



YAPA Annual Report 2006

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For a copy of our audited accounts, please see our website www.yapa.org.au or phone YAPA on 02 9319 1100 or 1800 627 323.

From the Board

This has been my first year on YAPA's Board of Governance. The Board in 2006 consisted of old and new members, each bringing to the table a wonderful creative energy and a wealth of experience and knowledge. In the tumultuous year that was 2006 we had the pleasure of working with and supporting the passionate staff at YAPA's office.

Australia faced industrial relations reform and it is with great pride that I can say YAPA worked to protect the rights of young people, especially those aged under 18 years. This work ranged from surveying young people about their experiences of negotiating at work, to staff members John Ferguson and Kristy Delaney speaking at a parliamentary inquiry.

YAPA continued its support for youth services: from liaising with the Department of Community Services to ensure that the impacts on youth services are considered under results based accountability, to hosting the Rural Youth Workers Conference in Dubbo.

In October I had the pleasure of witnessing a gathering of amazing, creative, energetic young people at YAPA's yoUth INclusive conference. These young people had the opportunity to attend a wide variety of workshops and to hear from other young people about what they were doing in their local areas. As a youth worker from Cessnock accompanying members of our Entertainment Committee, it was great at the end of each day to have the young people pull out their notebooks and with great excitement discuss the ideas they had gained that day.

In 2006 YAPA welcomed Lam Huynh to the team to implement the Youth Participation Grants Project. This project provides young people in four regions with an opportunity to put their ideas into action by providing funding for local projects. 2006 also saw YAPA launch a new website which cannot be mentioned without praising the work of Nick Manning and Joanne Bennett who made this happen. As always our Western Sydney office has been busy as well. Some of the highlights include the development of a domestic violence fact sheet and supporting the Multicultural Youth Issues Network of NSW.

Recently it was with great sadness that YAPA said goodbye to Kristy Delaney. Over the last 13 years Kristy has been involved in YAPA at a variety of levels. Since 2001 she has been at the helm as the Executive Officer and it was with a unique energy and passion that she performed her duties. The Board sincerely thanks Kristy for her invaluable contribution and wishes her all the best with her future endeavours.

YAPA thus will welcome a new Executive Officer to the fold in 2007 as it looks to continue its work to support young people and youth services in NSW. The Board thanks the wonderful staff at YAPA who make this possible and the young people, youth workers and services who are members of the organisation and support the work that YAPA does.

Rebecca Fowles
Co-Chairperson, on behalf of the Board of
Governance

Our Board of Governance in 2006

Until May 2006

Chairing panel

Emil Wajs-Chaczko, young YAPA member

Leizsha Clissold, Fusion Youth Services

Reynato Reodica, 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, Shellharbour City Council

Marisa Ingleton, young YAPA member

Meredith Turnbull, Twenty10 GLBT Youth Support

From May 2006

Chairing panel

Leizsha Clissold, Fusion Youth Services

Rebecca Fowles, Cessnock Youthlinx, Samaritans Youth Services

Reynato Reodica, young YAPA member

Secretary

Sharmila Sriskanda, Young Christian Workers

Treasurer

Steve Jones, Mission Australia (until Aug.)

Meredith Turnbull, Twenty10 GLBT Youth Support (from Aug.)

Ordinary Members

Joel Clarke, young YAPA member

Marisa Ingleton, young YAPA member

Meredith Turnbull, Twenty10 GLBT Youth Support (until Aug.)

Rick Matts, Upper Hunter Youth Services

Sharmila Sriskanda, Young Christian Workers

From the Executive Officer



2006 was another great year for YAPA!

With the introduction of WorkChoices we took a strong focus on industrial relations issues for young people by undertaking research with over 400 young people about their experiences in the workplace and their confidence in

negotiating pay and conditions. We took action by making submissions to government inquiries, conducting media work and developing a resource for schools in line with the school curriculum.

We continued work on advocating on a range of youth and youthwork issues by participating in over 20 government and non-government committees, contributing submissions to inquiries such as the Electoral Matters Inquiry and the development of the NSW State Plan.

We held two major conferences, the statewide yoUth INclusive Conference for young people, in Katoomba in October, and the Rural Youth Workers Conference, in Dubbo in November.

We conducted a workforce development project throughout rural NSW on alcohol and other drug issues and continued our very popular Survival training program, which ran 3 times in 2006.

We conducted a number of consultations including a youth sector consultation in the Riverina region, a rural Alcohol & Other Drugs Census and consultations with 100 young people about reducing alcohol related harm.

We were delighted to begin the new Youth Participation Grants Program for the south west Sydney, mid-north coast, far north coast and New England regions of NSW.

We continued to produce and publish publications including: A Place For Us, Opening The Doors: A Do It Yourself Access & Equity Manual, Girls@Work, Working with Young People on Alcohol & Other Drug Issues, and our fact sheets, YAPRap newsletter, policy positions and submissions. Our website continued to expand and several new egroups were initiated.

Many thanks to our incredibly dedicated and committed staff for their hard work during the year, and to our Board of Governance for their support.

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 2007!

Kristy Delaney
Executive Officer

Our Staff in 2006

State Office

Executive Officer (f/t)

Kristy Delaney

Policy & Training Officer (f/t)

John Ferguson

Youth Participation Grants Project Officer (p/t)

Lam Huynh (from Sept)

Communications Officer (p/t)

Nick Manning

Finance & Administration Manager (p/t)

Martair

Administration Officer (p/t)

Joanne Bennett

Student on placement

Lisa Jayne Leggett

Western Sydney Office

Western Sydney Regional Youth Development Officer (f/t)

Kylie Gordon-Wilkins

Administration Officer (p/t)

Joanne Bennett

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 2006 this included:

- Youth Participation Grants Project – NSW Department of Community Services
- Youth Alcohol Plan Consultations – NSW Health
- NSW Rural Youth Work Conference – Better Futures Orana Far West
- Hanging Out Together – Western Sydney Area Assistance Scheme, NSW Department of Community Services
- Alcohol & Other Drugs Youth Sector Workforce Development Project – NSW Drug and Alcohol Workforce Development Council, NSW Department of Education & Training
- Girls@Work – NSW Office for Women

YAPA also receives income from membership fees, training and conference fees.

Advocacy, lobbying & networking

Media

YAPA conducted a large number of media interviews during the year on the topics of industrial relations, welfare reform, P Plate proposals, mobile phone debt, poverty and many other issues.

Young people, industrial relations and the impact of WorkChoices

YAPA's major survey in 2006 addressed the impact of the Federal Government's WorkChoices legislation on young people. The new legislation significantly changes the workplace for young people from working under collective awards to one that relies on individual negotiation. Therefore, it was vital that YAPA ascertain young people's views and experiences regarding their confidence and ability to bargain on their own.

We distributed the survey across the state through our networks, and at the Big Day Out in Sydney. The results showed a preference for the award system in the workplace, a lack of confidence in negotiating pay and conditions, and the concerning likelihood of remaining in employment with poor workplace conditions. Moreover, less than 1 in 5 young people thought they would be better off negotiating their own pay and conditions.

With these results, the research received widespread coverage in the Sydney Morning Herald and on several radio stations. YAPA then made a submission to the Social Issues Committee of the NSW Parliament and was invited to give evidence in person. The committee, made up of members of the different political parties, were very receptive to the findings and their report acknowledged our work.

The new legislation significantly changes the workplace for young people from working under collective awards to one that relies on individual negotiation.

Minister Della Bosca & YAPA member Joel Clark



The continued effort of YAPA, the sector and young people on this issue was justified late in the year when the NSW Government introduced the Industrial Relations (Child Employment) Bill 2006. The Bill effectively protects young people under the age of 18 from WorkChoices by ensuring that pay and conditions offered in any Australian Workplace Agreement (AWA) are at least equivalent to those offered under the Award system.

Advocacy, lobbying & networking (continued)



Kristy Delaney from YAPA with Minister Della Bosca

Junior and trainee wages and the Australian Fair Pay Commission

In 2006, the newly formed Australian Fair Pay Commission held its first review into minimum wages. YAPA was particularly concerned about its review of junior wages and training wages paid to young people. On such an important issue, it was crucial for YAPA to engage young people, for two reasons. Firstly, and most obviously, we needed to hear how young people felt about low and minimum wages, and secondly, we wanted to highlight specific case studies to illustrate these issues.

YAPA commenced a project to inform young people, particularly young women, about their rights and responsibilities in the workplace.

Three young YAPA members and other YAPA representatives spoke at a number of press conferences with the NSW Minister for Industrial Relations, Mr Della Bosca, to discuss the changes.

This entire process demonstrates the importance and overall benefit of YAPA working effectively with young people and the sector in general to voice the concerns of young people and effect positive social change.

The consultation process resulted in two case studies being used in our submission. The first described a young woman who was forced to leave a childcare traineeship for more casual, but higher paying work. The second described a young man's difficulty surviving on the minimum wage, paying rent and food bills when living out of home. These case studies highlighted two critical issues: the inadequacy of training wages to support career orientated employment; and that a large number of young people depend heavily on this income to live.

Formulating the submission to the review was a difficult process given that the principle of fairness, central to the Australian system of industrial relations for the past 100 years, was not part of the commission's brief. The main principle considered in this new system is competitiveness. However, there is an inherent

Young people who were combining work and study found it particularly difficult to balance their work and study commitments.

relationship between competitiveness and fairness, so this change can be overcome and the same arguments can apply.

With their first decision under the new system, The Australian Fair Pay Commission preserved the pay scales from the award system for junior and training wages. They also applied a proportional increase to these minimum wages when they increased the adult wage. This was an important first step, but the issue of youth wages will be an ongoing one and it is still necessary for YAPA and the broader sector, to convey the realities for working young people and encourage improvements in pay and conditions in the workplace.

Girls@Work

YAPA, with funding from the NSW Office for Women, commenced a project to inform young people, particularly young women, about their rights and responsibilities in the workplace.

A range of focus groups and one-on-one interviews were conducted to find out about current issues facing young people at work.

Young people identified a range of things they enjoyed about their work including the people they work with, meeting new friends, helping people, learning new skills, the wages they receive, and flexible hours.

Things they didn't enjoy were being overworked, high pressure environments, not being consulted

about workplace changes, unsupportive workplaces, rosters that do not allow them to have a weekend off, long shifts, inflexible hours, dirty or hot working environments, and harassment.

Young people who were combining work and study found it particularly difficult to balance their work and study commitments.

In response we developed a resource to be used in schools in line with the NSW Board of Studies Syllabus. An experienced curriculum writer, Cassy Norris, was engaged to develop the package, along with illustrations from Fox, an artist (sample below).

The package will be distributed to NSW schools, TAFE's and youth services in 2007, and will be available on the YAPA website.



Advocacy, lobbying & networking (continued)



NSW Youth Alcohol Action Plan

YAPA participated in the Advisory Committee for the NSW Youth Alcohol Action Plan.

With funding from NSW Health, we travelled across NSW to speak to 100 young people in 11 focus groups about alcohol-related harm.

Young people raised a number of important issues and recommendations regarding getting home safely, security and police, responsible service of alcohol, labelling of alcohol, supply of non-alcoholic drinks, first aid, mental health, safe sex and safe relationships, violence, family influences, education programs, harm reduction, getting help and support and safe alternatives to drinking.

Our report *Brawls, Batons and Beer Goggles: Young people talk about negative impacts of alcohol* overviews these issues and recommendations.



The report was provided to NSW Health as feedback for the draft NSW Youth Alcohol Action Plan.

A special thank you to all of the young people who participated and the following organizations for hosting focus groups:

- Cabramatta PCYC
- Cessnock Youth Centre & Outreach Service
- Nowra Green Corps, Nowra YWCA
- Dubbo Doorways, Uniting Care Burnside
- Dubbo Too Deadly For Drugs, Uniting Care Burnside
- Rumbalara Lodge, Maya Cottage and Kara Women's Refuge, Central Coast
- Mirray Biray Youth Service, Moree
- Moree Youth Council
- Shire Wide Youth Service, Sutherland
- Southern Shoalhaven Youth Services, Ulladulla
- Youth Angle, Umina

we travelled across NSW to speak to 100 young people in 11 focus groups about alcohol-related harm.

The forum was a great opportunity for the sector to come together to discuss funding and related issues.

Youth Services Funding Policy

There are many issues that impact on youth service funding in NSW including indexation rates, award rate increases, measuring outcomes and performance, value for money, distribution of services and security of funding.

YAPA action on these issues in 2006 included:

- Hosting a one day forum on the future of the youth sector. Sixty youth workers attended, with guest speakers Dr Gul Izmir, DoCS Deputy Director General and Mr Gary Moore, Director of the NSW Council of Social Services. The forum was a great opportunity for the sector to come together to discuss funding and related issues.
- Developing a policy position on youth service funding outlining key principles and considerations. This was provided to other stakeholders and decision makers (see YAPA website).
- Participating in government committees which discuss youth service funding such as the DoCS Community Services Grants Program (CSGP) Roundtable, DoCS Stakeholder Meetings, DoCS Peak Service Specifications Advisory Group, DET Director General's Advisory Group on Multicultural Education and the DET Community Grants Advisory Group.
- Developing submissions for the Review of CSGP Funding, and the Review of Better Futures Funding.
- Participating in a working party of the NSW Council of Social Service, which developed

further recommendations on the DoCS Funding Policy.

- Providing advice to DoCS on the \$20,000 one-off capacity building grants for CSGP services. YAPA was very pleased with the DoCS announcement that these grants would be provided to every CSGP service in NSW.
- Speaking at the Mid North Coast CSGP Conference about funding reform issues, and disseminating information to the sector through updates in our newsletter, YAPRap.
- Advocating to DET for the need for appropriate and timely indexation for Links to Learning services. In April 2006 DET finally announced it would provide indexation for the 2005/2006 period, 10 months after the financial year commenced. The appropriate rate of indexation has still not been received for the 2006/2007 financial period.



Advocacy, lobbying & networking (continued)

Electoral Matters

The NSW Parliament Social Issues Committee held an inquiry into the impact of recent Federal changes to electoral enrolment laws. The legislation will directly impact on young people's ability to enrol and vote by reducing the amount of time that people can enrol after the writ for an election is issued, and by requiring more stringent proof of identity for enrolment.

The Australian Electoral Commission and YAPA both recognised that this legislation would particularly impact on young people. Young people are the most transient age group, often moving out of home for the first time and

We have actively campaigned on this issue for many years by developing submissions to government inquiries, collecting case studies and undertaking other research, working with other stakeholders, media work and making representations to decision makers. This will benefit over 100,000 apprentices and trainees in NSW.

Rural youth issues in the Riverina

In January 2006 YAPA conducted a road trip to the Riverina to consult 16 youth and community services about priority issues for young people. The findings of the consultations helped inform a number of YAPA policy positions and

This will benefit over 100,000 apprentices and trainees in NSW.

moving between rental properties. Subsequently many young people do not enrol or update their details until an election is announced.

YAPA prepared a submission to the NSW inquiry and subsequently appeared before the committee. We made recommendations on how state government agencies could address this issue, for example by forming stronger partnerships between the State Electoral Office and schools so that young people automatically enrol to vote when turning 17.

Transport concessions

After many years of campaigning by YAPA, our members and other community groups, the Ministry of Transport announced that transport concessions would be extended to apprentices and trainees on private buses.

submissions to government inquiries. Services consulted were:

- Anglicare Goulburn
- CAMHS Net, Goulburn Hospital
- Warooga Youth Refuge, Goulburn
- Southern Area Health Service, Queanbeyan
- Axis Youth Centre, Queanbeyan
- Gundagai Neighbourhood Centre
- Tumut Shire Council
- Tumbarumba Shire Council
- Riverina Aboriginal Medical Centre, Wagga
- Anglicare Wagga
- Mission Australia, Wagga
- Wagga City Council
- Hilltops Youth Service, Young
- CAMHS Young Community Centre
- Young Shire Council
- Temora Community Centre
- Temora Shire Council.

YAPA submissions to government inquiries

- NSW State Plan – NSW Government
- Review of Minimum Wages – Australian Fair Pay Commission
- CSGP Review – Department of Community Services
- Impact of WorkChoices in NSW – NSW Parliament
- Inquiry into Electoral Matters – NSW Parliament

YAPA participation in government consultations

- NSW State Plan – NSW Directors General
- Impact of WorkChoices in NSW – NSW Parliament
- Impact of WorkChoices on the social and community services sector – NSW Parliament
- Inquiry into Electoral Matters – NSW Parliament
- Proposed graffiti legislation - Office of Fair Trading & Australian Retailers Association
- CSGP Review – Department of Community Services
- Review of Better Futures – Department of Community Services
- Training Unit – Department of Community Services

YAPA participation in non-government consultations

- Tobacco and social equity - NSW Cancer Council
- NCOSS / ASU Summit on WorkChoices
- NCOSS Sector Development consultation
- Mental Health Coordinating Council Training Review
- Parramatta Social Capital and Community Development

YAPA participation in government committees & forums

- NSW Youth Interagency Taskforce
- DoCS Stakeholder Forum with Minister
- DoCS Communities Division Partners Reference Group
- DoCS Community Service Grants Program Roundtable
- DoCS Peaks Service Specifications Advisory Group
- DoCS Ethnic Advisory Group
- DoCS Youth Week Advisory Committee
- DoCS Youth Website Advisory Group
- DET Director General's Advisory Group for Multicultural Education and Training
- NSW Health Youth Alcohol Action Plan
- Department of Education Community Grants Advisory Group
- NSW Interdepartmental Committee on Refugee Issues
- Commission for Children and Young People – Young People At Work Taskforce

Advocacy, lobbying & networking (continued)

YAPA participation in key non-government committees & forums

- NSW Council of Social Services Board of Directors
- NSW Forum of Non Government Agencies & funding policy working group
- NSW Youth Justice Coalition
- NSW Multicultural Youth Issues Network
- Local Government Community Services Association – Youth Worker’s Division
- Street Workers Network
- Australian Youth Affairs Coalition - National Representative Council
- Interstate youth peaks

YAPA presentations

- NSW Youth Advisory Council
- National Youth Roundtable
- Consumer Telecommunications Network
- Mid North Coast CSGP Conference
- NGO Fair at United Nations Youth Association Conference
- Tranby Aboriginal College
- Western Sydney Young Women’s Leadership Program
- TAFE Ultimo
- TAFE Shellharbour
- TAFE Granville
- Eastern Suburbs Anti-Racism Forum
- 5th Australian & New Zealand Adolescent Health Conference

Conferences & training

yoUth INclusive Conference

The 2006 YAPA Youth Conference in Katoomba, was a great success. The Conference attracted young people from all over the state, including groups that travelled long distances from places such as Moree and Jindabyne. The energy and enthusiasm from the young participants and presenters gave the conference the fantastic atmosphere that it deserved.

The theme of the conference was youth participation in decision-making. The first day looked at examples of current youth



the young people who presented and facilitated at the conference...
did a fantastic job

participation, such as the Indigenous Youth Leadership Group, National Youth Roundtable and NSW Youth Advisory Council. But the highlight was definitely the young people's presentation on local participation. Day two was all workshops, with some games thrown in as well. These workshops included working with the media, how government works, advocacy

and lobbying, group participation, participating in meetings, and consultation and evaluation. The final day was all about the young people having their own say. In their own 'youth council' type meetings, they had to go through a process of prioritising youth issues and youth participation principles. The conference concluded with representatives of each group presenting the issues and principles that were most pertinent to them.

Living up to its theme, the conference owed its success to the young people who participated. Firstly, there were the young people on the steering committee who gave their time so freely, and secondly, the young people who presented and facilitated at the conference who did a fantastic job. Overall, the conference can be best summed up with a quote from a participant when asked about the best thing about the conference: "Everything, I really enjoyed the workshops, plus meeting up with old friends and making new ones!"



Conferences & training (continued)



Rural Youth Work Conference

In November YAPA held a 2½ day conference for 120 rural youth workers. Youth workers attended from across rural NSW from places such as Broken Hill, Cobar, Walgett, Dareton, Lismore, Bega and Brewarrina. Many of those present had never attended a conference and it was a wonderful opportunity for everyone involved to network, learn and relax!

The conference was funded by the Orana Far West Regional Officers Group and held on the grounds of the Lazy River Estate in Dubbo. The conference focussed on:

- Evidence based practice
- Prevention and early intervention
- Showcasing successful models of rural youth work
- Working with Aboriginal young people.

YAPA held a 2½ day conference for 120 rural youth workers from places such as Broken Hill, Cobar, Walgett, Dareton, Lismore, Bega and Brewarrina.

Overall 34 workshops were held on topics such as building resilience, engaging young people, working with early school leavers, transport, music events, and showcases of different types of services.

A special thank you to our local steering committee for their input into the conference:

- Anne Barnett – Greater Western Area Health Service
- Anjali Boronowski - NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs
- Jodi Burnstein – Barnados
- Leanne Clarkson – Centacare
- Angela Crisp – NSW Department of Sport & Recreation
- Jill Cross-Antony – FPA Health
- Gargi Ganguly – NSW Department of Community Services
- Alan Mounsey – Centacare
- Dale Towns – Mission Australia
- Sandy Rawson – Dubbo Neighbourhood Centre
- Michelle Furner – Dubbo Neighbourhood Centre
- Michelle Shipp – Murdi Paaki
- Clare Skovgaard – Dubbo City Council

Lam Huynh, Kristy Delaney & John Ferguson from YAPA



Survival training program

In 2006, our Survival Training for Youth Workers enjoyed another great year. Since its inception, more than 500 youth workers across NSW have participated in Survival training.

Although trying to fit the breadth of youth work into two days is difficult, YAPA aims to do this with a mix of experienced presenters from across the sector. The topics covered were access & equity, alcohol and other drugs, consultation and evaluation, engaging young people, supervision, duty of care and ethics, managing challenging behaviours, advocacy and working with the media.

YAPA would like to thank both the presenters and the participants from 2006 for making these days such a highlight during the year. Our presenters in 2006 were Stan Small, Graeme Pringle, Graeme Stuart, Kristy Delaney, Nick Manning and John Ferguson.

Thanks for the best 2 days. It has been an enjoyable learning experience.

(Survival participant, Nov. 2006)

Working with young people with alcohol & other drug issues

YAPA received funding from the Alcohol & Other Drugs Workforce Development Council to increase rural youth services' capacity to deal with young people affected by drug and alcohol issues.

The project aimed to help youth workers recognise AOD issues in young people they work with and improve their skills in client assessment, brief interventions and referral to appropriate agencies.

The project commenced with a needs analysis and 98 rural youth services participated in a service assessment. Overall, the results showed that for the average rural youth service:

- Workers felt that more than half of their clients had a moderate AOD issue or challenging behaviour issue, and 10-20% of their clients had a serious AOD or challenging behaviour issue
- Most workers had received little or limited training on AOD issues
- Workers identified a need to improve their brief intervention skills in areas such as motivational interviewing, solution focused therapy, identifying where a client is in terms of Stages of Change, and managing challenging behaviour.

The project also held consultations with appropriate stakeholders, such as Aboriginal AOD workers, to identify issues to be addressed.

YAPA, in partnership with the Ted Noffs Institute, developed a 270 page self-paced learning package which provided information about alcohol and other drugs, appropriate interventions, law and ethical issues, developing

Conferences & training (continued)



YAPA held face to face training programs in Dubbo, Wagga Wagga and Coffs Harbour

service policies, and referral and resources on AOD issues.

YAPA, in partnership with the Ted Noffs Institute, held face to face training programs in 3 locations: Dubbo, Wagga Wagga and Coffs Harbour. The program consisted of a 2 day training course, an action learning project and access to professional supervision for six weeks, then a follow-up day of training. A one day course was also held in Sydney.

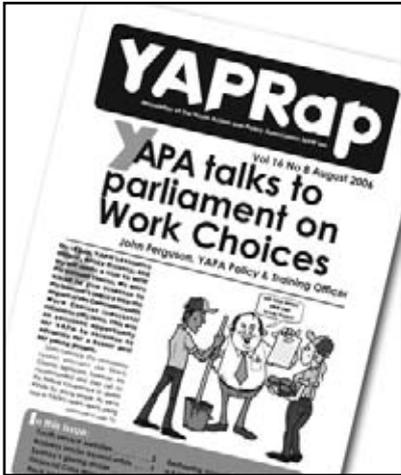
Overall 78 workers from 60 youth services participated in the program.

The self-paced learning package will be available on the YAPA website and the findings of the project were presented at the 5th Australian & New Zealand Adolescent Health Conference and to the Alcohol & Other Drugs Workforce Development Council.

YAPA also participated in the judging panel for the National Drug & Alcohol Awards.



Communications



YAPRap

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.

- stories of youth activism – showcasing what young people are doing in their communities
- stories of youthwork - showcasing youth services and programs around NSW.

In 2006 we published new facts sheets, including:

- Finding out about local youth needs
- How government works
- Is it OK? Duty of care, law & ethics in NSW youth work.

Website & publications

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 2006 the YAPA website attracted 50,000 visits and over 250,000 web hits.

In 2006 our new website design went live. Feedback has been positive and the new design is much easier to use. All YAPA publications, including those listed below, are available on the website at www.yapa.org.au.

Most YAPRap articles are now also published online. The website has a growing collection of these articles, especially:

During 2006 the YAPA website attracted 50,000 visits and over 250,000 web hits.

The website also lists current information, such as news and what's on listings for young people and youth workers.

Email news & networking

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.



Communications (continued)

Egroups: In 2006 YAPA established two new egroups:

- flya: Forum of local youth action – for active and interested young people across NSW
- FRYS: Forum of Rural Youth Services;

and continued to run egroups for:

- MYINN: Multicultural Youth Issues Network NSW (previously NYIN)
- fydo: Forum of Youth Development Officers and interagencies.

Database: YAPA maintained and expanded our database during 2006. The YAPA database records over 3000 individuals and organisations, categorised in various ways to allow us to target our communications.



Communications Officer
Nick Manning



Administration Officer
Joanne Bennett

Youth Participation Project

The Youth Participation Project (YPP) aims to encourage young people aged 12 - 25 years to more actively participate in their community through the creation and implementation of community based youth led projects.

This 12 month pilot project, which began in September 2006, has attempted to achieve its aims by providing young people with funding to create and implement local projects. Four regions of NSW were set by the funding body: south-western Sydney, New England, mid-north coast and far north coast. We hope to expand the program across NSW in the future.

The YPP steering committee has met monthly to provide support to the project worker. In 2006 the committee had representation mainly from the Communities Division of the Department of Community Services (DoCS), the YAPA Board of Governance, and the NSW Youth Advisory Council (YAC).

Being an entirely new project, considerable time had been invested in its promotion to the target population of young people. Several strategies were used in order to build community awareness of the project. YAPA commissioned

an award-winning Sydney-based graphic designer to develop a poster and brochure about the project, we featured YPP information on the YAPA website, and we mailed and emailed information to over 700 organisations.

At the end of the 12 month pilot, YAPA will produce an evaluation report for DoCS, detailing all relevant aspects of the project. It is envisaged that this evaluation will provide recommendations to DoCS about the expansion of this project across the entire state of NSW.

Special thanks to the following people for their time and support: Tony Wiseheart, Mathew Ferguson, Ebony Allen, Reynato Reodica, Suraya Turk, Sean Torstensson, Adam Marshall, Armina Soemino, Noel Baum, Noel Grannall, Emil Wajs-Chaczko, Brandon-Leith Bear, Peta Waller-Bryant, Rouel Dayoan, and Brett Collins.



Project Officer Lam Huynh

YAPA Western Sydney

Western Sydney developed *A Place For Us*, a new publication focusing on young women's access to youth services.

The YAPA Western Sydney office covers the council areas of Auburn, Bankstown, Baulkham Hills, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Holroyd, Liverpool, Parramatta and Penrith.

A Place For Us

In 2006, YAPA Western Sydney developed *A Place For Us*, a new publication focusing on young women's access to youth services.

Its aim is to increase the number of young women accessing youth services in Western Sydney by showcasing best practice examples of youth services implementing young women's programs.

Projects showcased:

- XS Project - Blue Mountains Women's Health Centre
- Girls Only - Auburn Youth Centre
- Young Parents' Network - North St Mary's Neighbourhood Centre & Mission Australia
- Girls Can Do Anything - South Penrith Youth & Neighbourhood Centre
- Girls Day – Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service
- Craft Days - Wentworthville Youth Service
- Girls Club and Hip Hop Group - Glenmore Park Youth Service
- Better Choices – Mountains Youth Services Team
- Shine - Hillsong Youth Services
- Links to Learning – YWCA Parramatta

A Place for Us Coordinator
Armina Soemino



- Care about me, care about you – Mt Druitt Integrated Youth Service
- WEEO Wiser Peer Education – Liverpool Women’s Health Centre

The publication has been distributed to youth services throughout Western Sydney and will be available on the YAPA website.

Many thanks to the Project Officer Armina Soemino who co-ordinated the project.

Domestic Violence factsheet

A new factsheet on domestic violence was developed for youth workers. The factsheet helps youth workers to increase their awareness of domestic violence, how it impacts on young people and how they can support young people who have faced domestic violence situations.

Multicultural Youth Issues Network

The Multicultural Youth Issues Network of NSW (MYINN) meets bi-monthly and consists of service providers who are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for refugee and migrant young people in NSW.



YAPA Western Sydney (continued)

MYINN was first established in 1996 and aims to coordinate statewide action, information and lobbying on issues affecting migrant and refugee young people.

YAPA actively supports MYINN and its activities.

Networking

YAPA Western Sydney regularly visits youth networks throughout Western Sydney and participates in campaigns and committees of regional significance.

In 2006 YAPA established a partnership with Western Area Adolescent Team, ACON, Twenty10 and The Warehouse to look at how to meet the needs of GLBT young people in the Nepean and Blacktown areas.

YAPA also participated in the Community Mapping Project for Parramatta City Council.



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