



yapa annual report 2009





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For a copy of YAPA's financial statements, please see www.yapa.org.au/yapa, or contact us.

What is YAPA

YAPA is the peak organisation representing young people and youth services in NSW. YAPA works towards a society where all young people are supported, engaged and valued. 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, as well as separate core funding for the operations of YAPA's Western Sydney Project. YAPA also receives funding from a range of other funding providers. In 2009 this included:

- Youth Participation Grants Program – Communities Division, NSW Department of Community Services
- Making Tracks - Better Futures, NSW Department of Community Services
- What's Up West - Bankstown, Blacktown, Fairfield, Holroyd, Liverpool, Parramatta and The Hills Councils

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

From the Board

The past term has been a busy and productive period for YAPA. It gives me great pleasure to report on several of the highlights on behalf of the Chairs. A monumental achievement was moving premises after such a long time. The YAPA team need to be congratulated on ensuring such a smooth transition from one premises to another.

The major highlight for the year was the YAPA Youth Work Conference. It was well attended by participants from the youth sector and beyond, and the program was innovative, dynamic and topical, offering some excellent speakers and workshop sessions. Both I and George Mudford (Co-Chair) attended and it was fantastic to witness such a vibrant atmosphere and to see firsthand the level of networking and positive interaction between conference delegates, presenters and YAPA

staff and the striving for better service delivery, political reform and improvements for youth occurring at so many levels.

The conception and introduction of the youth publication unleash proved to be another achievement and the publication has gone from strength to strength and is overflowing with relevant, useful and youth focused information and articles for young people. Of course, the YAPA team is continually working to better the magazine so that it attracts a wider audience which pays testament to the organisation's commitment to reaching as many young people as possible and to striking a chord with them in order to get their views and voices heard.

- Nicky Johnson, Co-Chair, Board of Governance



From the Chief Executive

The year 2009 was one where vast and varied changes took place at YAPA. In the first few months, our two key positions in Western Sydney and Policy & Training were both filled; with new staff members who brought energy and fresh perspectives to the organisation.

Meanwhile, the sale of our old office space meant that our team had to find a new home (on the same street as YAPA's first office back in 1990!) and get used to the opportunities and challenges that the changed office environment brought with it. Moving from a three-storey terrace house with narrow stairs, small rooms and no private meeting space, to an open plan office that we could change to suit our needs created short-term challenges but longer-term wins. We had to re-learn how to work with each other to take advantage of more opportunities to collaborate and set up new systems to ensure all the little things that might be taken for granted were covered.

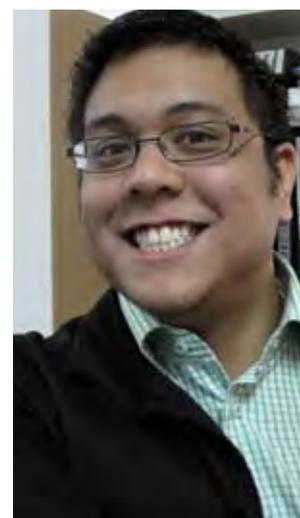
It is an incredible testament to the entire YAPA team that within all that kerfuffle, we still managed to serve young people and youth services in NSW in a way that we can all be proud. Indeed, the first edition of our wonderfully well-received new magazine,

unleash: youth action and opinion was compiled amidst boxes and tape and cleaning products.

One major disappointment, however, was the defunding of the YAPA Youth Participation Grants Program, with an arbitrary decision made without warning by the previous Minister for Youth. Thankfully, YAPA was able to secure enough funding to ensure support for previously funded youth projects and to chronicle some of the incredible knowledge base those young people had built up over the past three years. We will continue to seek resources to create real opportunities for the participation of young people across the state.

It is my privilege to work with such a fantastic organisation, including both Board and fellow staff members, who show such a tireless commitment to furthering the interests of young people in NSW, and the services that support them. We have achieved much throughout 2009, as can be seen throughout this annual report, and have a great deal of momentum built up for 2010 and beyond!

- Reynato Reodica, Chief Executive



Who's who at YAPA

George, Michelle, Nicky,
Arjun, Damian



Board of Governance

Elected for 12 months until May 2009

Chairing panel: Brandon Bear, Youth Accommodation Association; Rebecca Fowles, Cessnock Youthlinx, Samaritans Youth Services; Armina Soemino, YAPA youth member

Secretary: Arjun Bisen, YAPA youth member

Treasurer: (vacant)

Ordinary Members: Lakin Agnew, Kurri Kurri Community Centre; Nicky Johnson, Stretch-a-Family; Fiona Morrison, Gosford City Council; Sonja Golovchenko, WESDARC

Aboriginal Member: Martin Drennan, YAPA youth member

Elected for 12 months from May 2009

Chairing Panel: Nicky Johnson, Stretch-a-Family; George Mudford, Youth Accommodation Association; Samantha Clemente, YAPA youth member

Treasurer: Arjun Bisen, YAPA youth member

Secretary: (vacant)

Ordinary members: Lakin Agnew, Kurri Kurri Community Centre; Damian Cooper, Mountains Youth Services Team; Michelle Ackerman, YPSpace MNC; Bree Dennis, Greater Taree Council

Aboriginal Member: Martin Drennan, YAPA youth member

Staff

YAPA, like many peak bodies, has a **core** and some **projects**. The core performs our key work that continues year after year. Projects have their own funding, add something more specialised to our work, and may last for half a year, or for many years.

Core staff

Rey Reodica (Chief Executive) manages YAPA and represents the NSW youth sector to government and the media. In 2009 he worked on several key issues, including AYAC, CSGP and KTS (below), as well as many others.

Emily May (Policy & Training Officer) joined YAPA in March 2009 and was immediately very

busy with the NSW Youth Workers Conference, our rural road trip and forum in Bathurst, school-community partnerships, young drivers, and the work of the Youth Justice Coalition on bail and other issues. She was also a major contributor to Survival Training for Youth Workers, and *unleash* magazine.

Joanne Bennett (Administration Officer) is probably the staff member who has the most to do with the wider world. As well as handling many behind-the-scenes administration and communications tasks, she is our "receptionist", fielding most of the many and varied requests and questions that come in to a peak body like YAPA.



Rey, Emily, Leah, Joanne, Martair, Lam, Nick

Martair (part-time Finance & Administration Manager)

keeps the financial and administration side of things ticking over at YAPA. In 2009 her big project was moving YAPA to new premises, with all the difficulties that can go with that... but we are now very comfortable in our big open plan office!

Nick Manning (part-time Communications Manager)

manages how YAPA communicates with the large NSW youth sector, a role which includes publications like *yaprap* and *unleash*, the website, *YAPA Latest* email news, e-groups, and our mega-database which records over 4500 individuals and organisations, essential for good communications with the wider world.

Jess Carter (4 hours/week *unleash* Editor)

is the primary staff member working on *unleash* magazine, producing something huge in an amount time that can only be described as tiny.

Project staff

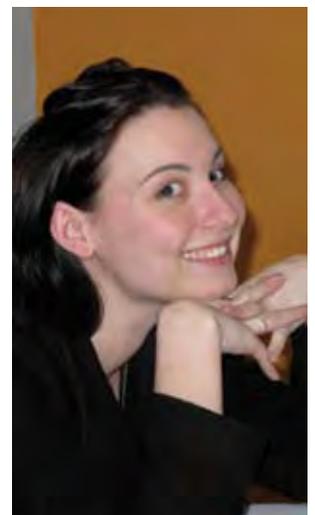
Western Sydney Project: In March 2009

Leah Weber (Western Sydney Project Coordinator) joined the YAPA team. Jumping in the deep end, she quickly geared up with several major projects described below. Leah was also a major contributor to Survival Training for Youth Workers, the NSW Youth Workers Conference, Tackling Tobacco training, MYINN and *unleash* magazine (see below).

Casual staff member **Pia Birac** organised *What's Up West?* – the Western Sydney youth conference with Leah Weber and core staff.

Youth Participation Grants Program: Lam Huynh, who had been with the Program (described below) since its inception in 2006, left YAPA in April. For the remainder of 2009, the Program was administered by part-time staff members **Tina Dryden, Virginia Kenyon** and **Pia Birac**.

From left to right: Jess; Pia & Leah; Tina



Connecting up the youth sector



Meredith Turnbull,
AYAC Director

YAPA has a major role in networking - building connections between people and organisations for the benefit of young people. Sometimes this is as simple as referring an email query to another agency. Sometimes it involves ongoing support for another organisation or a network.

AYAC

YAPA worked with fellow members and supporters of the national peak, the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) to transition the organisation from its unfunded model into a robust and responsive vehicle to champion the interests of young Australians and the sector that supports them. YAPA, other AYAC members and the new staff team spent 2009 building relationships with key players in youth affairs at the national level and working with members to build its base for the 2010 election year. YAPA continued to play a key role in AYAC through its membership of the organisation's Board and policy development mechanisms, as well as hosting AYAC staff through the formative period of their team.



Kim Bush & Charlie Coorey,
fydo members

LG&YDN and fydo

YAPA provides administrative support to the Local Government & Youth Development Network of NSW (LG&YDN). The network comprises youth development officers from across NSW and meets quarterly in Sydney. In 2009 YAPA organised a full day gathering of the LG&YDN prior to the NSW Youth Work Conference.

YAPA also runs fydo - the Forum of Youth Development Officers and interagencies in NSW - an e-group for questions and discussion. Because the membership and purpose of LG&YDN overlaps with that of fydo, fydo also acts as the mailing list for LG&YDN.

MYINN

The MYINN (Multicultural Youth Issues Network of NSW) has been supported by YAPA since 1993, and for the last few years this support has been in the form of 4 hours per week of staff time to convene the network. 2009 saw the re-energising of the MYINN, a once strong network that due to the loss of funding in 2002 had been somewhat quiet over the past few years. Once again the MYINN started to meet bi-monthly to work together in advocating on behalf of CALD young people in NSW.

Achievements in 2009 included a submission to the FECCA report 'Developing a National Model for Multicultural Youth Programs Based on Best Practice Initiatives', and a workshop at the YAPA NSW Youth Work Conference.

The most exciting development of 2009 saw the National Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (NMYAN) secure funding from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) to conduct capacity building work amongst the states. NSW was identified a priority state, and therefore in 2010 the MYINN will have a part-time worker to strengthen the network even more.

YAPA's seat at the table

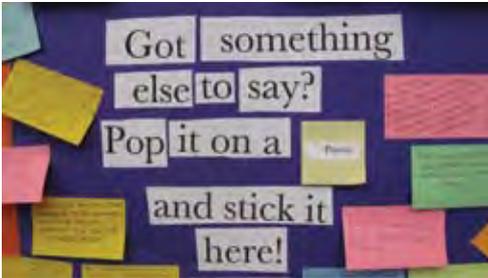
In 2009 YAPA was an active member of:

- Attorney-General's Youth Conduct Orders Advisory Committee
- AYAC Executive (later Board of Governance) - Australian Youth Affairs Coalition
- FONGA - Forum of Non-Government Organisations
- Forum of State & Territory Youth Peaks
- National Children's and Youth Law Centre - Board of Directors
- NSW Child Protection Advisory Group - Minister for Community Services
- NSW Youth Justice Coalition
- Young people and emergency services advisory group - Office of the Minister for Emergency Services

some participants at YAPA's Rural Youth Issues Forum in Bathurst



Supporting young people



Youth Conduct Orders

YAPA has kept a keen, yet critical, eye on the implementation of Youth Conduct Orders (YCOs) in NSW, through its participation on the Attorney-General's Department YCO Advisory Council and various media engagements. YCOs are based on UK style anti-social behaviour orders and so raise concerns about possibilities of misuse in relation to highly visible groups of young people and the

YAPA in the media

YAPA gained the following media coverage of youth issues in 2009:

- Changes to Youth Allowance for uni entrants & Youth Compact (earn or learn) - ABC South East Radio
- Indian students, street violence, multicultural issues –Triple J Hack – The Shake Up
- Lowering the voting age - The Australian, 2UE (Sydney), 6PR (Perth) and ABC PM program (National)
- National Binge Drinking Strategy funding - ABC South East Radio
- Natural disasters, multicultural young people, changes to Youth Allowance for uni entrants – Triple J Hack – The Shake Up
- Political participation of young people - Bathurst regional radio
- What's Up West? Western Sydney Youth Conference - Fairfield Champion
- YAPA young driver's survey - Sydney Morning Herald
- YAPA funding innovative youth project for young drivers – Sydney Morning Herald
- Youth Conduct Orders - The National Interest (ABC Radio National) in-depth interview
- Young people in gangs – freelance media

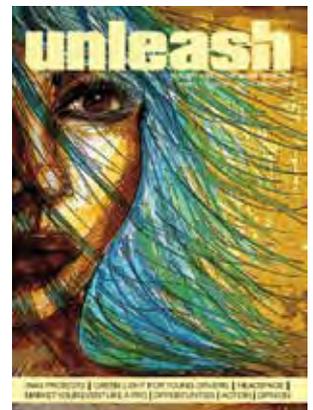
unintended impacts on existing aspects of the young offenders system, including youth justice conferencing and the use of cautions under the Young Offenders Act.

Bail Me Out

A research report, *Bail Me Out: NSW young offenders and bail*, by the Youth Justice Coalition (of which YAPA is an active member), examined 145 cases before the NSW Children's Court. The research described the circumstances in which a young person was likely to be breached on their bail. It examined the links between homelessness, policing practices and community resources. The findings described how police monitoring of minor breaches creates a revolving door where young people are detained, appear in court and are released without changes to their bail conditions. The lack of support for young people to meet their bail conditions also leads to longer periods on remand, particularly for girls and the 12 to 14 year age group. Among other things, YAPA assisted with media and promotion of the report.

unleash

In May 2009 YAPA achieved a long-held ambition: an ongoing publication of youth opinion and action. *unleash* is a bimonthly full colour magazine edited by a young person with most contributions by young people. By year's end articles were arriving unsolicited, which is always a good sign. 500 copies are distributed to members and subscribers across NSW, with great feedback, and some groups pay extra for a bulk subscription.



Young Driver Issues

Following consultations with youth service workers and road safety officers, YAPA established a working party to address the current barriers young people face to getting their license. The group met several times to develop an action plan for moving forward to address young driver issues. This work involved liaison with NRMA Motoring and Services and collaboration with the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) to hold two young driver forums.

Supporting youth services

School and community partnerships

Throughout 2009 YAPA conducted extensive consultations with teachers, Department of Education (DET), NSW Secondary Principals Council and youth service workers to identify best practice examples of school and community partnerships, as well as the barriers to and enablers of school and community partnerships.

YAPA is the peak body for non-residential youth services in NSW, which means that much of our work aims to support, resource and represent those services and the youth workers who work in them. YAPA has a strong membership base among youth services, but provides support to other youth services too. In addition to our huge website, our regular YAPA Latest emails to 2000 youth workers, and picking up the phone when an individual youth worker has a question, two of our popular resources are:

yaprap: our bimonthly newsletter of youth issues and youth work, with over 750 copies distributed to our members and subscribers in both hard copy and in PDF via email and website downloads. yaprap articles are written by outside contributors and by YAPA staff, including our casual feature writers such as Isabel Seidel. YAPA appreciates how much all writers enhance the quality and relevance of yaprap for its readers in the youth sector.

youth work ethical dilemmas: published in yaprap, in YAPA Latest emails and on our ethics blog, and youth workers submit their responses to the blog. Youth workers tell us that they find the dilemmas to be valuable as discussion points in team and network meetings.

2009 YAPA Youth Work Conference

In September 2009 YAPA held our biennial NSW Youth Work Conference at the Sebel Hotel, Surry Hills. The theme of the conference: *Activate. Collaborate. Celebrate*, was reflected in a diversity of workshops, presentations and debates designed to empower youth workers with skills and knowledge to act on issues affecting young people and the youth services sector, provide opportunities for networking, and to celebrate the achievements of the sector. 109 participants attended, representing youth workers at all different levels of experience from all over NSW. The success of the conference was reflected in positive feedback from participants, presenters and staff.

Rural road trip and forum

Rey Reodica and Emily May went on a rural road trip around the Central West region of NSW in November 2009, visiting a variety of different youth services, including headspace Bathurst, ArtsOutWest and Bathurst High



School. The trip culminated in a forum, where YAPA and local youth service workers collaborated on a number of presentations and discussion about issues facing young people and youth service workers in the region.

Survival training

YAPA's Survival Training for Youth Workers was held twice in Parramatta and twice in Sydney. Usually full, the two-day Survival training successfully meets the needs of new youth workers, while also being beneficial to those more experienced youth workers who would like to refresh their skills and knowledge. Particularly popular topics include engaging young people, mental health, alcohol and other drugs, managing challenging behaviours and duty of care and ethics.

YAPA is very grateful to all of the presenters who come and share their expertise, including Ian Heininger, Regina Nagy, Phil Nunn, Lyndal Power, Stan Small, and Graeme Pringle.

Tackling tobacco with young people

In 2009, Cancer Council NSW funded YAPA and the NSW Association for Youth Health (NAYH) to deliver training workshops to the youth and youth health sectors in Sydney, Parramatta, Taree and Lismore. These workshops aimed to build the knowledge, skills and capacity of workers to prioritise youth smoking in routine case work and deliver smoking cessation advice to clients.

A total of 46 youth workers and health workers participated, and overall the training workshops were well received. The majority of participants reported increased: knowledge of youth smoking related issues and supportive resources and tools; confidence to incorporate smoking cessation strategies into routine service delivery and case work practice; and intention to address smoking related issues with their clients in the future.



Drumbeat training at the conference

Keep Them Safe (KTS)

The NSW Government released the *Keep Them Safe* action plan in early 2009 as its response to the Wood inquiry into child protection services. YAPA was invited to sit on the Child Protection Advisory Group (CPAG), chaired by the Minister for Community Services and tasked with providing advice on the implementation of *Keep Them Safe* and its possible impacts on young people and the services that support them. The impacts of these reforms across the service sector are stark, for both child protection focused organisations and those services with limited links to that section of the service system. YAPA has worked in partnership with other members of CPAG and members of its subcommittees focused on the service system, community and carers, to ensure that all parts of the service system are able to implement the changes as painlessly as possible, for the benefit of children and young people in need.

YAPA also formed strong partnerships with the "Keep Them Safe Peaks" (AbSec, ACWA, Create Foundation, NSW FamS, LCSA and NCOSS) to deliver a series of cross-sector forums and events. These forums aimed to provide consistent information to the community sector, as well as to ensure there were more opportunities for services and other peaks to provide feedback on KTS implementation issues directly to government representatives.

CSGP

In 2009, the long fight for reasonable funding levels for the Community Services Grants Program (CSGP) took several turns. YAPA worked with its CSGP peak partners, in particular NCOSS, Local Community Services Association and NSW Family Services, to continue its campaign at a number of levels. The Community Services budget for 2009/10 had an even heavier focus on child protection and *Keep Them Safe*, and therefore the bid for increased CSGP funding was unsuccessful. Despite this, YAPA and its peak partners remain resilient and resolute in our work to ensure all MPs and Ministers are supportive of their local CSGP services and we continue to hold out hope for the first increase in CSGP funding since 1995.

Targeted CSGP Capacity Building Project

The capacity of CSGP-funded youth services, family services and neighbourhood centres to deal with the complex changes to governance and compliance requirements over the past two decades, with gradual erosion of funding over that period, has been a continuing area of interest for YAPA and its partners in the Local Community Services Association (LCSA) and NSW Family Services (FamS). LCSA received funding from Community Services to provide governance consultancy support to CSGP funded services, ranging from advice over the phone, to more intensive work with organisations and their boards. YAPA provided project direction and support through its participation in the project steering committee.

YAPA staff Leah, Tina, Joanne, Martair, Emily, Rey (with YAPA mascot dogs)



YAPA presentations

In addition to our major activities outlined elsewhere in this report, YAPA gave these presentations and panel talks during 2009:

- Childrens Librarians Alliance Western Sydney (CLAWS)
- DoCS Cumberland Combined Services Network
- Hawkesbury Youth Summit
- NSW Youth Advisory Council
- Tranby Aboriginal College
- Ultimo TAFE Youth Work class

Other YAPA participation

As well as our major strategies outlined elsewhere in this report, YAPA participated in the following:

- CAAH Youth Health Policy consultation
- Consultations with NSW headspace sites
- Marrickville Youth Forum
- PIAC Human Rights Youth Consultation forum
- Rights Here, Rights Now youth forum: assisted with forum
- Youth Health Council (YHC) meetings

Western Sydney Project

YAPA is funded to run a discrete project for young people and youth service providers in Western Sydney. Basically, YAPA's Western Sydney Project is a smaller version of YAPA concentrated specifically on the 11 local government areas of the region: Auburn, Bankstown, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Holroyd, Liverpool, Parramatta, Penrith and The Hills.

The project was initiated many years ago as the area has such a large and diverse population of young people. Whilst the work of the Western Sydney Project prioritises young people, youth workers and youth services specifically in Western Sydney, the project also adds value to YAPA's broader statewide work.

In addition to the projects described below, Project Coordinator Leah Weber travelled around Western Sydney attending numerous local interagencies, government and non-government consultations, disseminated information across Western Sydney, and made both phone and email referrals. She also threw in a bit of media representation, presentations, policy work and articles just for fun.

What's Up West?

8 December 2009 saw the YAPA Western Sydney Project hold *What's Up West?*, a one day youth conference. The aim was to allow young people aged 12 – 18 years who live, work or study in Western Sydney the opportunity to express their opinion on issues that are important to them and to offer ideas and solutions for these issues.

The conference was held at the Riverside Theatres in Parramatta, and young people discussed topics in focus groups, and offered their opinions through more creative mediums such as a post-it note opinion wall and video diary room.

"I think today's been absolutely awesome, we need another one, like next year. This is a really good venue. Today's ... the best Youth Conference we've been to... I love how all the conversations were so informal. It was awesome."

YAPA has compiled a report of the conference findings and we will use it to guide the workplans of both the Western Sydney Project



Coordinator and Outburst! – The Western Sydney Youth Forum over the next 2 years.

Outburst!

The Western Sydney Youth Forum (WSYF) has been an integral component of the Western Sydney Project for many years. 2009 saw a new group formed - 17 young people aged 13–23 joining forces with the Western Sydney Project Coordinator to work on making Western Sydney a better place for young people. The 2009 crew were so enthusiastic that they even decided that WSYF needed a more dynamic name, and hence dubbed themselves *Outburst!*

Outburst! meet once a month in a different area of Western Sydney each time so that the young people involved can experience the diversity (and public transport issues!) of each area. YAPA supports their work, and offers any necessary training and resources they require.

Their first task was to organise *What's Up West?* and they did a brilliant job in making the event a tremendous success! Their next mission is to select two of the recommendations from the conference to start acting on in 2010.

Graffiti

The great graffiti debate has been on YAPA's radar for many years, and 2009 saw more policy and legislative developments that had us launching the fight once again.

From the implementation of a policy at one council that prevented many youth and community services from conducting legal aerosol art programs, to the removal of many legal walls, to the amendment of the Graffiti Control Act 2008 to make it illegal for any person to carry a graffiti implement with the intention that it be used to damage or deface property (this doesn't just include spray cans, but pens, markers and even keys!), the war is not only on graffiti, but on young people as well.

singer from A Bad Day's Goodnight, band at *What's Up West?*



YAPA set about defending the rights of young people and youth services by writing to local and state governments, attending community consultations (such as the Blue Mountains Graffiti Summit), and responding to the media.

We also teamed up with academics, graffiti writers, local police and young people to present the Graffiti Debate at the NSW Youth Work Conference with the aim of bringing the debate further into the open. Through this, YAPA has formed many valuable partnerships to continue our work in 2010.

Making Tracks



Making Tracks aimed to build capacity in mainstream youth services to better engage Aboriginal young people.

The project had two stages: a one day forum where participants had the opportunity to learn cultural competencies

for working with Aboriginal young people, and hear about successful programs. The second stage was a small grants program, where service providers had the opportunity to work with other services from their area in developing a project to assist in the engagement of Aboriginal young people.

YAPA also published a fact sheet: *Working with Aboriginal Young People: A Guide for Youth Workers* - with much positive feedback received.

Funded by the Department of Community Services (DoCS) Better Futures Strategy, *Making Tracks* targeted youth workers

from Metro South West region (Bankstown, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Liverpool, Wingecarribee and Wollondilly). With the guidance and support of a local steering committee, YAPA partnered with *The Echidna Group – Indigenous Research and Development Consultancy* to develop and deliver the project. Casual staff member Virginia Kenyon also contributed much to *Making Tracks*.

FAR Reaching Leadership

The FAR Reaching Leadership Program aims to develop the leadership and management competencies of new and emerging leaders and managers in the Not For Profit (NFP) sector in NSW through a 10-month facilitated learning program. The program runs from October 2009 until June 2010. There are two concurrent streams: one group based in the city and the other in Parramatta. Participants develop their management and leadership capacities through a structured participant led program using adaptive leadership and action learning theories. The FAR Reaching Leadership Program is funded by the Westpac Foundation and the Parramatta Leagues Club. YAPA administers the funds for the Western Sydney component.

Also...

- Convened Western Sydney Advisory Committee (Western Sydney YDOs)
- Attended Auburn, Bankstown, Blacktown/ Mt Druitt (MBYSN), Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Holroyd/Parramatta, Liverpool, Penrith & The Hills youth interagencies
- Met with Western Sydney Community Forum re: youth issues and possible partnerships
- Attended MacUnity Network meeting



Leah and a youth worker at Equal Pay rally in August



Outburst!

Youth Participation Grants

Grants Program ends

It was with shock and disappointment in 2009 that YAPA found out that the Youth Participation Grants Program (YPGP) funding would be discontinued without notice, nor reason. The YPGP received a glowing independent review in its pilot year, had been successfully rolled out statewide and was delivering amazing results. Despite the cessation of grants, YAPA is thankful to the then Communities Division, DoCS, for giving YAPA the opportunity to ensure that young people had support to finalise their projects throughout the 2009/10 financial year, and to document the inspiring work completed by NSW young people with a commitment to their communities, in a book to be completed in 2010.

The Youth Participation Grants Program (YPGP) aimed to encourage young people between 12 and 25 years to more actively participate in their community through the creation and implementation of community based youth led projects. Since the success of the 2007 12 month pilot, the program has provided over 47 groups of young people with funding to create and implement local projects.

The grants give young people across the state the opportunity to apply for up to \$5,500, and project support from YAPA, to help their ideas become a reality. These ideas must be made by young people, implemented by young people and for the benefit of young people in the wider community. 18 projects, a total of \$49,890, were funded in 2009.

These projects are a testament to the young people of NSW, their enthusiasm, skill and commitment to making a positive contribution to the community they live in.

Scream Screen Zombie Festival



Maitland - \$3500: A Zombie Short film competition open to young people between the ages of 12 and 25 living in NSW. Finalists screening were held in Newcastle providing exposure and prizes for youth participants.

Piggybacking on the National Young Writers Festival, Scream Screen stumbled to a start with a massive Zombie March For Undead Rights down the Newcastle waterfront to the China Club Arts Hub. Face painting was available and a Zombie Zine was produced and given out on the day. 5 films were shown, to an audience of around 400 people. The Festival was a huge success and the group is hoping to secure further grants so it can continue supporting young film makers. The young people involved are now pursuing careers related to event management and performance.

Bake Sale for Art



South Sydney, Newcastle & Wollongong - \$1150: A themed monthly event aimed at showing art and creating discussion of art in Sydney and surrounding areas.

This project aimed to encourage more members

of the public to engage critically with art. The YAPA grant paid for the first of a series of nights run by the group. Each night would be curated around a theme such as 'POP' with emerging artists, curators and writers to exchange ideas about their art via performance, experimental experience and baking. The group has slowly built the project up to being sustainable through its connections with various established art venues. The project has been hugely successful and become a regular fixture on the Sydney art scene.

OW Designz

Minto - \$4000: OW Designz utilised various forms of art to showcase local fashion and through fashion, explored issues of identity and multiculturalism. Workshops were held to develop the skills of local designers and models.

The project showcased the many talents of young Polynesian youth at the Pacific Awards Night run by South West Sydney Regional Advisory Council. They presented a contemporary section with Polynesian clothing and a traditional Samoan dance group, as well as Polynesian hair designs inspired by Polynesian myths. The show was a great success with 500 in attendance. From this event OW Designz have received many more opportunities to perform in the community and continue to do so.

Other projects in 2009

Moovers, Soothers and Groovers

– Lismore: \$4500: A dance party aimed at supporting community participation program users in mixing with culturally diverse groups and building on the young CCP users life skills by engaging them in aspects of the dance party's organisation.

Through Your Eyes - Byron Bay: \$1960:

An interactive art exhibition incorporating a range of art forms from dance to sculpting. Prior to the exhibition workshops were held to develop the talents of young people in the area and a support network was available for those involved in the exhibition. It is aimed to provide young people with an opportunity to develop and showcase their talents.

Music Literacy – Balmain: \$3000: A program of 6 hip hop classes aimed at providing young people in the area with fun, creative and productive entertainment.

Youth Media Guerrillas (YMG) – Fairfield:

\$4300: The project provided a group of young people with media training and resources aimed at enabling them to build good publicity for young people.

Youth Orientated Living Library – Illawarra:

\$5500: A one day exhibition where young people become "living books" with the opportunity to tell their story. It is aimed at giving both young people and the wider community the opportunity to interact in a positive way.

Connecting Country Kids – Condobolin:

\$3900: A two day camp for youth between the ages of 12 to 17 from Condobolin to Orange, aimed at providing young people with the opportunities to develop their social and leadership skills by encouraging them to participate in the organisation of the camp.

Day on the Green - Broken Hill: \$2500: A

project being run by Broken Hill SRC, Day on the Green aims to bring the local community together, including young people from other local schools, for a day of informative seminars and outdoor activities.

Koori Camping: Darlington Point: \$2500:

The project involves establishing weekend camps for Koori kids, run by Waddi Housing and Advancement Corporation Ltd. The camps are primarily targeted at boys in the area and the aim is to provide positive experiences for young at the same time as keeping them out of trouble.

Beg, Borrow, Steal – Newtown: \$2500: An innovative performance art opportunity for aspiring writers, combining online mediums like Twitter as well as live theatre, over a period of three months.

Skin and Coffee – Gerringong: \$3000: A safe and accessible, all ages music event to provide an opportunity for entertainment without risk taking in the Kiama area.

Green Light – Bondi: \$940: A research and consultation project aimed at examining the feasibility of establishing a free or subsidised driving school for young people who have difficulty completing the required 120 hours of supervised driving, including those living in out of home care, in rural areas or from low socio-economic backgrounds.

Youth Fringe Arts Festival – Manly: \$4300:

The 3 week Youth Fringe Arts Festival aims to showcase genres of art popular with young people including hip hop, punk and hardcore art and music, as well as the talents of young people from different cultures, with disabilities and of different sexual orientations.

Amazing Race – Burwood: \$1800: A

recycling art competition where young people collect waste products and recyclables from local stores and turn them into artworks.

Waves and Melodies - Port Macquarie/

Hastings: \$1500: two music events over the coming months to provide entertainment and performance opportunities to young people in the Hastings Region. It is aimed at "breaking the cultural drought" that young people have experienced since the loss of the PCYC in the area.

Sistars Galz – DVD Resource Kit - Albury

– Wodonga: \$3500: The project involves the development of a DVD to promote the local Indigenous Mentoring Program and camp to other Indigenous girls in the community.



OW Designz

YAPA influencing government

As well as our major strategies outlined elsewhere in this report, YAPA took the following opportunities to influence government policy and practice:

- **Area Assistance Scheme changed to “Community Builders”** – consultation attended with Communities Division, DoCS
- **Aboriginal Child Sexual Assault (ACSA) Multimedia Awareness Campaign** – attended steering committee facilitated by the NSW Attorney Generals Department
- **Australian Youth Forum, youTHINK consultation** – attended with Federal Minister for Youth
- **Brighter Futures** – recommendation to expand to 9-14 year olds - input to DoCS process under the Child Protection Advisory Group
- **CCYP funding and policy arrangements** – Met with NSW Commissioner for Children and Young People three times re: concerns about new funding and youth policy arrangements.
- **Domestic violence and child protection** – input into Wood implementation process
- **Environmental Volunteering Forum** – attended and facilitated a small group
- **Federal government – Effective communication with young people** – consultation on research project
- **Graffiti Management Policy** – correspondence with Parramatta City Council
- **Graffiti policy positions** – correspondence with Attorney Generals Department
- **Human Rights Act** – submission from Youth Justice Coalition and letter to Prime Minister and Minister for Youth in support of submissions for a human rights act
- **Jobs Fund** – Roundtable discussion in Bankstown with Prime Minister
- **Juvenile Justice policy** – Contributed to the Noetics Strategic Review of NSW Juvenile Justice System, through participation in consultation meetings and organising focus groups with young people in the JJ system
- **Minimum wages and junior wages** – evidence given to Australian Fair Pay Commission
- **NSW State Plan** – community leaders consultation on review
- **NSW State Plan Stakeholders Forum** – gave feedback on “Clever State” and “Keeping People Safe”
- **National youth issues** – consultation with DEEWR consultants, Social Compass
- **National Youth Participation Requirement** – Youth Justice Coalition met with NSW Department of Education re: concerns about the impact on young people at risk of entering the juvenile justice system
- **National Youth Strategy** – sector consultation with DEEWR
- **National approach to industrial relations for young people** – met with Commissioner for Children and Young People
- **NSW Domestic and Family Violence Strategic Framework** – consultation by the Office for Women’s Policy
- **NSW Health Regional Intake and Referral Services (now “Family Referral Services”)** – consultation on proposed models
- **Parliamentary Inquiry into Issues for 9-14 year olds in NSW** – YAPA gave verbal evidence, which was quoted / referenced a number of times in Report
- **New Government Department restructure** – letters suggesting the alignment of youth policy and programs within departmental restructure were endorsed by Department of Premier and Cabinet
- **Transport options for young people in Western Sydney** – met with Community Transport Officer from The Ministry of Transport and attended Transport Policy Advisory Group (TPAG)
- **Youthblock Health Service** – letter sent to Sydney South West Area Health Service in support of Youthblock
- **Youth Homelessness Summit** – attended by YAPA and hosted by NSW Youth Advisory Council and CCYP





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