



**YAPA Annual Report 2005**

boed off about train fires?

Chupa  
Chups  
eat with a purpose



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For a copy of our audited accounts, please see our website [www.yapa.org.au](http://www.yapa.org.au) or phone YAPA on 02 9319 1100 or 1800 627 323.

# From the Co-Chairperson



Both familiar and new faces formed the 2005-2006 YAPA Board of Management, allowing for some new specialty interests and expertise to be utilised in Board matters. It has been a productive year for YAPA, struggling with potential funding issues both the Board and staff have been extremely vigilant in

both our management of existing funds and also in attempts to procure new forms of income.

YAPA held its annual conference for youth workers at Sydney's Darling Harbour. Positive feedback was received about the professional nature of the conference and its organisation.

In our advocacy work, we conducted various campaigns, including opposing P-plate curfews, reporting on problems with railway Transit Officers, and arguing for indexation of the Links to Learning budgets.

From a communications perspective YAPA has invested in upgrading its website, which is now

of a high calibre and is able to present the high quality documents YAPA produces in a manner deserving of their quality.

The YAPA Board has also been busy working with staff to develop position papers and policy and procedure papers for internal and external use.

Looking forward, YAPA is now on the verge of a number of exciting projects as well as a review of Board and governance processes.

On behalf of the Board I wish to thank staff for their ongoing conscientious and passionate efforts, in what has not been an easy year, to ensure that the work of the association continues. I would also like to thank my fellow Board members for their contributions to the governance of the organisation over the past year.

Last but certainly not least, I would extend my gratitude to the members of the association, both young people, youth workers and youth services whose support has been invaluable in developing the youth sector and also striving towards social justice for young people in NSW.

Emil Wajs-Chaczko  
Co-Chairperson  
on behalf of the Board of Management

# Our Board of Management

## May 2004 – May 2005

### **Chairing panel**

Leizsha Clissold, Fusion Youth Services  
Reynato Reodica, Young YAPA member  
Mia Prodigalidad, Legal Aid

### **Secretary**

Mark Townsend, Sutherland Shire Council

### **Treasurer**

Adrian Foon, Youth Accommodation Association

### **Ordinary Members**

Ebony Allen, Young YAPA member (from August)  
Cate Furey, Community Cultural Development NSW  
Jason Grubisic, Young YAPA member  
Louise Sutherland, Macquarie Legal Centre

## May 2005 – May 2006

### **Chairing panel**

Leizsha Clissold, Fusion Youth Services  
Reynato Reodica, Young YAPA member  
Emil Wajs-Chaczko, Young YAPA member

### **Secretary**

Steve Jones, Mission Australia

### **Treasurer**

Mark Townsend, Sutherland Shire Council

### **Ordinary Members**

Ebony Allen, Young YAPA member  
Jason Grubisic, Young YAPA member  
Liam O'Sullivan, Shoalhaven Council  
Tara Russell, Fairfield Migrant Resource Centre (until August)  
Meredith Turnbull, 2010 GLBT Youth Support (from November)

# From the Executive Officer



2005 was another great and active year for YAPA!

YAPA continued our efforts in hearing the views of young people by consulting 275 young people about their experiences of train security and fines. Later in the year we coordinated the National Youth Survey of 450 young people.

We continued to speak to the government, the media and the broader community on a broad range of issues affecting young people such as driving, transport, fines, education, youth participation, refugee youth issues, rural youth issues, public space and much more. YAPA ran a number of campaigns on these issues and participated in over 20 government committees, forums and consultation processes.

A highlight of the year was our statewide Big Impact Youth Work conference for 170 youth workers. Other training and professional development

programs included the Survival training program, Managing Challenging Behaviours training program and the New Co-ordinators training program. We continued to develop a wide range of publications, resources and fact sheets including our regular monthly newsletter YAPRap, our website and fact sheets on access and equity issues.

Many thanks to our incredibly dedicated and committed staff for their hard work during the year. There have been a number of staff changes during the year. We farewelled Courtney Innes, Ibasi Imoli Ohide and Jennifer Anne and welcomed John Ferguson and Kylie Gordon-Wilkins.

Thanks also to the YAPA Board of Management for their support during the year.

We appreciate the ongoing support of our members. Our effectiveness as a peak organisation is reliant on the involvement and support of young people, youth advocates and youth workers.

We look forward to your continued support in 2006!

Kristy Delaney  
Executive Officer

# Our Staff

## State Office

*Executive Officer (f/t)*

Kristy Delaney

*Policy & Training Officer (f/t)*

Jennifer Anne (until September), John Ferguson (from November)

*Communications Officer (p/t)*

Nick Manning

*Refugee Youth Access Project Officer (p/t)*

Ibasi Imoli Ohide (until June)

*Finance & Administration Manager (p/t)*

Martair Yankos

*Administration Officer (p/t)*

Joanne Bennett

## Western Sydney Office

*Western Sydney Regional Youth Development Officer (f/t)*

Courtney Innes (until September), Kylie Gordon-Wilkins (from October)

*Administration Officer (p/t)*

Joanne Bennett

## Consultants

*Hanging Out Together Project*

Garner Clancey & Sally Doran

Back row: Kristy Delaney, Courtney Innes, Jennifer Anne, Nick Manning. Front row: Joanne Bennett, Martair Yankos



# About YAPA

The Youth Action & Policy Association is the peak community group working in the interests of young people and youth services in NSW. YAPA strives to achieve social justice for young people including the appropriate provision of services for young people.

The role of YAPA is to:

- Monitor and respond to government policies and proposals impacting on young people
- Promote and advocate on issues affecting young people and youth services
- Bring young people and youth workers together to act on issues affecting them
- Work to raise a positive profile of young people in the media and in the community
- Provide training, forums and conferences to young people and youth workers
- Provide information and referral
- Produce a range of resources, publications and newsletters.

## Funding

YAPA receives core funding from the NSW Department of Community Services to perform this role. YAPA also receives funding from a range of other funding providers.

In 2005 this included:

- Hanging Out Together – Western Sydney Area Assistance Scheme – NSW Department of Community Services
- Refugee Youth Access Project – Australian Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
- New Coordinators training program – NSW Department of Community Services
- Nepean Access & Equity Project – Better Futures, NSW Department of Community Services
- Alcohol & Other Drugs Youth Sector Workforce Development Project – NSW Drug and Alcohol Workforce Development Council.

# Policy work

"I read an article in the Herald which mentioned that this youth group had protested strongly against Mr Costa's proposal to raise the driving age to 18 and thought I should write...The proposal is absolutely outrageous in that at the age of 16 you are able to leave school and find work which more than often entails the need of a car. To deny people the use of a car at the age of 17 is to deny them possible work. Young people already find it hard enough to find a job these days without the government making it worse. ... I think youth groups like YAPA are a very important part of a democratic society. Often youths feel like they have no say in what goes on in the society around them, whether they have intelligent things to say or not. Fight this issue ferociously for it is about time that somebody forced the government to interpret statistics properly rather than making great sweeping reforms which do little to actually help the problem."

- feedback from a community member

YAPA participated in a wide range of lobbying and advocacy work during the year. Here are some of the highlights.

## Media

YAPA conducted a large number of media interviews during the year on the topics of mobile phones, proposals targeting P plate drivers, youth unemployment, travel concessions for apprentices, and standards for bouncers.

We gained coverage in: Sydney Morning Herald, Sunday Telegraph, Daily Telegraph, Nova, Radio National News, Sky News, 2WS, Australian Associated Press, Newcastle Herald, Channel 31, Triple J, 2UE.

## Driver curfews

YAPA continued a major campaign against the introduction of curfews for young drivers. We:

- developed a written submission to the Roads and Traffic Authority
- supported a group of young people active on the issue
- conducted media interviews to raise community awareness
- developed fact sheets and web resources
- participated in a federal steering committee looking at providing compulsory training for novice drivers.

Fortunately the night curfew proposal was shelved with the NSW Government deciding to impose restrictions on high powered vehicles and passenger numbers for young drivers with previous driving convictions.

# Policy Work (continued)



Survey respondents at the Big Day Out

## Policing

The interaction of young people with police has always been a contentious issue. Political concern and media reports of 'youth crime sprees' and 'crime waves' date back to the earliest newspapers and parliaments. Youth

workers have consistently reported anecdotal evidence of the unfair treatment of young people at the hands of law enforcement. Studies in criminology have both discredited the idea of worsening crime waves and also highlighted that young people are the most common victim of personal crimes, not merely the perpetrators.

The last twenty years has seen an explosion of 'private' law enforcement in addition to the traditional public police. Young people's experience of law enforcement extends to park rangers, transit security and shopping centre guards.

### goodcopbadcop

Facilitating anonymous feedback about policing has been a long time YAPA project. Goodcopbadcop, a web-based form, provides an easy way for young people to send such feedback, most of which is then published on the site: [www.yapa.org.au/youth/cop](http://www.yapa.org.au/youth/cop). The project, run in conjunction with the Youth Justice Coalition, informs the work of the NSW Ombudsman.

## Transit Officers

YAPA conducted research at the Big Day Out into young people's experiences of railway Transit Officers which showed that young people are not getting a fair deal. They are penalised in situations where older travellers are not, and they don't always get the protection that the Transit Officers are meant to provide. We found that:

- Young people identify unfair age-related targeting and discrimination as a serious concern in their interaction with transit security and law enforcement. This discrimination was worse for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, Indigenous young people and homeless young people.
- Young people are disproportionately and inappropriately adversely affected by fining for transit-related offences.
- Young people are concerned generally about the administration of the transit security system including concerns around safety and procedural fairness. This was of particular concern to young women.

Versions of this report were provided to the Attorney General's Crime Prevention Unit, the NSW Ombudsman and RailCorp (which employs the Transit Officers).

YAPA has also been supporting networks and individual services who are advocating on behalf of individual clients and young people generally.

Rey Reodica, YAPA Co-Chairperson, rounds up survey respondents at the Big Day Out



## Education

YAPA developed a major submission to the NSW Department of Education and Training for their Innovation & Excellence (Futures) Review. YAPA recommendations included:

- strategies to re-engage students who are suspended, truant or at risk of early school leaving
- additional educational support for young refugees, young Aboriginal people and young mothers
- support for partnerships between schools and youth services
- increased vocational education in school programs
- more student participation and leadership strategies for all students.

appoint a Minister for Youth Affairs. The failure to appoint a Youth Minister means that young people's views will not be represented in Cabinet and will not be given the focus and attention they deserve. During the year the Australian Government also halved the number of young people appointed to the National Youth Roundtable.

YAPA, on behalf of AYAC, coordinated the development, distribution and analysis of the National Youth Survey which surveyed the views of 450 young people. Not surprisingly the survey found that 91% of young participants felt that the Australian Government should do more to consult with them. 87% believed that young people need an independent organisation to speak on their behalf to government.

the Australian Government refuses to fund a full time advocacy organisation to represent the views of young Australians

## Australian Youth Affairs Coalition

YAPA participated in the National Representative Council and Executive of the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC), the peak organisation representing young people across Australia.

AYAC is currently unfunded, and despite repeated requests, the Australian Government refuses to fund a full time advocacy organisation to represent the views of young Australians.

YAPA continued to support AYAC and its campaigns, for example by drawing attention to the failure of the Australian Government to

## Telecommunications

YAPA has advocated for young people's telecommunication issues for a number of years.

During 2005 YAPA continued to participate in the Australian Communications Authority Consumer Consultative Forum and gave presentations to the Consumers Telecommunications Conference and the Internet Society of

Policy & Training Officer  
John Ferguson



# Policy Work (continued)



YAPA Board members Jason Grubisic, Ebony Allen & Emil Wajs-Chaczko

Australia Conference. YAPA also provided advice to the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (TIO) regarding the promotion of TIO services and its role to young people.

## Youth sector funding in crisis

Concerns around funding continue to be a high priority for youth services. YAPA's quantitative and qualitative research, including the NSW Youth Services Census in 2002 and interviews by Maria Kissouri with Community Services Grants Program (CSGP) funded youth services across NSW, shows that these concerns are well founded.

In 2005 YAPA drew together this evidence to focus particularly on the CSGP funding available through the NSW Department of Community Services (DoCS). Of the approximately 770 youth programs operating across NSW, around 300 receive funding under this program.

The crisis implications highlighted are not limited to CSGP funded youth services or indeed to the youth sector. The trends and experiences

observed in CSGP youth services are part of a wider context of community services which suggests that service costs are increasing, government funding is decreasing and service demands are higher than ever before.

The funding increase budgeted for CSGP Community Youth Projects and Adolescent Support Programs did not rise above the year's indexation, and in some cases represented a reduction of funding in real terms. Indexation of funding allocated is not accurately reflective of the increase in costs experienced by services.

YAPA's research supports calls for re-evaluating the policy of indexation applied to community grants, as well as providing the grounds for increasing the levels of funding made available to programs for young people.

## Lack of indexation for Links to Learning services

YAPA was disappointed to learn that the Department of Education and Training did not pass on any indexation payments received from Treasury to their funded Links to Learning programs. DET was the only NSW department which failed to give indexation payments to their funded youth programs.

YAPA and many other services wrote to the Education Minister to request that the payment be granted. Unfortunately the Department did not reverse their decision. This move brought about increased financial pressure and a reduction in clients for these youth programs.

## Good Practice Guidelines

YAPA participated in the DoCS reference group to develop a set of standards, known as the Good Practice Guidelines, for DoCS funded services such as those funded by the Community Services Grants Program (CSGP) and the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP).

The guidelines use a continuous quality improvement framework and cover:

- governance
- systems management
- human resource management
- access
- services and program design
- community development
- networking
- funding partnerships and contracts.

YAPA and other peak organisations such as NCOSS, LCSA and YAA have now formally endorsed the guidelines. We will work with DoCS regarding implementation, particularly in regards to training and support for services to implement the guidelines.

## Other advocacy & campaign work in brief

### YAPA submissions to government inquiries and reviews

- Passenger restrictions and high power vehicle restrictions for P plate drivers – NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)
- Innovation & Excellence (Futures) Project (school and TAFE) – NSW Department of Education and Training
- Communities Division restructure – NSW Department of Community Services
- Review of Bus and Ferry Fares – NSW Ministry for Transport

### YAPA participation in government consultations

- Young people and complaint handling - NSW Ombudsman
- Innovation & Excellence (Futures) Project (school and TAFE) – NSW Department of Education and Training
- Missing Persons Unit, NSW Police

### YAPA participation in government committees and forums

- Australian Communications Authority – Consumer Consultative Committee
- DET Community Grants Advisory Group
- DET Multicultural Unit, Refugee Support Meeting
- DET Director General's Advisory Group for Multicultural Education and Training
- DoCS Stakeholder Forum with Minister Meagher
- DoCS Communities Division Partners Reference Group
- DoCS Service Standards Reference Committee
- DoCS Community Service Grants Program Roundtable

Rozene Kulkarni & Kristy Delaney at the Big Impact Youth Work conference



# Policy Work (continued)

- DoCS Community Services Grants Program Data Reference Group
- DoCS Ethnic Advisory Group
- DoCS Youth Week Advisory Committee
- DoCS Youth Website Advisory Group
- Indent Grants Advisory Committee
- NSW Youth Interagency Taskforce
- NSW Health Youth Alcohol Action Plan
- NSW Ministry of Transport, Director General's Stakeholder Meetings
- NSW Interdepartmental Committee on Refugee Issues Working Group
- NSW Commission for Children and Young People – Young People At Work Taskforce

## YAPA participation in key non-government forums and committees

- Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) Executive and National Representative Council
- Street Workers Network
- NSW Forum of Non Government Agencies (FONGA)
- NSW Youth Justice Coalition (YJC)
- NSW NESB Youth Issues Network (NYIN)
- Local Government Community Services Association (LGCSA) – Youth Division
- Multicultural National Youth Issues Network
- Refugee Support Network
- African Settlement Needs Network.

# Conferences, training and networking



RYDON members at the conference

## Big Impact Youth Work

During September we held *Big Impact Youth Work*, our biennial statewide conference for youth workers. The conference focussed on professional and sector development, the latest research and best practice, and a chance to critically evaluate what the youth sector is doing and can do.

The conference featured these workshops:

- School partnerships: how and why
- Youth participation
- Arts, sport and entertainment: actively engaging young people
- Youth unemployment and employment: program initiatives, research and solutions

# Conferences, training and networking (continued)

- Youth crime and justice – what’s working and what’s not
  - Worker safety and young people’s needs: supporting youth services’ behaviour management practices
  - Alcohol and other drugs
  - Youth mental health
  - Managing, supporting and supervising staff
  - Working with young people
  - Consultation and evaluation
  - Stress management and self management
  - Working with new and emerging communities
  - Youth services: making it work for Indigenous young people
  - Access and equity
- Conducting a needs analysis
  - Access and equity
  - Advocacy and lobbying
  - Working with the media
  - Supervision
  - Engaging young people
  - Drugs and alcohol

Our presenters were: Graeme Pringle, Stan Small, Ibas Imoli Ohide, Nick Manning, Kristy Delaney, Jennifer Anne and Courtney Innes.

## New Coordinators training

This course is for people who are new to managing a youth service. It consists of two days face to face, access to professional supervision for 6 weeks and a follow-up day. The program was conducted twice during 2005. Topics included:

- Staff management
- Staff supervision
- Employing staff
- Conducting staff appraisals
- Working with the management committee

A major focus of the conference was the NSW Code of Ethics. A panel session which comprised Julia Woods, Michele Ireland, Dr Howard Sercombe and Eva Cox highlighted key issues for youth services.

Overall, 170 youth workers from across NSW attended the conference.

170 youth workers from across NSW attended the conference

## Survival training for youth workers

YAPA held the Survival training for youth workers two day training course three times in 2005, in Sydney, Parramatta and Dubbo, with 60 workers participating.

Survival is targeted at new youth workers and more experienced workers who want to update their basic skills. The course covers:

- Duty of care and ethics

- Time management
- Financial management
- Stress management
- Reflecting on the role of a manager and setting learning goals.

Howard Sercombe at the *Big Impact Youth Work* conference



# Conferences, training and networking (continued)



Participant at the Rural Youth Issues Forum

Our presenters included: Kristy Delaney, Stan Small, Sally Saunders, Carole Strong, Craig Taunton.

Thank you to the NSW Department of Community Services NGO Training Unit for funding the course.

## Managing challenging behaviours

A major finding of the 2002 NSW Youth Services Census was the need for further youth sector training on managing challenging behaviours. In response to the findings, YAPA engaged the Ted Noffs Institute to run *Managing Challenging Behaviours*, a two day training program. The course ran five times during the year, in Sydney (twice), Parramatta, Newcastle and Wollongong. This course was funded by YAPA.

## Model Policies Project

In late 2004 YAPA published the *Model policies on working with young people, for non-residential youth services in NSW*. In early 2005 we ran three information sessions, two in Sydney and one in Newcastle, to assist youth workers to use the Model Policies. This project was funded by YAPA.

## Rural Youth Issues Forum

Our annual Rural Youth Issues Forum was held in Dubbo with 50 workers from across rural NSW. The forum was an opportunity to showcase successful youth and youth service initiatives operating in rural NSW.

## Moree Youth Forum

YAPA participated in the first ever youth forum held at Moree Council during Youth Week. Young YAPA member, Shaylan Ramatahn coordinated the forum.

## YAPA presentations

- Nirimba TAFE
- Granville TAFE
- Tranby Aboriginal College, National Indigenous Legal Advocacy Students
- Sutherland Shire Youth Services Interagency
- Mission Australia

Participants at the Moree Youth Forum



# Communications

## Website

YAPA's website is an integral part of the organisation. As well as advertising our events, most of our publications are only available online. During 2005 the YAPA website attracted 50,000 visits and over 250,000 web hits.

Late in the year YAPA began the process of revamping its website, to improve both the "look-and-feel" and the navigation structure. We contracted Summer Hill Media to design the new look, while we reworked the navigation structure in house. The new site "went live" in April 2006.

All YAPA publications, including those listed below, are available on the website at [www.yapa.org.au](http://www.yapa.org.au).

- Courtney Innes on YAPA research into banning policies
- Drum Youth Resource Centre on how they changed the culture of their youth centre
- Graeme Stuart on the results of his research into youth services and non-violence
- Katina Dimoulis on her current research into behaviour and environmental factors in youth centres.

Supplementing the material in YAPRap, we added to the website:

- Non Violence and Youth Work Practice in Australia , a complete PhD thesis by Graeme Stuart
- links to existing fact sheets and model policies.

Late in the year YAPA began the process of revamping its website, to improve both the "look-and-feel" and the navigation structure

## Fact sheets and resources

YAPA developed new resources on a range of topics including:

- Streetwork
- Intensive English Centres
- Torture and trauma impact on refugee young people

## You're banned? Youth services and exclusion

YAPA published a collection of resources on behaviour management practices in youth services. YAPRap September 2005 featured:

- Garner Clancey on the social, political and economic context of young people and exclusion



# Communications (continued)



## Newsletters & egroups

*YAPRap* is our monthly newsletter, with over 400 copies distributed to our members and subscribers, and the electronic version emailed and posted on the website. Special feature editions during 2005:

- February:

Indigenous focus

- September: Banning and exclusionary practices in youth centres
- October: Young people and work.

*Westracks*: The bimonthly electronic newsletter of the YAPA Western Sydney Office, distributed to 350 youth services and young people in the region. The Western Sydney Office produced six editions during the year.

*YAPA Latest* is a regular email newsletter to 1000 members, contacts and networks. *YAPA Latest* allows YAPA to get information to the sector very quickly and easily.

Egroups: YAPA continued to run egroups for:

- NYIN – the NESB Youth Issues Network
- fydo, the Forum of Youth Development Officers and interagencies, with members from most local government areas in NSW.

Database: YAPA maintained and expanded our database during 2005. The YAPA database records over 3000 individuals and organisations, categorised in various ways to allow us to target our communications.

Communications Officer  
Nick Manning



# Western Sydney Office

The Western Sydney Office continued to lobby and advocate for issues impacting upon disadvantaged young people and workers in western Sydney in 2005. In line with YAPA's key priorities, YAPA Western Sydney focussed their work on issues for refugee young people, policing and banning. 2005 also saw the farewell of Courtney Innes in September and the arrival of Kylie Gordon-Wilkins in October.

## Forums

To help YAPA Western Sydney gather information about issues in western Sydney, provide information to the sector, and encourage cross-fertilisation of ideas and experiences, we held two policy forums during 2005.

Guest speakers:

- Graeme Stuart discussed the impact and effectiveness of behaviour management techniques, and exclusionary practises used by workers
- Garner Clancey provided an overview of how Australian society has changed, and explored the impact of these changes upon young people's behaviour and their access to public and private spaces
- Wendy Byron from WorkCover NSW discussed OH&S issues in the workplace
- the Drum Youth Resource Centre staff gave a practical and informative overview of how they changed their service from one of chaos to calm.

The Western Sydney Office continued to lobby and advocate for issues impacting upon disadvantaged young people and workers in western Sydney

The first forum was called *What are the issues for refugee young people in your area?* Approximately 35 people attended to hear guest speakers from the Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues (CMYI) in Victoria, STARTTS, Auburn Youth Centre, Blacktown Migrant Resource Centre and two refugee young people. Thanks to Robel Teklon and Esther Emiyer Kassule Felix for sharing their personal stories. We also facilitated group discussions to assist in networking and the identification of issues.

The second forum was *When is Banning OK? – How to keep staff, property and other service users safe.* The aim was to explore banning and safety concepts for people who work with young people, and to further explore the increased exclusion of young people from modern society.

Forty five people attended, and a *YAPRap* special edition, *You're banned?*, was produced as a result of the forum.

Staff members Courtney Innes, Martair Yankos, & Joanne Bennett



# Western Sydney Office (continued)



Graeme Stuart, presenter at the banning forum

## Other activities

### Information

YAPA Western Sydney distributed information on various topics to young people and the sector through a variety of means.

This included talks to groups, networks and organisations about YAPA and current issues, and attendance at these consultative forums:

- Indent
- NCOSS bus reform meeting
- NCOSS pre-budget submission consultation
- Western Sydney Transport Stakeholders meeting
- FONGA
- DoCS enhanced service delivery project
- DoCS Stakeholder Forum with Minister Carmel Tebbutt
- the Centrelink budget broadcast (where workers asked questions of the Ministers for Family and Community Services, Employment and Workplace Relations and Workforce Participation on the dramatic new changes in the 2005-2006 Federal Budget).

## Training and committees

YAPA Western Sydney provided workshops on the role of YAPA to Nirimba and Granville TAFE students and STARTTS new African workers. We also provided workshops to the Spectrum conference on the role of government and advocacy. We facilitated the Hawkesbury Youth Interagency Planning Day. YAPA Western Sydney also coordinated Survival Training for Youth Workers in Parramatta in June.

We attended these committees:

- the Ministry of Transport Director General's Stakeholder Meetings
- Indent
- Multiculturalism forum working party, NESB Youth Issues Network (NYIN)
- Multiculturalism National Youth Issues Network
- Street Workers Network
- youth interagencies across western Sydney.

# Refugee Youth Access Project

The Refugee Youth Access Project aims to improve access and equity for refugee young people in NSW as well as provide advice, support and information to mainstream youth services on access and equity issues facing refugee young people.

The Project Officer, Ibasi Imoli Ohide, worked with youth and mainstream networks throughout Sydney in addition to attending government and non-government meetings and committees to further the project goals.

The project operations were stretched in an attempt to achieve many of the project's goals

**The consultation was attended by over 40 refugee young people**

and objectives. In addition to outlined workplan objectives, Ibasi co-facilitated the Refugee Youth Consultation organised by the Auburn Migrant Resources Centre. The consultation was attended by over 40 refugee young people.

## Policy

A large amount of policy work was directed at the issues of policing and fines, which were identified by several networks and committees. Ibasi supported the NESB Youth Issues Network (NYIN) and Auburn Migrant Resource Centre in lobbying relevant members about the impact of policing and fines on refugee young people. Meetings were held with MP Laurie Ferguson, the Community Relations Commission Chairman, and Blacktown Police and Auburn Police Ethnic Community Liaison Officers (ECLOs) and Youth Liaison Officers (YLOs).

## Training and Committees

The following committees and interagencies were attended:

- NSW Interdepartmental Committee on Refugee Issues Working Group
- Fairfield Youth Workers Network
- Bankstown Workers with Youth Network
- Blacktown/Mt Druitt Youth Network
- Refugee Support Network
- NESB Youth Issues Network (NYIN)
- African Settlement Needs Network
- Refugee Support Meeting (DET Multicultural Unit).

## Supporting & resourcing youth & community workers

The project put together resources on refugee young people and the issues they face. This included the following fact sheets:

- Intensive English Centres
- Torture and trauma impact on refugee young people.

The project supported youth workers (those working with refugee young people) in implementing strategies that help improve access and equity to refugee young people through the facilitation of workshops, providing suggestions and advice and strategies for workers to work, support and access refugee young people and their community more effectively.

# Refugee Youth Access Project (continued)



Project Officer Ibaso Imoli Ohide

For 2005, Ibaso provided information sessions and workshops on issues facing refugee young people for:

- Centrelink workers at Parramatta
- Fairfield Youth Workers Network (FYWN)
- Spectrum conference
- youth and community workers in Carramar
- Community Settlement Services Scheme workers throughout NSW.

## Access and Equity training

The Project Officer facilitated an access and equity workshop for mainstream youth workers as part of YAPA's Survival training in March and June.

## NESB Youth Issues Network (NYIN)

The NESB Youth Issues Network (NYIN) meets bimonthly and consists of service providers who are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for NESB young people all over NSW.

NYIN was first established in 1996 and has over 70 members today. Ever since its establishment, NYIN has had the following aims:

- to coordinate information and statewide action on issues affecting NESB young people
- to have input and respond to government policies and practices affecting NESB young people

- to lobby an advocate on NESB youth Issues to the youth and ethnic sectors, young people and the general community
- to respond to and monitor the media's coverage of NESB youth
- to support and resource NESB young people's groups and services working with NESB youth issues, eg. training and resources.

A number of working parties were formed to work on priority issues during the year including a multiculturalism working party.

## Steering Committee

The Project steering committee met regularly to provide support to the project worker. In 2005 the committee had representation from Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS), Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA), NSW Refugee Health, NSW Department of Education and Training (DET), NSW Ethnic Communities Council (ECC), Fairfield Migrant Resource Centre (FMRC), Auburn Migrant Resource Centre (AMRC) and Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA).

## Funding & future of the project

The project was funded by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs until June 2005. After receiving funding for eight years for our access and equity work for migrant and refugee young people, YAPA was extremely disappointed to learn that the Department would not provide continued support for the project.

# Hanging Out Together (HOT)

The HOT Project aims to research, consult and develop workable processes that facilitate and encourage the adoption of practices inclusive of young people by shopping centres in western Sydney. The project is funded by the Western Sydney Area Assistance Scheme, NSW Department of Community Services, and will continue in 2006.

## HOT Forum

The HOT forum focused on young people and shopping centres. This one-day forum in February 2005 attracted over 150 participants. An array of speakers showcased positive initiatives, challenged current practices and pondered future developments.

The forum participants included shopping centre management companies (including Lend Lease, Stockland, Centro, Westfield, Savills and Gandel), youth workers, shopping centre security supervisors, police and local government. The forum proved to be a great opportunity to learn about some very exciting initiatives and to encourage further cross-sector dialogue.

## Highlights of the forum

- Vanessa Cutcliffe (Macarthur Square, Lend Lease) spoke of the challenges facing a Centre Manager in dealing with the perceptions of shoppers (and the media) about young people. Vanessa demonstrated how participation of the wider community (including young people) can be beneficial (and is possible) in managing a shopping centre.
- Dr Phil Crane (Queensland University of Technology) discussed the metamorphosis of public space and just how much our urban environments have changed in recent

decades. Phil encouraged all participants to consider the needs of young people in using 'public' space.

- Steve Knee (Gosford City Council) and Noah Magnus (Erina Fair Security) discussed the positive working relationships at Erina Fair and the success of programs in the new youth space. Steve highlighted the benefits of conducting programs (now reaching hundreds of young people weekly) rather than unstructured drop-in and discussed strategies to engage retailers in understanding the benefits of the youth space.
- Anna Copeland (Murdoch University) focused on a rights-based approach to young people's access to shopping centres. Anna advocated consideration of the limitations of particular approaches, including the use of banning notices in 'managing' young people in shopping centres.
- Ben Demsitz (Security Manager, Liverpool Westfield) explored innovative ways of building relationships between security and young people. With the assistance of

Ron Glasel, Garner Clancey & Phil Crane, presenters at the HOT Forum



# Hanging Out Together (HOT) (continued)



Hurstville YouthZone staff at the HOT Forum

Open Family (and other local agencies) and a commitment to engaging young people to participate in problem-solving, Ben

The networks established and ideas gained marked a successful forum.

The forum was a joint venture of YAPA's Hanging Out Together Project, the Australian Centre for Security Research (University of Western Sydney), the Shopping Centre Council of Australia, and the Western Sydney Area Assistance Scheme (NSW Department of Community Services).

## Shopping centres & the youth services sector

HOT also conducted research on successful initiatives and relationships between shopping centres and youth services.

The HOT forum focused on young people and shopping centres...[and] attracted over 150 participants.

highlighted how a former reliance on banning notices has given way to more effective means of management.

- Nigel Hughes (Urbis JHD) explored current trends in consumer behaviour, shopping centre design and urban planning. Through the exploration of recent trends in these areas, Nigel was able to encourage consideration of potential future trends.
- Michael Huggett (CHD Partners) discussed a training program developed for shopping centre security guards. Michael drew from experiences training guards in NSW and Victoria and introduced participants to the range of teaching aids utilised in the training.

Stage 1 of the research consisted of a survey of western Sydney shopping centres to gather information on the types of issues centres confront in their relations with young people and to provide a preliminary overview of the types of youth-related projects that centres are involved in. Stage 2 involved interviews with representatives of youth services and shopping centres.

YAPA will release a report on the research findings in 2006.

# Opening the Doors: Nepean Access & Equity Project

With funding from the Nepean Better Futures (NSW Department of Community Services), YAPA developed an access and equity manual and website for youth services in the Blue Mountains, Penrith and Hawkesbury areas.

A website has also been developed where you can access and download the manual:  
[www.yapa.org.au/openingdoors](http://www.yapa.org.au/openingdoors).

A special thank you to Colin Stokes for his wonderful illustrations for the project.

**The manual contains information on access and equity principles, and legal and funding body requirements**

The manual contains information on access and equity principles, and legal and funding body requirements on access & equity. It also contains specific information and practical tips for working with:

1. Young people with a disability
2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people
3. Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender young people
4. Rural and geographically isolated young people
5. Young parents
6. Young women
7. Early school leavers
8. Migrant and refugee young people
9. Young people with mental health issues
10. Young people involved with the juvenile justice system.



# Alcohol & Other Drugs Youth Sector Workforce Development Project

In December YAPA commenced a new project aimed at increasing the capacity of rural youth services to work with young people with alcohol or other drug issues.

As a first step YAPA conducted a census of 98 rural youth services about their skills, knowledge and organisational capacity to respond to alcohol or other drug issues.

Workers who participated identified a need to develop their “theory based” skills in motivational interviewing, stages of change, solution focused therapy and managing challenging behaviours. There was also strong

interest in model policies on alcohol and other drug issues.

The full findings of the census are available at [www.yapa.org.au/yapa/policy](http://www.yapa.org.au/yapa/policy).

During 2006 YAPA will implement the findings by developing a self-paced learning package and conducting learning forums in the Dubbo, Wagga Wagga and Coffs Harbour areas.

This project is funded by the NSW Drug and Alcohol Workforce Development Council and will continue in 2006.



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