

Youth Affairs Council Victoria

presents



CONNECTING THE DOTS

Rural youth sector conference

12 & 13 February 2019

12 Armstrong Street North, Ballarat

Exploring youth health, wellbeing and safety

CONFERENCE PROGRAM



Youth Affairs
Council Victoria

Youth Affairs Council Victoria's Connecting the Dots conference will bring the rural youth sector together across two days and one night to explore the latest research, trends and best practice from the field in the areas of *youth health, wellbeing and safety*.

When: From 1pm Tuesday 12 to 1pm Wednesday 13 February 2019

Where: 12 Armstrong Street North, Ballarat

Tickets: YACVic members \$60, non-members \$100

Tickets are inclusive of all sessions on both day one and two, as well as the conference dinner. Tickets are on sale at www.yacvicrural.org.au

Designed by rural youth workers for youth sector professionals, the conference offers an opportunity for attendees to strengthen networks, develop new connections, hear from a range of passionate presenters and attend thought-provoking workshops.



30+ scholarship positions are available for rural youth sector professionals.

Limited travel support packages are available to support attendees who are travelling 250kms or more (one way) to attend and can articulate a financial need.

YACVic is a child safe organisation. By attending these events, you agree to join us in our commitment to child safety.

DAY 1 | Tuesday 12 February 2019

1pm Registration

1.15pm Welcome to Country

1.30pm Conference opening



Leo Fieldgrass & special guests
CEO, Youth Affairs Council Victoria

Leo Fieldgrass is an accomplished youth worker, policy advocate and senior executive with a breadth of experience in the not-for-profit and public sectors. Leo was also formerly the national director of the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition, the national peak body for young people and youth workers, and joined YACVic as CEO in August 2017.

1.45pm Guest speakers



Liana Buchanan
Commissioner for Children and Young People

Liana Buchanan commenced as the Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People in April 2016. Liana has a background in oversight and system reform for people experiencing disadvantage, with a strong focus on family violence and sexual assault.

Justin Mohamed
Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People

Justin Mohamed commenced as the new Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People on Monday 28 May. Justin is a proud Aboriginal man of the Gooreng Gooreng nation near Bundaberg in Queensland. He has dedicated the past 25 years to working towards building a stronger and healthier nation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

2.15pm Keynote address



Dr. Ani Wierenga
University of Melbourne and Centre for Adolescent Health

Dr Ani Wierenga is one of Australia's leading youth researchers. She is a Academic Coordinator, Postgraduate Studies in Adolescent Health and Wellbeing at the Centre for Adolescent Health, Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne and a Honorary Senior Fellow with the School of Social and Political Sciences at University of Melbourne. As a rural youth worker and then sociologist, Ani has worked with young people for 25+ years. Her primary focus is on research and teaching which supports effective policy and practice with young people, in their wellbeing, learning and active social participation.

3pm Afternoon tea

3.30pm Small group workshops

Workshops focusing on youth mental health, child safety, cultural safety and best practice in working with young people, presented by:



5pm Break

6.30pm Sector consultation and networking session

7.30pm Conference dinner

9pm Close of Day 1



DAY 2 | Wednesday 13 February 2019

9am **Day 2 opening address**



Shaye Chalmers

Chief Operations Officer, Youth Affairs Council Victoria

Shaye's career is solidly grounded in youth work – she has managed multidisciplinary youth services, council youth services, and regional programs. Originally from New Zealand, Shaye has managed alternative education, peer support programs and student advocacy. Prior to YACVic Shaye also held several senior roles in the Department of Health and Human Services, which included housing, disability client services, disability partnerships and service planning.

9.30am **Guest speaker**



Deb Tsorbaris

CEO, Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare

Deb has worked in health and community services for over 30 years. She has extensive knowledge of policy and practice. Deb has provided policy advice to government on a range of issues and has worked across disability, drugs and alcohol, youth services and employment programs. Deb is a keen advocate for improving the lives of children, young people and families in the areas of child safety, education and health.

10am **Guest speaker**



Dr. Catherine Orr

Medical Director, Gateway Health Wodonga

Dr. Catherine Orr is one of the leading innovators in the provision of sexual and reproductive health services including medical termination of pregnancy in a rural medical setting. She has overseen the development of the Multicultural Clinic which sees all the newly arrived refugees to the region and the development of the first locally based HIV clinic. She is also the doctor for Clinic 35 Gateway Health which is a sexual health clinic for young people and oversaw the development of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy program.

10.30am **Morning tea**

11am Small group workshops

Workshops focusing on tackling domestic violence, sexual health promotion and resourcing the youth sector to support our most vulnerable young people, presented by:



12.45pm Conference wrap up

1pm Conference closed

Post-Conference Event (free)

**Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health's
rural youth sector skill development workshop**

1.30pm - 4.30pm Wednesday 13 February @ conference venue

**The first 30 attendees to register for this post-conference event
will receive access to a full conference scholarship ticket**

To register select the conference scholarship ticket option.