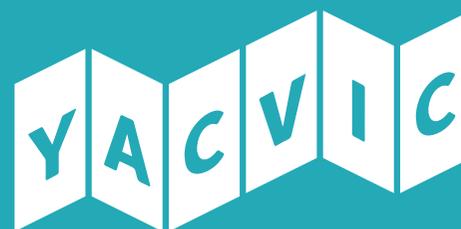




# YACVic Strategic Plan 2016–2019



Youth Affairs  
Council Victoria



# Foreword from YACVic Chairs

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The new Strategic Plan for YACVic represents the significant shift forward for the organisation as a peak body and leading advocate on young people's issues in Victoria. Growth in the funding for both our core and partner agencies has brought about exciting opportunities, partnerships and active reach and presence across Victoria. This is important both for our young people and organisations we represent and work with. YACVic is in a strong place to develop, strengthen and grow its work over the coming years.

Our Strategic Plan is the culmination of multiple consultations, sector reference group meetings, surveying young people and members, as well as liaising and discussing key issues and opportunities with State Government departments. The Board and team at YACVic, under the direction and guidance of the CEO, developed this plan as the roadmap to take the organisation into 2020 – leading practice and reforming our business to be current, relevant and future-focused.

We believe we have the leadership and team at YACVic to deliver on the following three strategic goals over the coming years: 1. Lead a strong, professional and connected youth sector; 2. Lead youth participation and engage well with our members; 3. Be the key source of knowledge and expertise on youth issues. These goals represent what we are, what we do and where we know we need to be in the future as a peak body. Our goals are linked to all the work we do with you, our partners, members, supporters and all young people, and we look forward to reporting regularly to you through our annual reports and our multiple communication platforms on how we are progressing.

Thank you to all the members, young people, partners and the Board and team at YACVic for their work developing this well-informed and inspired Strategic Plan. Together we can now make this happen.

**Louisa Ellum – Chair, 2016**

**Kerrie Loveless – Deputy Chair, 2016**



# YACVic at a Glance

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**The Youth Affairs Council of Victoria (YACVic) is the peak body and leading policy advocate on young people's issues in Victoria. YACVic's vision is that young Victorians have their rights upheld and are valued as active participants in their communities.**

YACVic is an independent, not-for-profit, member driven organisation that represents young people (aged 12-25 years) and the sector that works with them. We advocate on behalf of our members by making representations to government and in the media, convening meetings of our members and sharing information.

YACVic is governed by a volunteer Board, up to half of whom are young people, and is run by a core secretariat. Our work is primarily funded by the Victorian Government Office for Youth.

YACVic provides services, including YACVic Rural and the Youth Disability Advocacy Service (YDAS) and auspices and supports partner agencies, including the Koorie Youth Council (KYC) and the Victorian Student Representative Council (VicSRC).



# Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles

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## Our Vision

Young Victorians have their rights upheld and are valued as active participants in their communities.

## Our Mission

As Victoria's youth peak body, YACVic works across the state in the best interests of young people and the youth sector to:

- + lead policy responses to issues affecting young people
- + represent the youth sector to government
- + resource high quality youth work practice
- + research and advocate on youth issues.

We value our members and prioritise their needs.

## Guiding Principles

YACVic's work is guided by the Code of Ethical Practice for the Victorian Youth Sector. This means that the recognition of young people's human rights underpins everything we do.

YACVic promotes active participation of young people in all aspects of decision making and community life.

YACVic pursues social justice by maintaining a focus on those in the community who face disadvantage or marginalisation.

YACVic works in collaboration with young people, our members, our core and partner agencies, and the wider Victorian youth sector.

## Recognition of Indigenous Peoples

YACVic staff and volunteers recognise that we live on the traditional lands and waters of the Indigenous peoples of Australia. We recognise that culture and connection to land and community is a right for young people who are Indigenous and that they have a right to cultural safety. YACVic staff and volunteers will be respectful of Indigenous culture at all times, and recognise the importance of culture as it relates to the self-esteem and sense of identity of young people who are Indigenous.

## Child Safe Standards

YACVic promotes the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children and young people, including those with a disability, those who are Aboriginal or those from refugee or migrant backgrounds.

## Monitoring Our Success

YACVic's leadership team will report to the Board bi-monthly on our progress against objectives 1, 2 and 3. YACVic will report annually to our members on our progress against these objectives through our annual report.

## Our Vision

*Young Victorians have their rights upheld and are valued as active participants in their communities.*

## Our Mission

*As Victoria's youth peak body, YACVic works across the state in the best interests of young people and the youth sector to:*

- lead policy responses on issues affecting young people
- represent the youth sector and elevate young people's voices to government
- resource high-quality youth work practice
- research and advocate on youth issues.

*We value our members and prioritise their needs and concerns.*

## Guiding principles

Human rights

Participation

Social justice

Collaboration

## Strategic goals

*1. Lead a strong, professional and connected youth sector*

*2. Lead youth participation and engage well with our members*

*3. Be the key source of knowledge and expertise on youth issues*

## Strategic priorities

1.1 Be the youth sector's resource and champion

2.1 Challenge and extend existing youth participation practice

3.1 Provide high-quality advice to governments and other decision makers on behalf of young people and the sector that supports them

1.2 Provide and promote high-quality youth sector training and development

2.2 Collaborate with the youth sector to shape YACVic's work

3.2 Provide and promote useful and accessible youth-related information through a range of media

1.3 Provide high-quality support to our core and partner agencies and members

2.3 Provide meaningful opportunities for our members to participate in and shape YACVic's work

3.3 Provide opportunities that celebrate youth work and foster knowledge sharing and collegiality

## Resourcing

Government funding | philanthropic grants | membership fees | innovative partnerships

## Core agencies



YACVic Rural



Youth Disability Advocacy Service

## Partner agencies



Victorian Student Representative Council



Koorie Youth Council

[www.yacvic.org.au](http://www.yacvic.org.au)



Youth Affairs Council Victoria



# Strategic Goals

## Strategic Goal 1

### Lead a strong, professional and connected youth sector

Strategic Priorities	Actions	Outcomes
1.1 Be the youth sector's guide and champion.	<p>Bring the Victorian youth sector together to discuss and respond to issues.</p> <p>Connect and represent our members and the wider youth sector to the Victorian Government.</p> <p>Engage the youth sector with academic and research institutions.</p>	<p>The Victorian youth sector collaborates and networks well.</p> <p>The Victorian Government hears and engages well with our members and the youth sector.</p> <p>The youth sector builds relationships that enable effective, evidence-based youth services.</p>
1.2 Provide and promote high-quality youth sector training and development.	<p>Promote and support the use of the Code of Ethical Practice for the Victorian Youth Sector.</p> <p>Promote and support Victorian child safe standards to improve organisations' prevention of and responses to child abuse.</p> <p>Partner with stakeholders to provide a program of useful, informative and relevant youth work training.</p>	<p>The Victorian youth sector is highly-skilled and responds appropriately to challenges and emerging issues.</p> <p>Young people, their families and communities benefit from a confident, competent and safe youth workforce.</p> <p>The Victorian youth sector is recognised for its high-quality work.</p>
1.3 Provide high-quality support to our core and partner agencies and members.	<p>Promote and support the work of our members and agencies.</p> <p>Explore and pursue opportunities for cross collaborations between YACVic and our core and partner agencies.</p>	<p>YACVic's core and partner agencies flourish and grow.</p> <p>The Victorian youth sector values our core and partner agencies and draws upon their work.</p>



# Strategic Goals

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## Strategic Goal 2

### Lead youth participation and engage well with our members

Strategic Priorities	Actions	Outcomes
<b>2.1</b> Challenge and extend existing youth participation practice.	<p>Provide guidance and training on genuine youth participation and engagement.</p> <p>Convene a Youth Participation Practice Network (YPPN) to discuss and share good practice.</p> <p>Create projects and resources that model and enable high quality youth participation.</p>	<p>Governments, organisations and communities meaningfully involve young people in decision making.</p> <p>Youth workers practise and lead high-quality youth participation and engagement work.</p> <p>Young people are actively engaged in a wide range of issues, activities and organisations throughout Victoria.</p>
<b>2.2</b> Collaborate with the youth sector to shape YACVic's work.	<p>Hold forums, meetings and online consultations with stakeholders to inform our work.</p>	<p>Youth workers and others working and volunteering to support young people inform and direct YACVic's work.</p>
<b>2.3</b> Provide meaningful opportunities for our members to participate in and shape YACVic's work.	<p>Maintain and support a Youth Reference Group (YRG) to advise YACVic, develop policy initiatives and work with members.</p> <p>Maintain and support a Policy Advisory Group (PAG) to inform policy submissions and advocacy.</p> <p>Offer young people across Victoria a range of enjoyable, skills-building activities that connect them with YACVic and their local communities.</p>	<p>Young people's voices are reflected and heard throughout YACVic's work.</p> <p>YACVic's members contribute to all of YACVic's policy and advocacy work.</p> <p>Young people actively engage with YACVic and contribute to their local communities.</p>



# Strategic Goals

## Strategic Goal 3

### Be the key source of knowledge and expertise on youth issues in Victoria

Strategic Priorities	Actions	Outcomes
<p><b>3.1</b> Provide high-quality advice to governments and other decision makers on behalf of young people and the sector that supports them.</p>	<p>Develop well-researched and evidence-based policy positions.</p> <p>Represent young people and the Victorian youth sector on government and high-level community sector committees.</p> <p>Lobby all levels of government in the best interests of young people and the youth sector.</p>	<p>Our stakeholders recognise YACVic’s policy advice and research as high quality.</p> <p>YACVic is on all key committees and reflected in Victorian Government policy.</p> <p>The interests of young people and the Victorian youth sector are well represented to government and other key decision makers.</p>
<p><b>3.2</b> Provide and promote useful and accessible youth-related information through a range of media.</p>	<p>Produce regular YACVic bulletins, updates and publications.</p> <p>Maintain informative and relevant YACVic websites.</p> <p>Maintain a strong social media presence.</p> <p>Develop a communications strategy that supports convincing policy arguments and engages YACVic with the general public through media organisations.</p>	<p>The Victorian youth sector and the general public are well-informed of YACVic’s work and broader sector activities.</p> <p>Journalists and media organisations value and seek out YACVic’s commentary or publications.</p> <p>YACVic builds public awareness and support that fosters successful policy advocacy.</p>
<p><b>3.3</b> Provide opportunities that celebrate youth work and foster knowledge sharing and collegiality.</p>	<p>Hold conferences, forums and seminars.</p> <p>Continue to hold the Recognising Excellence Awards for Delivering Youth Services (READYS).</p>	<p>The Victorian youth sector benefits from opportunities to discuss and debate ideas and learn from each other.</p> <p>The Victorian youth sector, policy makers and the general public recognise and celebrate youth work and service delivery.</p>