to produce a video of the students working toward achieving justice for outworkers as well as choices in their own communities.

Of the four local clothing manufacturers that have taken steps to become ethical companies three of them make school uniforms. Quali Tops (Victoria), Poppets and Beare and Ley (NSW) now supply clothes with the guarantee that they are made locally and are not produced in sweatshops. In Victoria FairWear and school communities have asked the following school uniform manufacturers and retailers to become accredited to the code but are still waiting for a response: Cramark, AGS Clothing, GPI Group, Class Uniforms and Campus Choice. FairWear will continue to encourage companies to do the right thing.

The FairWear Campaign received a small grant from the Reichstein Foundation last year for a project worker to inform and support school communities about what changes are possible. They also receive in kind support from the Uniting Church of Australia and welcome any support your community can offer to keep the campaign going. Please contact FairWear Campaign for more information (03) 9251 5270, 4th Floor 130 Little Collins Street, Melbourne 3000. ■

While the rest of the world seems to be preparing its warships, the Ship for World Youth program has been sailing across the sea on a course for international co-operation and understanding.



Arron Wood (second from left) with fellow travellers on the Ship for World Youth

Three young Victorians - Arron Wood (27), Andrew Higgs (20) and Eng Ung (22) were among the 255 young people who took part in the program established in 1989 by the Japanese Government. The Ship for World Youth aims to promote international friendship, a mutual appreciation of other nations and the promotion of global views amongst young people of Japan and other nations.

They joined 9 other young people from across the country to form the Australian delegation, returning from Hawaii on December 5 after receiving formal recognition from the United Nations for participation in the program.

Arron Wood (a keynote at YACVic's *Reversing the Drift* summit) described it as being the most intense program he had ever participated in, 'Spending over 40 days at sea with the same people is definitely a character-building experience. Faced with language barriers and the presence of many different cultures, I am proud to say that young people from all parts of the world were able to reach a common understanding and strong friendships were formed'.

The journey was not without its own trials, the delegation from Cameroon were denied

visas to enter Canada and were sadly forced to return home from Hawaii, 4 weeks into the program. One of the Sri Lankan delegates also jumped ship in Vancouver, claiming refugee status.

As the world moves with increasing speed towards globalisation, the Ship for World Youth has allowed young Australians to

expand their worldviews, build lifelong friendships and influence their respective industries and communities in the future.

Arron said, 'to watch each nationality proudly present their own culture on the boat and in turn watch intently as other countries conducted their presentations, was like seeing a tangible aspect of World Peace. I have heard

the words "world peace" so often, but I've never really been able to visualise what it meant. To work side-by-side with countries such as Sri Lanka who continue to experience civil war was a real eye opener for me, coming from our peaceful country of Australia'.

'We watched the horrific videos of Hiroshima and Pearl Harbour and discussed how we felt about such atrocities. It made me hope that we don't have short memories and barrel head long into conflict with Iraq. We really need to start looking at why such unforgivable terrorist acts have been committed - in many cases it is oppression and unbearable conditions in their own countries that lead people to such incomprehensible acts of violence' he said.

Cruising to international destinations including Canada and the United States, the delegates participated in numerous activities including the delivery of research papers, attending lectures from international speakers, seminars and discussions on topics of global significance, and cultural exchanges with other delegates. Delegates also met with dignitaries such as the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Japan as well as Presidents and Prime Ministers of hosting countries. ■

Got a complaint?

The Victorian Ombudsman investigates complaints made against staff who work for Government departments and authorities, Local Councils and members of the Victoria Police. If you are a young person and are unhappy about the way you have been treated you can make a complaint.



The Ombudsman has a Community Access and Youth Liaison Officer that can help young people through this process. This position has been established specifically to assist and support young people to get access to the Ombudsman to make their complaints. They also have a range of resources and information for young people on how to make a complaint.

Brochures are available in a number of community languages including:

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Bosnian
- Chinese
- Dari
- Farsi
- Serbian
- Somali
- Tigrigna
- Vietnamese

You can write in any language and the Ombudsman will translate your letter. If you have any difficulty due to a disability or a language problem just let them know. They will assist you in any way they can. You can also speak to the Ombudsman's Office through the Translating and Interpreter Service (TIS) telephone 131 450.

What can you complain to the Ombudsman about?

- Police mistreatment and abuse
- School bullying and unfair treatment by teachers
- If you have been assaulted at a Secure Welfare Service
- Public transport fines and infringement notices
- Poor quality meals at a Juvenile Justice or Detention Centre
- Loss of property at a Juvenile Justice Centre
- Problems regarding religious custom arrangements in Correctional Services
- Vehicle registration issues
- Parking infringements and council facilities

The Ombudsman is a free independent and impartial service. All investigations are confidential. If you are unsure whether the Ombudsman can help you, call and find out! The sooner the better.

What to include in your complaint

Stick to the main facts and put it in your own words

- What happened?
- Who was involved?
- What was the date and time?
- Were there any witnesses?
- Do you have photographs?
- Do you have documents?
- Have you been injured?

For more information:

You can directly contact the Community Access and Youth Liaison Officer by telephoning 9613 6231.

Telephone: 9613 6222 Fax: 9614 0246
Telephone typewriter (TTY): 9613 6229
Email: ombudvic@ombudsman.vic.gov.au
Website: <http://www.ombudsman.vic.gov.au>

If you live outside the Melbourne metropolitan area call their toll free number 1800 806 314.

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

Privacy legislation.

Does your organisation comply?



YACVic, in conjunction with the Office for Youth, is running a series of forums about Victorian Privacy Legislation and its impact on Youth Service Providers.

The Information Privacy Act 2000 and the Health Records Act 2001 requires that a government funded service must be reasonable and fair in its protection and treatment of personal and health information it holds on all individuals. The privacy laws exist to protect individuals from harm resulting from misuse of their personal and health information.

As all organisations are affected it is important that youth service providers have up to date information about this privacy legislation and what implications it may have on their work. YACVic has arranged a series of forums that will provide:

- an introduction to the Victorian privacy laws,
- an overview of the interaction of privacy laws and other laws, and
- an opportunity for group discussion through questions and answers and working through scenarios.

An Information Privacy Officer from the Department of Education and Training will facilitate the forums.

Please RSVP by **26 February** to YACVic on 9612 8999 or email info@yacvic.org.au and indicate which forum you will attend.

When and where

Melbourne : 3 March 2003 : 11am – 12.30pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room
130 Little Collins St (between Russell and Exhibition Sts)

Bendigo : 4 March 2003 : 11am – 12.30pm

Reception Room
Main Municipal Building
Littleton Terrace (diagonally opposite Town Hall)

Sale : 6 March 2003 : 11.30am – 1pm

Wellington Room
Wellington Shire Council Offices
65 Foster St

Light refreshments will be provided

YACVic acknowledges the kind support of the City of Greater Bendigo and Wellington Shire Council.