



**YACVic Submission:**

# Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria



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## Introduction

Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic) welcomes the Victorian *Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria* conducted by the Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee.

YACVic's submission focuses on the unique effects faced by young people and youth workers in rural and regional areas. It draws from surveys and consultations undertaken by YACVic, and also builds on evidence from other natural disaster events which calls for young people's active involvement and decision making in prevention, planning, action, and recovery.

## Summary of Recommendations

All recommendations have been developed from previous evidence, input from young people and youth workers affected by the 2022 Flood Event (the Flood Event) who responded to a survey by YACVic, and consultations related to the flood response Umbrella Project delivered by YACVic.

When asked who would be best placed to provide the support they recommended, the young people and youth workers overwhelmingly stated that the Victorian State Government was best placed to implement recommendations. They also listed all levels of government, especially Local Governments, schools and local organisations, as key players.

### Services and supports

1. Have a long-term, preventative, co-designed focus on infrastructure for future disasters including through:
  - a. Flood plans.
  - b. Levee banks.
  - c. Roads maintained and repaired efficiently.
  - d. Public transport accessibility in rural and regional areas.
  - e. Coordinated and timely evacuation and preparation for disasters, including farms.
2. Lower the age to be eligible for a driver's licence to align with all other states (i.e. Provisional licence at 17 years). Consider lifting the restriction on the



number of passengers who can be carried by provisional drivers in rural and regional areas, at least during daylight hours and during disaster events.

3. Provide more disaster recovery payments for those directly and indirectly affected by floods and natural disasters. Ensure this is easily accessible, and has broader eligibility than payments offered in this Flood Event.

## **Housing**

4. Increase access to affordable and safe housing in the long term, especially for young people, to ensure during disasters emergency accommodation services are not overburdened.
5. Increase access to crisis accommodation, especially during disaster events, and ensure crisis accommodation is appropriate and easily accessible for young people seeking accommodation as individuals, as well as young people who are part of a family unit.
6. Ensure those in crisis housing are supported long-term and with wraparound supports as needed, such as referral to trauma-informed youth service provision and other identified needs. Crisis housing services should have resourcing to support the assessment of needs and referral into existing supports.

## **Food**

7. Increase availability and distribution of resources, including food and food vouchers, free meals, and shower packs. Understand who has been affected, where and how, and who is the most vulnerable to receive this support urgently. This information should be sought by speaking to community members and organisations with local knowledge.

## **Health and Mental Health**

8. Increase access to free mental health services in rural and regional areas, not limiting services to flood recovery periods, with a focus on mental health support for young people.
9. Expand the Doctors in Secondary Schools to allow for the increase in demand for services, including via telehealth. Support community health services to employ and support a GP who can work across several schools.

## **Youth and Community Supports**

10. Create dedicated roles for young people on all Local Government disaster planning committees, to bring their unique experiences and perspectives to decision making in their communities. This includes providing more networking opportunities between council areas to create a stronger community support network, with young people represented through meetings and processes.



11. Support young people to build support networks and have social connectedness before, during and after disasters to reduce risk of isolation and as a mental health protective factor. Provide funding for young people to undertake alternative social activities when their usual options have been affected by the disaster.
12. Provide funding for more youth workers through all stages of disaster preparedness and recovery, to ensure timely and trusted outreach and wraparound support.
13. Improve communication in the lead-up to a flood event, with more comprehensive warning systems and consistent messages from all emergency services and organisations. Ensure communication is credible, relevant and accessible (both format and channels) for young people and distributed through communities.
14. Provide centralised, youth-friendly support services which are promoted and available to young people in their area during disaster events.
15. Improve communication about which areas have been affected, to inform distribution of essentials to people on the ground.
16. Ensure community groups have resources to support and provide information updates in disaster events, including advocating for community needs. Support community services and groups to access support for services and grants available.

### Educational Supports

17. Provide students completing exams with options to complete exams off campus when they are prevented from attending in-person.
18. Support students to take time off from school during disaster events, to support themselves, their families and communities.
19. Support schools to distribute accurate and timely information about the disaster, and supports available to young people and their communities.

## YACVic, Young People and Disasters

Young people are uniquely impacted by disasters, which often affect work, study, social connection and critical resources like phone reception, internet and roads which keep them connected to their communities. Young people are also often well-positioned and eager to play an active role in disaster resilience efforts. Over recent years YACVic Rural has been increasingly called on to lead projects across regional and rural Victoria focused on maximising young people's inclusion in such efforts.

YACVIC Rural has been funded through the Victorian Government's Office for Youth since 2016. YACVic Rural supports young people and the youth sector, through a



place-based approach, to address the unique challenges experienced by young people in rural and regional Victoria. The program operates using an efficient 'hub and spoke' model, with a staff member in each of Southern Mallee (Swan Hill) and Great South Coast (Warrnambool), co-located with local services, and a manager based in Melbourne who also provides light-touch support to other regions. Since 2020 YACVic Rural has also successfully secured funding to deliver dedicated place-based programs to young people across other parts of Victoria, in particular in the disaster readiness, response and recovery space.

YACVic has worked with young people across disaster-affected areas in response to the Black Summer bushfires, and throughout the COVID pandemic, to inform and support disaster response and recovery using a youth participation model. YACVic has also worked to support youth service providers to identify, develop and support locally-relevant and youth-led response and recovery activities including in relation to the recent Victorian flood crisis.

Current projects include:

- **Future Proof: Young People, Disaster Recovery and (Re)building Communities**

Future Proof is a \$9.92 million, two-year Australian Government Black Summer Bushfire Recovery grant funded project, and is designed to drive recovery outcomes for fire-affected young people and communities across eastern Victoria. It puts youth worker capacity into, and brings together 14 organisations across the eight most heavily impacted Local Government Areas (LGAs) in a joined-up Community of Practice, to guide and support on-the-ground youth-led recovery projects and increased access to qualification pathways.

- **The Umbrella Project**

In October 2022, YACVic was commissioned by the Victorian Government's Office for Youth to establish a youth-focused flood response and recovery program using a grants-based model. The Umbrella Project has funded and supported 17 projects across flood-impacted areas to deliver work that connects and includes young people in flood recovery activities.

Young people in rural and regional Victoria face significantly different barriers than those in metropolitan areas. During a crisis those barriers are often exacerbated and lead to further disadvantage.

The effects of the Flood Event on young people, local youth workers, and their communities, are interrelated. This submission captures the consistent themes arising from affected communities; however, these themes intersect with each other and other community contexts and should not be considered in isolation.

Whole-of-community approaches are needed to create solutions to ensure Victorians are prepared and resilient for future natural disasters<sup>1</sup>. Young people



have been systemically excluded from decision making, and need to be actively engaged to ensure that Victoria's future is protected.

## Existing Evidence


The impact of natural and climate disasters on young people's quality of life is well documented.<sup>2-6</sup> Flooding in rural, regional and remote areas has a particular long-lasting impact on young people, who are often called on to take on extra care responsibilities, while navigating their disrupted school and work commitments, as well as readily contributing to recovery.<sup>7</sup>

Young people will be affected more frequently by disasters as the impact of climate change increases, with 25.5% of young people in Australia reporting they are 'extremely' or 'very' concerned about climate change.<sup>8</sup> The impact of climate-related disasters on young people's mental health and future must be taken into account and acted on immediately.

Currently there is a lack of youth-specific commitments within disaster recovery policies. The National Emergency Management Agency highlights the importance of seeing young people actively engaged in disaster risk reduction, with an emphasis on creating place-based, local recovery outcomes, as seen in YACVic's 'Future Proof: Young People, Disaster Recovery and (Re)building Communities' project.<sup>9</sup>

Research shows "participation from all members of a community is invaluable to disaster risk reduction", including participation from young people, who consistently "demonstrate adaptive capacities to disaster, especially when given the opportunity to contribute in meaningful ways".<sup>10</sup> Despite this, there was no mention of young people in the 2016 Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy, or the 2015 Lessons Management Framework (EM-LEARN) which was utilised in response to the 2022 Victorian floods.<sup>11, 12</sup>

There is currently an established education program in school environments (DRE), which acknowledges the importance of young people contributing to developing resilient communities and improving disaster response knowledge and skills collaboratively.<sup>13</sup> However, there also needs to be opportunity for community-level involvement, particularly as young people have proven effectiveness at mobilising people and resources during disaster events.<sup>14, 15</sup> Programs such as 'Our Voice', which bring together local councils, service providers, and community members to hear from young people, then support them to develop confidence and skills to express their needs and contribute to local disaster recovery plans.<sup>5, 16</sup> Involving young people in community preparedness and recovery can provide a sense of agency, improve community connectedness and belonging, and help develop young people's skills and



confidence, resulting in significant positive impact on a young person's mental health and resilience.<sup>2, 17</sup>

Research by YACVic, conducted for the Inspector General for Emergency Management (IGEM), on young people's perspectives on the 2020 bushfires, indicates young people want to be meaningfully involved in disaster prevention and preparation<sup>18</sup>. Five key themes of concern for young people were identified, with all being highly applicable to the Flood Event:

- Information and knowledge
- Communication
- Psychosocial support
- Agency and capability
- Community engagement

Young people made recommendations on preparation for future events across all these themes, including reviewing the most effective ways of communicating with young people, such as emergency apps to ensure usability and updated information. Young people cited feeling a sense of belonging in their communities, and accessing youth-centred spaces, as key to ensuring their active engagement in disaster prevention and resilience in their communities.

## Methodology

YACVic Rural works with young people and youth workers across rural and regional Victoria and has a strong focus on disaster resilience and recovery through initiatives such as the Future Proof and Umbrella projects. Both projects are ongoing at the time of this submission. Both projects include evaluations overseen by Victoria University.

To provide insight into the Flood Event from the perspective of young people and youth workers, YACVic released a survey through the Future Proof and Umbrella project partnerships. These allowed YACVic to reach young people and youth workers specifically affected by the Flood Event. The responses to this survey, and consultations conducted with flood-affected young people and youth workers, have informed all descriptions of issues and recommendations. Some quotes have been edited for clarity or anonymisation.

YACVic received 41 responses to the survey, of these:

- 15 were young people aged 12-25 years
- 21 were youth workers
- 5 were both young people and youth workers

Of these young people:





- 3 were aged 12-17 years
- 12 were aged 18-25 years

Survey respondents lived or worked near all rivers affected by the Flood Event, except for Maribyrnong. The numbers of participants affected by flooding were (noting some participants were affected by more than one river):

- Avoca River – 6
- Barwon River – 1
- Campaspe River – 3
- Goulburn River – 13
- Loddon River – 11
- Murray River – 11

Participants live in different LGAs within Victoria, with the highest numbers from:

- Greater Shepparton – 8
- Loddon Shire Council – 5
- Swan Hill Rural City Council – 5
- Gannawarra Shire Council – 3
- Buloke Shire Council – 3
- Campaspe Shire Council – 2

YACVic also conducted consultations with seven young people and six youth workers (total 13) in Mildura, Boort and Charlton.

## Impacts

The Flood Event affected young people, youth workers, and their communities in complex and interrelated ways. For clarity these affects have been broken down into themes which arose frequently from respondents, however all these themes are interrelated, and should be understood in the context of their communities.

For many respondents the Flood Event has continuing repercussions, including through road damage, mosquito plagues, lost crops and damaged equipment, damaged homes and businesses, financial losses, and damaged recreational spaces.

*“Our land surrounding our house was inundated for several weeks however fortunately it didn't get into our house. The water rose much quicker than expected and inundated our neighbour's property (a few km away) unexpectedly overnight and they had to rescue more than 200 sheep – a significant number didn't survive. We all tried to look out for each other as best we could – even when 4wd or tractor was the only way to be in contact.”*





## Extreme stress

Young people and youth workers surveyed described experiencing extreme stress at the emergency situation and resulting isolation. Respondents described experiencing challenges including severe property damage, road blockages and damage meaning that they could not access resources, or their or their family's businesses.

Importantly, many respondents also described the ongoing effects of the Flood Event, even after the water began to recede. They described how recovery efforts, and lost homes, crops, business and incomes, negated their ability to move on and return to their pre-flood lives. Financial stress has therefore been a significant contributing factor to mental health impacts, including for young people who felt significant concern or burden about their family's financial wellbeing.

*"[The] high water levels created stress, [there was] ongoing high levels of anxiety and pressure among our children."*

*"Mental health – everyone was very stressed and still very stressed about ongoing impacts."*

## Social connectedness


With towns and properties physically cut off from communities and larger town centres, many respondents noted they had feelings of isolation which also contributed to worsening mental health. They discussed having to work and attend school from home, meaning they did not have many of their usual supports.

Due to the road closures and damage to roads, facilities and public spaces, people were also isolated from their social supports and activities. Some services and supports were able to operate online, where internet connection was available to those affected, while other services were not able to operate at all. Young people highlighted the ongoing issue of road damage not yet repaired. Workers noted the impact of free recreational spaces along the river being closed due to flooding and then damage.

*"I was affected when trying to drive back into the area at night, and the roads were full of potholes and other roads were closed."*

## School and exams

Many of the young people who responded described how interruptions to schooling meant they either had to miss classes or join from home. These young people did not have access to supports such as reliable internet and library access, or quiet spaces to study. For some, studying from home was impacted by practical issues such as displacement due to their homes being affected by the



flooding, or where their farms were affected, the need to prioritise farm repair work to address the immediate impact of the flood.

Attending exams became a source of stress for some respondents, who stated they were unsure whether they would be able to attend their exams due to road closures and property damage. While the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) was able to make some exemptions for year 12 students affected by flooding, the impacts have been long lasting for students at all year levels due to missed classes and inability to study at home. Refer also to 'educational supports' below.

*"Our school bus didn't run for a 3-week period and had other last-minute cancellations on several days."*

*"I wasn't able to get to school due to our roads into town being flooded."*

*"Our daughter was doing Year 12 and the local water resulted in her having several periods of working from home. She was desperate to make it to her VCE exams so we assured her we would take her via tractor (we are 35kms from school!) if necessary. The damage to the roads made it difficult for the school buses to get back up and going so we were taking our three school-aged children to school often through this period and picking up others on the way who were finding this too difficult to maintain for a variety of reasons."*

## Housing and Food Insecurity

The Flood Event also significantly exacerbated issues for people already struggling, including impacting their ability to access services and supports. Many youth workers reported that, through the Flood Event, housing services were overwhelmed as so many people had their homes affected by flood damage. Many young people also had no options except to live in overcrowded dwellings. In rural and regional areas where accessing housing services is already difficult, the Flood Event put a significant strain on access to safe housing.

Similarly, many youth workers and young people described access to food as an issue for practical and financial reasons. For some, access to towns with supermarkets was not possible due to road closures and damage. For others, access to food was impeded due to the financial pressures they were under with farms and businesses being heavily impacted. Accessing food banks and other donated food was an option for some, but not all.

*"People have been displaced for over 5 months."*



*“The floods impacted many homes and temporary homes in our region. We had whole caravan parks wiped out and streets and streets of houses flooded out and ruined.”*

## Volunteering

Respondents were not all able to volunteer; however of those who did, sandbagging and building banks were some of the practical activities they took part in. Others worked at a recovery centre, and packed food boxes for community food relief. Some respondents reported driving young people to and from school when their parents or carers had to spend time working through issues caused by the Flood Event. Others also helped friends, family, and those affected in the community.

*“I helped my neighbours and community where I could...accessing them was a problem at times. Instead of the usual muck up day we helped fill sandbags.”*

## Recommendations


### Services and supports

Young people and youth workers affected by the Flood Event had different experiences of local services available before, during, and in recovery from the Flood Event. While some described no extra supports being available, others described increases in targeted supports for those affected by the Flood Event. Some youth workers discussed referring young people and their communities to support services where volunteers were working to provide essential services such as food support, housing, and mental health care.

Young people and youth workers who responded to the survey overall gave a 3.1/5 average rating of the support they received during the Flood Event. Respondents also noted that to access essential services there was often a longer than average wait time, due to the increase in need. They identified infrastructure in rural and regional areas, especially roads and levees, as an ongoing issue. Respondents also identified that they are still in need, with many still waiting for support for services including housing, property repairs, and crop losses. While some were able to access financial supports, others did not meet the criteria or did not have their needs met.

Young people in consultations raised the issue of the age they are able to secure a driving licence, and the limitations on the number of passengers who can be carried while driving on a provisional licence. They noted this affected their mobility to take action and maintain social connections during and after the Flood Event (and at other times).

Young people in one town noted the benefit of having a flood plan, based on learnings from the 2010 Flood Event. They noted they were able to assist with





taking the actions advised, such building a levee that diverted flood water from the town.

In the survey, YACVic specifically asked about young people's and youth worker's lived experience and/or identity affecting the ways that they experienced the Flood Event. Of the 25 respondents who answered this question, 21 (84%) answered their experience was not affected by their lived experience or identity. Of those who answered yes, their experiences included family violence, caring roles, and existing stress following from COVID-19 lockdowns and their impacts. One other person also suggested living rurally contributed to their experience, noting that experience was relevant to many people who experienced the Flood Event.

Overall, this survey response statistic is positive, however services must be accessible to all people, especially those who face marginalisation due to their lived experience and identities.

*“Essential services were affected, roads were affected, isolation became an issue. Young people were not a priority group with regards to communication and support.”*

*“To be honest we didn't really have any more support than we usually do.”*


*“The same as before but with longer waiting lists.”*

### **Recommendations:**

1. Have a long-term, preventative, co-designed focus on infrastructure for future disasters including through:
  - a. Flood plans.
  - b. Levee banks.
  - c. Roads maintained and repaired efficiently.
  - d. Public transport accessibility in rural and regional areas.
  - e. Coordinated and timely evacuation and preparation for disasters, including farms.
2. Lower the age to be eligible for a driver's licence to align with all other states (i.e. Provisional licence at 17 years). Consider lifting the restriction on the number of passengers who can be carried by provisional drivers in rural and regional areas, at least during daylight hours and during disaster events.
3. Provide more disaster recovery payments for those directly and indirectly affected by floods and natural disasters. Ensure this is easily accessible, and has broader eligibility than payments offered in this Flood Event.

### **Housing**

Housing and temporary accommodation options differed amongst respondents. Some described their area as having housing supports for young people, with more emergency accommodation options made available during and at the peak



of the Flood Event. Housing is crucial to wellbeing and should be one of the first supports made available to young people facing disaster.

While some described an increase in availability of temporary or emergency housing, others described situations where young people were left without safe accommodation in overcrowded dwellings.

Young people experiencing difficulties accessing safe and affordable housing must be cared for in disasters, noting not all young people will seek help from their families or carers. Housing options for young people who may be seeking accommodation as individuals, including those under 18, needs to be appropriate and include wraparound supports such as mental health, family violence, and alcohol and other drug supports. This needs to be included in planning for future disasters.

*“My [extended family] moved in with us as [their] home was flooded, so there was 9 people in the house. I had to share my bedroom/study space with my sister, making it harder to escape distractions for studying.”*

*“[There was}] ongoing emergency accommodation that was not big enough for the whole family.”*

### **Recommendations:**

4. Increase access to affordable and safe housing in the long term, especially for young people, to ensure during disasters emergency accommodation services are not overburdened.
5. Increase access to crisis accommodation, especially during disaster events, and ensure crisis accommodation is appropriate and easily accessible for young people seeking accommodation as individuals, as well as young people who are part of a family unit.
6. Ensure those in crisis housing are supported long-term and with wraparound supports as needed, such as referral to trauma-informed youth service provision and other identified needs. Crisis housing services should have resourcing to support the assessment of needs and referral into existing supports.

### **Food**

Food supports overall seemed to be made increasingly available through the Flood Event, although access to these services was limited based on physical access to services supplying food, and road access for deliveries.

### **Recommendations:**

7. Increase availability and distribution of resources, including food and food vouchers, free meals, and shower packs. Understand who has been affected,



where and how, and who is the most vulnerable to receive this support urgently. This information should be sought by speaking to community members and organisations with local knowledge.

## Health and Mental Health

Respondents noted that some young people in their communities had access to General Practitioners through their schools before and during the Flood Event, with these appointments moving to telehealth appointments. Similarly, with mental health services, telehealth services were made available.

However respondents also described wanting an expansion of both the GPs in schools and mental health service access during this particularly difficult time.

Telehealth appointments can be effective; however, they also pose significant difficulties for those who do not have stable internet, or who have concerns about privacy for their appointments. While increasing access to telehealth services is positive overall, this should not be the only way young people can access services.

*“Floods affected me by being isolated inside my home, not being able to leave.”*

## Recommendations:

8. Increase access to free mental health services in rural and regional areas, not limiting services to flood recovery periods, with a focus on mental health support for young people.
9. Expand the Doctors in Secondary Schools to allow for the increase in demand for services, including via telehealth. Support community health services to employ and support a GP who can work across several schools.


## Youth and Community Supports

Many youth services were able to continue providing support to young people. However, at the peak of the Flood Event some services had to be cancelled or delayed as roads were closed.

As the immediate impacts of the Flood Event decreased, many youth services were able to continue offering supports such as youth groups, activities, and services. Some youth workers reported that more capacity was needed during this time, as demand soared higher than resource capacity.

These supports are essential in ensuring young people's wellbeing, especially during and after a disaster. Youth workers work holistically, and often provide early intervention and prevention supports to assist young people before they need more critical support.

Some youth services were provided with *Umbrella Project* grants to support / work with young people post-Flood Event on disaster response and recovery.





Respondents also described support during the Flood Event from emergency services such as the CFA and flood response services. Community meetings were also held in some places to coordinate support. Young people are often not considered valuable members of these groups and left out of community and emergency responses.

Young people should be involved in planning, response and recovery activities. Including young people increases connection to community and expands social capital. It also provides opportunities for them to learn new skills, while sharing their experiences, knowledge and perspectives with others from their community.

*“Young people weren't prioritised and therefore services were provided to households and families.”*

*“Some staffing around the area were also affected and couldn't provide supports while they were losing their homes as well.”*

### **Recommendations:**

10. Create dedicated roles for young people on all Local Government disaster planning committees, to bring their unique experiences and perspectives to decision making in their communities. This includes providing more networking opportunities between council areas to create a stronger community support network, with young people represented through meetings and processes.
11. Support young people to build support networks and have social connectedness before, during and after disasters to reduce risk of isolation and as a mental health protective factor. Provide funding for young people to undertake alternative social activities when their usual options have been affected by the disaster.
12. Provide funding for more youth workers through all stages of disaster preparedness and recovery, to ensure timely and trusted outreach and wraparound support.
13. Improve communication in the lead-up to a flood event, with more comprehensive warning systems and consistent messages from all emergency services and organisations. Ensure communication is credible, relevant and accessible (both format and channels) for young people and distributed through communities.
14. Provide centralised, youth-friendly support services which are promoted and available to young people in their area during disaster events.
15. Improve communication about which areas have been affected, to inform distribution of essentials to people on the ground.
16. Ensure community groups have resources to support and provide information updates in disaster events, including advocating for community needs.



Support community services and groups to access support for services and grants available.

## Educational Supports

Some young people affected by the Flood Event received ATAR adjustments and VCE support, however this support took time to develop, so VCE students reported feeling stressed about how the Flood Event would affect their future options.

Some respondents noted young people attending school or TAFE received supports to attend classes online; however, this was not available for all students and was limited only to those who had access to devices and internet from home.

Access to transport, mental health support, and safe housing can all affect a young person's ability to thrive in education. Expectations, considerations, and supports available need to be made clear to young people and youth workers during these types of emergency situations.

*“My school did allow us to take time off school if our homes/land was flooded and the teachers did check in on us to see how we were doing.”*

*“We were told about online headspace services and also local scholarships and support to make sure that we were not missing out on future opportunities because of losses to income resulting from floods. Our teachers and schools were very supportive.”*

## Recommendations:

17. Provide students completing exams with options to complete exams off campus when they are prevented from attending in-person.
18. Support students to take time off from school during disaster events, to support themselves, their families and communities.
19. Support schools to distribute accurate and timely information about the disaster and supports available to young people and their communities.

## Summary

Young people must be actively involved in disaster resilience and recovery within their communities. Disasters, such as the Flood Event, cause unique challenges for young people. Unfortunately, as demonstrated through this submission, during the Flood Event young people were not prioritised as a key cohort who needed targeted supports. Young people and youth workers who were part of forming the contents of this submission described their experiences of the Flood Event, and recommendations they believe are key to ensuring young people are protected in future disaster events.



The impacts on communities were grouped into commonly arising themes, however each experience should be considered in its context, as the Flood Event affected different people and communities differently. The impacts described included extreme stress, issues with social connectedness, impacted schooling and exams, housing and food insecurity, and volunteering for the community. Recommendations were made in reflection of these impacts, centring around services and supports, housing, food, health and mental health, youth and community supports, and educational supports.

YACVic thanks the Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee for conducting the *Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria*. YACVic looks forward to outcomes of the Inquiry ensuring that young people are considered a key cohort and are actively involved in disaster resilience and recovery in the future.





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