

Annual Report

2015-16



Youth Affairs
Council Victoria

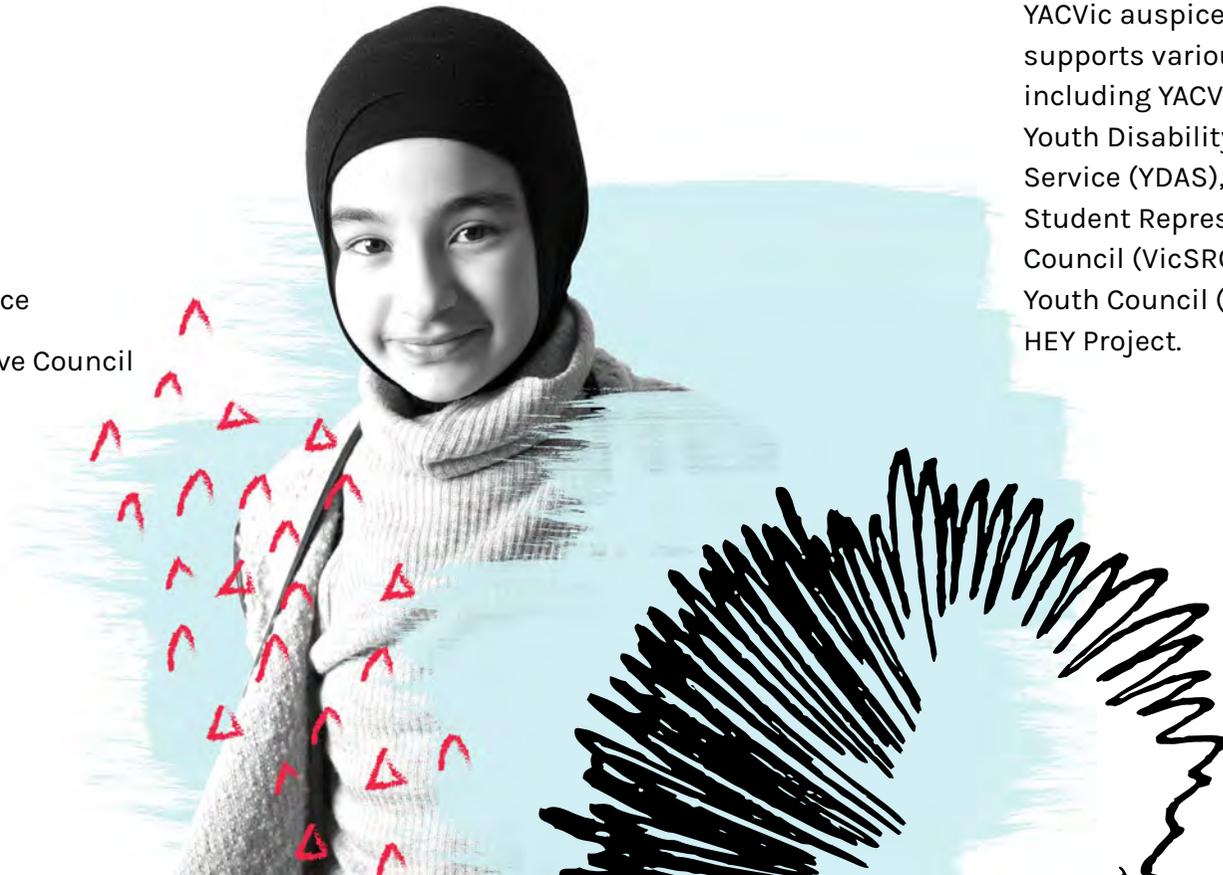
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About YACVic

YACVic is governed by a volunteer board and managed by a paid secretariat. We are a not-for-profit, member-driven organisation with our core funding coming from the Department of Health and Human Services through the Office for Youth.

YACVic auspices and supports various agencies, including YACVic Rural, the Youth Disability Advocacy Service (YDAS), the Victorian Student Representative Council (VicSRC), the Koorie Youth Council (KYC), and the HEY Project.





Chairpersons' Report

It is amazing how quickly a year goes by when the work you are so invested in grows, strengthens and develops momentum. This is definitely true of the fast-paced and extraordinary year YACVic has had, and as the heads of the Board, we have felt incredible pride in its work and achievements over the past 12 months. We are therefore proud to present to our valued YACVic members the Annual Report for 2015-16.

A strong peak body is critical to the strength and success of the youth sector and a Victorian community in which young people are engaged in community, education and employment, are respected and valued, and have opportunities to lead and succeed. What we have witnessed and supported this financial year is an organisation that has listened to its members, worked with and for its young people, and led many significant strategic initiatives with and on behalf of its youth sector. This has been a year of opportunity, thinking differently and establishing new linkages and collaborations for future work.

YACVic has launched its Strategic Plan (2016-2019) and continues to be at the forefront of innovation in the realm of youth participation by beginning a process of reimagining and activating what youth participation will mean to this

organisation in the future. Growth is occurring in many facets of YACVic's work including Rural, YDAS and KYC. The team have moved one floor upstairs in the current office complex to cater for their significant growth and future strategic work.

YACVic has an incredibly dynamic, skilled and passionate team of professionals, led by CEO Georgie Ferrari. On behalf of the Board of Governance, we would like to thank and applaud Georgie and her team for their tireless work and for positioning the organisation as one of strength, capacity and leadership as a peak body.

Underpinning this work are YACVic's countless volunteers, who give so generously of their time to support YACVic and its members and without whom so much of our success would not have been possible.

We look toward the next 12 months with great anticipation for the growth of advocacy, research, policy, youth participation and youth sector development across our state of Victoria.

Louisa Ellum
Chair

Kerrie Loveless
Deputy Chair

CEO's Report

I've been YACVic's CEO for 13+ years now and I've never experienced as much positive change and growth at YACVic as I've seen in the last 12 months. Increased funding over several program areas has meant we have grown immensely from a staff of 16 full-time equivalents (FTE) to 26 FTE (once we're all recruited); and we have literally moved up in the world, having relocated one floor up to a bigger and more accommodating office space.

Our funding boost has allowed YACVic to introduce significant new programs and projects, most notably with the launch of YACVic Rural and the Youth Disability Advocacy Service NDIS Readiness project. The Victorian Government recognises that young people in rural and regional communities face particular challenges and has invested in YACVic to build on our work in these country areas. We now have a presence in two regional locations and are actively servicing the Southern Mallee and Great South Coast regions, which is very exciting. The Government also recognises that young people with disabilities face particular challenges and vulnerabilities in the transition to the NDIS model and have resourced us to work intensively with them and their families to ensure they can fully access the scheme.

I'm incredibly proud of our partner agencies, the Koorie Youth Council and Victorian Student Representative Council, which have flourished in the last 12 months and are now bigger and better than ever. Of course, the real winners are Victoria's young people who are seeing increased supports and opportunities, as well as improved policy and engagement activities.

YACVic has continued to support and coordinate the HEY (Healthy Equal Youth) Project, which promotes the mental health and wellbeing of same sex attracted and sex and gender diverse (SSASGD) young people in Victoria. The HEY Project has also benefited from a funding boost and the number of partner agencies engaged in supporting SSASGD young people in Victoria has grown. As part of the HEY Project, YACVic administers an annual small grant round on behalf of the State Government—now in its sixth year—and we have distributed over \$1m to assist organisations to work with SSASGD young people.

These developments have all coincided with the formulation of our new strategic plan, which maintains our focus on ensuring young Victorians have their rights upheld and are valued as active participants in their communities.

I'm excited and proud to share stories of all these activities within the pages of this report. You'll see how hard the YACVic team has been working and how our partnerships within the sector are having a real impact.

I'd like to thank the YACVic Board for their advice and support throughout this time; most importantly, for their encouragement and bold vision for our organisation as we embark on the great challenges that change and growth always bring. In particular, I'd like to acknowledge the leadership of Louisa Ellum, YACVic's Chair, who is a great source of support and guidance to me. Louisa is ably assisted by Kerrie Loveless as Deputy Chair. Both Louisa and Kerrie have been always available, ready to listen, reflect and provide much-needed advice and guidance. I'm very grateful to them both. Rounding out YACVic's executive governance team is David Anderson, our diligent



Georgie Ferrari
CEO



Treasurer. I'm indebted to David for his careful eye and his considered approach to YACVic's finances; a task that, at times this year—with a relocation and office fit-out—required quite a bit of his attention.

Thank you to our members whose collective voice brings us the volume we need to make a difference—without you we couldn't be the strong, effective and vocal peak body that we are.

Finally, to the YACVic staff who are awesome—I feel so lucky to be leading a team of such dedicated, motivated and genuinely brilliant individuals who all work so hard for young people and the sector that supports them in Victoria. Thank you for another great year!

We're always looking forward to the next 12 months but it's great for us to pause a while here and reflect on what a successful year it's been for YACVic and the youth sector.

Till next time,

Georgie Ferarri
YACVic CEO

YACVic Board



Chair Louisa Ellum; **Deputy Chair** Kerry Loveless; **Treasurer** David Anderson; **Rural Representative** Paul Turner; **Executive Members** Jan Farrell, Harald Klein, Jessica Moyle*, Evelyn Zhaochen Bian*, Katerina Dandanis*, James Campbell*

* young Board member

Young Victorians have their rights upheld and are valued as active participants in their communities.

Our Vision

YACVic will work in partnership with young people, the Victorian youth sector and our partner agencies to achieve this vision by:

- advocating on issues that affect young people and the sector that supports them
- supporting young people's participation and self-advocacy
- supporting and resourcing youth workers and other professionals who work with young people.

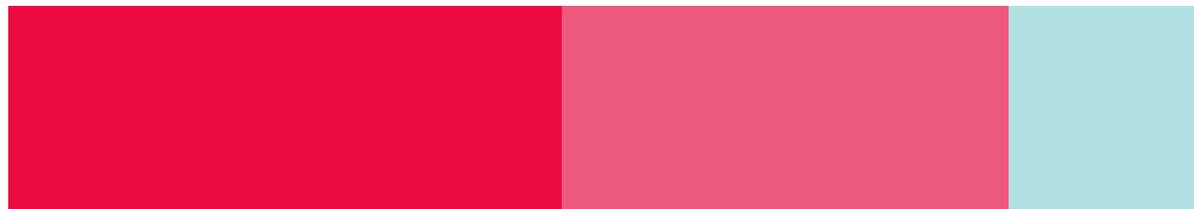
Our Mission



Membership

A strong membership base ensures young people and youth issues are heard.

2015-16 total members: 313



146 youth members

129 organisational members

38 individual members

- Additional: 2
- Associate: 3
- Individual Concession: 10
- Individual: 28
- Local Government Metro: 21
- Local Government Rural/Regional: 23
- Organisation D 1-500K: 22
- Organisation E 500k-1Mill: 10
- Organisation F 1Mill plus: 30
- Reciprocal: 14
- Under 25: 132
- VicSRC Executive: 14
- YDAS: 2
- Youth-led: 2

Organisational Members

20th Man Fund Inc

Ardoch Youth Foundation
Association for Children with a Disability
Australian Catholic University – Youth Work
Australian Drug Foundation
Australian Red Cross Victoria
Banyule City Council
Banyule Nillumbik LLEN
Barwon Adolescent Task Force
Bass Coast Shire Council
Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN
Bayside City Council
Bayside Glen Eira Kingston LLEN
Benalla Rural City Council
Berry Street
Break Thru
Brimbank City Council
Brophy Family & Youth Services Inc
Campaspe Cohuna LLEN
Capital City LLEN
Cardinia Shire Council
Castlemaine District Community Health
Centacare Ballarat
Central Grampians LLEN
Central Ranges LLEN
Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare
Centre for Multicultural Youth

City of Ballarat

City of Boroondara
City of Casey
City of Darebin
City of Greater Bendigo
City of Greater Dandenong
City of Greater Geelong
City of Kingston
City of Melbourne
City of Port Phillip
City of Whittlesea
City of Wodonga
City of Yarra
Connections UnitingCare
Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre Ltd
DOXA Youth Foundation
E-Focus
Express Media
Family Access Network Inc.
Federation Uni Australia
FMPLLEN Inc
Foundation for Young Australians
Gannawarra Shire Council
Geelong Region LLEN
Glenelg Shire Council
Golden Plains Shire Council
Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service Inc
Greater Dandenong Community Health Services

headspace Morwell

Hobsons Bay City Council
Hume City Council – Youth Services
Hume Whittlesea LLEN
Inner Eastern LLEN
Jesuit Social Services
Kids Under Cover
Kildonan Uniting Care
Knox Youth Services
Macedon Ranges Shire Council
MacKillop Family Services
Maribyrnong City Council
Maroondah City Council
Melbourne City Mission
Melbourne City Mission – Frontyard
Melton Shire Council
Member for Prahran
Mildura Rural City Council
Mission Australia
Mitchell Shire Council
Moonee Valley City Council
Moorabool Shire Council
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
Mount Alexander Shire Council
Murray Mallee LLEN
Murrindindi Shire Council
Nillumbik Shire Council
North Central LLEN

North East LLEN

Northern College of the Arts & Technology
Northern District Community Health Service
Praxis Victoria
Quantum Support Services
Rainbow Network
Reach Foundation
RMIT
Rural City of Wangaratta
Salvation Army – Crossroads/ Youth & Family Services
Salvo Connect
Scouts Victoria
Shire of Campaspe
Shire of Yarra Ranges
South Gippsland Shire Council
South Port Community Housing
South West LLEN
St Kilda Police & Citizens Youth Club
St. Lukes Anglicare
State Library of Victoria
Stonnington Youth Services
Strathbogie Shire Council
Swan Hill Rural City Council
The Drum Youth Services
Training Now
UN Youth Victoria
University of Melbourne – Library

Upper Yarra Community House Inc

Victoria University – Youth Studies
Victorian Blue Light State Council Inc
Victorian Council of Social Service
Victorian Local Governance Association
Victorian Trades Hall Council
Volunteering Victoria
WAYSS Ltd
Wellington Shire Council
Whitehorse City Council
YMCA Victoria
Youth Action
Youth Affairs Council of South Australia
Youth Affairs Council of WA
Youth Affairs Network of Queensland
Youth Coalition of the ACT
Youth Network of Tasmania
Youth Workers' Association
Youthlaw
YSAS Pty Ltd

N.b. We do not publish individual member names in accordance with our Privacy Policy.

Youth Participation

We're here to help young people but, really, young people are here to help us. Their input and feedback are vital in the development of an effective and cohesive youth sector and, as the peak body for young people in Victoria, we aim to model high-quality youth participation practice.

In 2014-15, we encouraged youth participation in a number of ways: through our Youth Reference Group, Policy Advisory Group, Victorian Government advisory groups and boards, and personal development and leadership opportunities through YACVic events.

We continued the facilitation of the YACVic Youth Participation Practice Network (YPPN), which met three times over the year to discuss inclusive youth participation and participatory mechanisms. In October, 24 practitioners came together in Sunshine to discuss the power of arts as a participatory mechanism for young people. In May, 61 practitioners met in Melbourne to explore how to involve more young people, which included a keynote address from Liana Buchanan, newly appointed Commissioner for Children and Young People. And in June we hit the road and met with 23 practitioners in Warrnambool to share ideas and identify youth participation opportunities that YACVic Rural could establish or support in the area.

Talking directly with young people is a strategic priority for YACVic and as part of the Victorian Government's community consultations around its new Youth Policy framework, YACVic facilitated discussions with 32 young people in Mildura and Portland. Young people discussed with us the local issues of importance to them and this information fed directly into the design of the government's new Youth Policy.

As well as facilitating a forum for policy makers in Melbourne, YACVic supported the YACVic Youth Reference Group, VicSRC and Koorie Youth Council to attend two youth co-design workshops in Sydney.

Finally, in April we engaged consultant Richard Hill, life member and previous Board member of YACVic, to conduct a review of YACVic's member participation strategies. After a series of interviews and surveys with young members, stakeholders, staff and Board members, Richard has developed a thorough report on the state of YACVic's member engagement opportunities,

Key youth participation stats

108 youth practitioners came together for YPPN meetings



Creating benefit for all

During 2015–16, YACVic partnered with Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC), the Young and Well Cooperative Research Centre, Institute for Culture and Society at Western Sydney University, Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia, Youth Action NSW, the University of Sydney and Urbego to bring together 100 young people and policy practitioners from across Australia to investigate and improve how ‘youth engagement’ is understood and supported in federal policy making.

Policy makers had identified that young people are experiencing strong social and economic challenges at a macro level—such as unemployment and housing affordability—while at the same time being marginalised from formal policy processes around these issues. In the last 12 months, National Youth Week and the national peak body for youth affairs were de-funded, thereby removing all national youth engagement channels.

The collaboration, known as the Youth Engaged Policy (YEP) project, aimed to make recommendations to resolve this conflict. It investigated barriers and enablers of engagement in order to develop a framework to underpin cultures and practices of engagement in federal policy processes.

The YEP project adopted a rigorous approach to its research. It involved a thematic literature review and international scan for diverse models of youth engagement; four discussion forums with policy makers in four Australian states; two workshops with young people

and other stakeholders on critical issues for youth participation in policy making; the creation and online assessment of the Youth Engagement Profile for Australia; and a co-design workshop with 40 young people and practitioners using the Youth Engagement Profile.

These activities engaged stakeholders of all ages—and from a diverse range of communities and organisations—in a discussion about youth engagement in the Australian context, and in the identification and design of strategies to improve youth engagement.

The findings have informed a YEP framework of four strategic priorities:

1. A youth-centred holistic approach
2. A diverse and sustainable youth sector
3. Cross sector and intergenerational capacity building
4. Collaborative and evidence-based

The YEP framework can be used within organisation, local, state and federal, government, communities and in experimental and virtual environments. It offers a way for policy makers to work with young people towards a fairer, better, and more effective policy that will benefit the broader community.



[Read the final report, including specific recommendations, on the Western Sydney University website.](#)

YACVic places great emphasis on leading a strong, professional and connected youth sector. It is our goal to be the youth sector's resource and champion; to provide and promote high-quality youth sector training and development; and to provide high-quality support to our core and partner agencies and members.

We do this through a range of engagement activities, including training, consultations, presentations and special events. This year we presented our annual Healthy Equal Youth (HEY) Forum, which was more colourful than ever! It was fantastic to have so many passionate people discussing how we can best work with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) young people. With workshops covering topics such as working with Queer People of Colour, how to run a group for LGBTI young people, working with LGBTI young people in a rural context, and Trans Inclusive Practice, workers and young people came away from the day with increased knowledge, and encouraged by the support of others working in this space.

YACVic worked in partnership with Youthlaw to deliver six training sessions regarding the new Fail to Disclose and Fail to Protect legislation, which came into effect in 2014. These sessions included five public forums and one internal session delivered to Local Government officers. Responses to the training were positive, with many people having limited knowledge of their responsibilities under these new laws before attending the sessions. This partnership will continue in the 2016/17 financial year, with a total of 24 sessions scheduled across the state.

We delivered five Code of Ethical Practice training sessions across the state; and youth participation training to Ardoch Youth Foundation. We consulted with a number of City Council Youth Services, State Government agencies and sector organisations on a range of policy issues, including youth engagement, employment, transport, and youth electoral engagement. Finally, we participated in a number of reference and steering groups, committees, submission consultations and forums.

Key sector development stats

120 practitioners attended YACVic
Failure to Disclose and Protect training

5 Code of Ethical Practice
training sessions delivered

212 students at YACVic
presentations, delivered at **5** university and
TAFE institutions



Pornography and young people today

More than 90% of boys and 60% of girls have seen porn online. It's easily accessed and generally well-accepted among young people as a valid way of finding out about sex. This startling realisation led community educator Maree Crabbe to develop Reality & Risk, a community-based project that supports young people, parents, schools, government and the community sector to understand and address the influence of pornography.

Maree has worked with young people—and on issues affecting young people—for over 20 years. The Reality & Risk project grew out of Maree Crabbe's work with young people in secondary schools and community settings, initially as Coordinator of Brophy's Safety and Respect Programs.

"I noticed that porn was increasingly playing a role in how young people learn about, think about and experience sexuality," said Ms Crabbe. "The young people I worked with were keen to talk about porn, but the adults in their lives often had no idea about porn's prevalence or influence—and those who did often didn't feel equipped to have the conversations."

Ms Crabbe has spent several years coordinating a violence prevention project that focuses on the links between pornography, unhealthy relationships and family violence. She highlights a recent content analysis of the most popular pornography that found 88% of scenes included acts of physical aggression and, in 94% of

cases, these aggressive acts were directed at female performers. With family violence at a horrifying and critical stage in Australia, YACVic was keen to partner with Ms Crabbe in the delivery of this important training.

On 23 June 2016, 31 people met in Melbourne's CBC to find out what it was all about. They left with a wealth of information that was both shocking and positive in that participants felt much better equipped to address the influence of pornography on the young people in their lives.

We thank Ms Crabbe for her persistent and valuable work in this space and look forward to our future activities together.



"I will be recommending the training to my peers and suggest they investigate membership to the Youth Affairs Council Victoria."

Reality & Risk participant

It's been a busy year for research and policy at YACVic! We've had a strong focus on young people's access to a high-quality, welcoming and engaging education system, and have provided detailed advice to the Victorian Government on the development of Victoria as the Education State.

In addition, we have undertaken extensive research and advocacy concerning the exclusion of students from Victorian schools. We've been delighted and encouraged by the strong, positive response to this work from the wider community, and look forward to working further with education and community stakeholders and the Victorian Government in this space.

Crucially, 2015-16 also saw the development of a new Victorian Youth Policy. YACVic was pleased to facilitate a number of discussions with young people and the youth sector on this topic, and to provide strategic advice to the Victorian Government.

This year also saw YACVic undertake new work in relation to gender equity and violence prevention. We welcomed the opportunity to advocate to the Royal Commission into Family Violence, where we called for (among other things) respectful relationships education in schools; new resourcing to fill the 'gaps' in the family violence system where young people have not been adequately supported; and therapeutic, evidence-based responses to adolescent violence in the home. We also submitted a detailed paper to inform Victoria's Gender Equality Strategy, where we called for (among other things) new funding for youth-work-based initiatives to promote gender equality and the participation, empowerment and community connections of young women.

YACVic was also pleased to provide policy advice to the Victorian Government on other policy topics, including the impacts on rate-capping on local government youth service delivery, the tenancy needs of young people, the future planning of Melbourne, and whether to lower the probationary driving age in Victoria to 17.

Key policy and research stats

Policy guidance and advice provided to

15

government or community working groups or committees

10

submissions to government inquiries

4

comprehensive research papers

6

policy presentations to tertiary students

18

Yikes articles written



Exclusion and inclusion of students in Victorian schools

When we hear about students being excluded from school, most of us tend to imagine a small number of 'bad kids' who get expelled for violent or criminal behaviour. But when YACVic began to look into school exclusion, we discovered the full extent of the problem was rather different.

Once we announced we'd be advocating on this topic, phone calls and messages began pouring in—from teachers struggling to help troubled students, youth workers supporting young people who could not return to a 'mainstream' school, and parents distraught at seeing their children shut out of education, often for behaviours stemming from trauma or unsupported disability. Their opinions and experiences were different, but they all seemed to agree on two things: that the problem is far more complicated than a few 'bad kids' needing discipline, and that the system needs to change.

In many ways, the Victorian community is more committed to educating our young people than ever before. Young Victorians are more likely to finish year 12 than their peers in other states, and our government has made the bold pledge to transform Victoria into the 'Education State'. Some great initiatives have been funded to discourage students from dropping out of school, and to make sure young Victorians can get a good education no matter where they live.

However, more work remains to be done, and the exclusion of students from school must be recognised as a particular problem.

For one thing, it doesn't usually work very well. Excluding a student gives the school community some relief, but it rarely 'fixes' problematic

behaviour. Young people who have been excluded repeatedly from school often have serious problems such as mental illness, family violence, chaotic home lives or drug use—and these things tend to get worse if the student is kept away from the positive influences of a school community.

For another thing, school exclusion tends to reinforce bigger patterns of disadvantage and discrimination. Students with disabilities, Aboriginal students, students in out-of-home care, and students who live in suburbs with high rates of disadvantage are disproportionately likely to be shut out of school.

Some students are out of school because they've been sent home informally, placed on reduced hours, or told that they should leave the school "so you don't have an expulsion on your record". Some young people stop attending school after being suspended or sent out of class many times, and some believe they've been 'kicked out' even when that's not the case. Some families cannot find an accessible school that will agree to enrol their child.

Most worryingly of all, there is a strong link between school exclusion and criminal behaviours. A 2014 survey of 165 young people on remand and in sentenced detention in Victoria found that 58 per cent of them had been suspended or expelled from school. And a recent study of 103 young Victorians who passed through the Melbourne Children's Court found that a shocking 84 per cent of them had not attended a single day's school in the past month.

The good news is that there is a strong appetite for change in the Victorian Government, schools

and the community. YACVic believes there are several steps that could be taken to lower the rate of exclusion, strengthen school communities, and improve young people's educational engagement.

Firstly, schools need adequate supports to work with students experiencing trauma and mental health problems, and students with disabilities. This means adequate access to wellbeing staff, psychologists, counsellors, and high-quality disability support. More expert assistance is also needed for teachers and other staff to develop trauma-informed practice, youth mental health 'first aid', and a human-rights-based approach to teaching students with disabilities.

Young people may also need the help of an expert, independent support person who can clarify the student's enrolment status, sit down with them and their families to identify their future options, and work closely with schools, alternative learning providers, TAFEs and community services. In some communities this role is played by the Victorian Government's new Navigator program, but equivalent support is needed state wide.

Adequate support is also needed for best-practice flexible learning programs, including within mainstream schools, for students who need an alternative to the traditional classroom. These programs should operate within a strong quality assurance framework.

Underpinning all of this must be a basic recognition that education of young people is a basic human right and, when delivered well, a pathway out of disadvantage.

First published at www.vcross.org.au/blog

Publications

19  7 Updates
 12 Announce

Total number of newsletters sent

2,172 Enewsletter subscribers total

9.6% increase in subscribers

4 issues of
YIKES

Website

4 Top four pages (after home page):

- ▶ How do I become a youth worker?
- ▶ Code of Ethical Practice
- ▶ Policy>Publications
- ▶ Studying Youth Work

36,065

Users up 5.1%

52,425

Sessions up 7.6%

111,599

Sessions up 4.5%

Social

 3,379 Likes ▲ 27%

 3,687 Followers ▲ 35.5%

 614 Total tweets
 994 Total likes
RT: 1,310 Total retweets



Top 10 media mentions

Young Victorian student suspensions and expulsions skyrocket over five years, Herald Sun, 15 May 2016

Youth advocates call for transparency over students expelled from Victorian schools, ABC News, 6 May 2016

Calls for review of suspension, expulsion practices, www.educatoronline.com.au, 6 May 2016

Teenagers keen on push to lower Victorian driving age to 17, Herald Sun, 31 March 2016

Family violence report: Rosie Batty calls for federal support for Victoria's royal commission recommendations, ABC News, 30 March 2016

Disability groups fear Uber green light could leave them stranded, The Age, 22 March 2016

National Disability Insurance Scheme stoush triggers alarm, The Age, 8 March 2016

Students who plan to attend university face degree price hike, Herald Sun, 29 February 2016

Disability groups fear Uber will kill off wheelchair cabs, The Age, 10 January 2016

Victorian Government to provide \$1.2 million in funding for LGBTI programs, Star Observer, 3 September 2015

17 media releases

Victoria's first Gender and Sexuality Commissioner 16 July 2015

YACVic welcomes the development of a new Youth Policy for Victoria 25 August 2015

Health Equal Youth (HEY) Small Grants Open 28 August 2015

Young people with disabilities celebrate full NDIS rollout 16 September 2015

Youth Affairs Council of Victoria thanks Commissioner for Children and Young People for his service 29 October 2015

Two new YACVic regional offices announced today 19 November 2015

Young People with Disabilities Call on Government to End Disability Abuse 1 December 2015

HEY Grants recipients 2015-16 15 December 2015

Youth Affairs Council of Victoria welcomes Liana Buchanan as new Commissioner for Children and Young People 23 February 2016

YACVic supports Safe Schools Coalition 1 March 2016

Royal Commission into Family Violence—landmark report to improve the system 30 March 2016

Visionary state budget welcomed by youth peak body 27 April 2016

Bringing healthcare to young people when they need it most 10 May 2016

YACVic supports Safe Schools co-founder 3 June 2016

Work with schools to include students, not exclude them 23 June 2016

Young disabled man calls on political leaders to commit to more affordable and accessible housing 28 June 2016

YACVic welcomes release of Victorian Government's new youth policy 29 June 2016

YACVic has a long history of advocating with, and providing support for, young people and the youth sector in regional and rural Victoria. To build upon this work, and in recognition of the fact that young people in rural and regional communities face particular challenges compared to their urban counterparts, the Victorian Government provided YACVic with an additional \$962,000 in funding over two years from 2015-17. This significant new investment has allowed us to increase our commitment to country Victoria through the establishment of YACVic Rural: a program and team dedicated to country communities. YACVic Rural complements our state-wide work as well as supports research, capacity building, youth participation and advocacy at a local level in two focus regions.

After first identifying two YACVic Rural regions—the Southern Mallee and Great South Coast, with offices based in Swan Hill and Warrnambool respectively—the first half of 2016 saw a flurry of activity focused on establishing an on-the-ground presence in each location, as well as strengthening statewide rural operations. We recruited a Rural Development Coordinator for each site and set up office spaces by co-locating with local community partners.

In April 2016, YACVic contracted Cube Group to evaluate YACVic Rural. In May and June 2016, Cube Group began its first round of consultations with local stakeholders and young people, via an online survey and face-to-face meetings in each location. This information has been used to inform YACVic Rural's activity planning and reporting.

In June 2016, we were thrilled that Minister Mikakos was able to visit YACVic Rural's first Youth Participation Proactive Network event in Warrnambool and officially open our Great South Coast office. We are delighted that YACVic Rural's establishment phase is complete and we look forward to our collaborations with local communities in the year ahead. The next year will be an exciting one for our regional offices and partners, with much planned in both sites.

Key rural stats



From storytelling to sites

YACVic participated in a rigorous process to select two YACVic Rural locations. In July 2015, six potential sites were shortlisted for consideration by the Minister for Youth Affairs. The Victorian Government chose three of these six for further, exploratory consultation and research: Swan Hill (Southern Mallee region), Wangaratta (Ovens and Murray region) and Warrnambool (Great South Coast region). In September and October 2015, YACVic engaged an independent consultant to undertake three stakeholder consultations in collaboration with YACVic.

The consultations considered a number of key factors, including the strength and capacity of existing local youth engagement networks and youth service systems. We took a mixed-method approach to consultations, including face-to-face workshops and online surveys.

YACVic worked with local government youth services staff in each area to invite local stakeholders to a two-hour workshop. In total, 54 stakeholders from 32 community organisations participated across the three workshops. Organisations represented included local government, community health, youth mental health, legal services, university, TAFEs, schools, School Focused Youth Services, Local Learning and Employment Networks, and Victoria Police.

The online survey was intended to capture the voices of the youth sector stakeholders who were unable to attend the workshops; it was promoted by YACVic and those people who attended the workshops. Our consultant also held semi-structured interviews (both face-to-face and by phone) with 16 workers across the three sites who had been identified as key stakeholders due to their roles within their community and/or their place-based expertise within the youth, health, education and government sectors.

As part of the consultation process with young people, YACVic engaged Storyscape to run participatory video production workshops in the three potential locations. YACVic worked with local youth services at each of the sites to invite young people to take part. Storyscape delivered one-day workshops, in each of the three towns, training young participants in storytelling, photography and video skills, and subsequently supporting young people to develop one or two films at each site. Young people were asked to explore and express what life was like for young people in their community and identify a central issue they were passionate about; and were then supported to make the films. In the films, participants discussed what life was like for young people in their town and what they really liked or felt needed to change. 17 young people across the three sites participated in the workshops, developing four films in total. The films covered topics such as stereotyping and mental health, the effects of growing up around alcohol, the pressure of drinking alcohol, and information about the drug ice.

This type of consultation allowed us to gain a good initial understanding of the local issues as seen by young people, as well as the chance to meet with them through a skills-building and fun activity.

In November 2015, YACVic and the Victorian Government used the films and the consultant's report to agree upon the two YACVic Rural sites: Swan Hill (Southern Mallee region) and Warrnambool (Great South Coast region). It was a hard decision; all of the locations considered would have been great places in which to focus our efforts. But we now look forward to the many engaging and exciting projects that YACVic Rural will deliver in these regions, so that we may better support young people in country Victoria.

[Click here if you're keen to see the films.](#)



From the Storyscape/YACVic Rural collaboration 'Boxes'

Youth Disability Advocacy Service (YDAS)

In 2016, YDAS had some hugely exciting news: we received an additional \$750,000 over 18 months to expand the service. This means we can now provide support to young people with a disability to transition into the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). This money was part of \$10 million in funding from the Victorian Government to deliver targeted NDIS readiness activities across the state. YACVic and YDAS worked with a consultant to create a new YDAS service model and NDIS readiness activities, which we will implement in 2016/17.

YDAS was also grateful to the City of Melbourne for a grant to support post-school transitions for young people with a disability. Over the year, YDAS planned and delivered school-based workshops for young people to prepare for life after school, by exploring the choices and supports available to them. Workshops were conducted at five schools, one pre-employment service and four community forums, with around 100 students participating across the Melbourne metropolitan area. These successful workshops received positive feedback not just from students but also from teachers and school communities.

As part of the post-school transitions project, we also planned and promoted Life After School, a post-school options 'expo' for high school students with disabilities, which took place in September 2016. A big thank you to Peggy Soo, Helen Mahar and Jax Jackie Brown, who all worked on the post-school transitions project at different points in the year.

In addition to this project work, YDAS continued to provide individual casework advocacy for young people with a disability. This covered a range of issues, including where young people were refused access to basic supports (e.g. personal care, transport to school, housing services) or life-saving treatments, denied income support, refused a review of their care circumstances or were incarcerated.

In 2015-16, YDAS also undertook important systemic advocacy around several key issues, including abuse and neglect, the NDIS, access to education, housing and transport.

Other YDAS highlights included our consultations with young people with a disability to inform the development of the new Victorian Government youth policy, meeting with the Minister for Disability and senior Department of Health and Human Services staff to discuss the NDIS, consulting with the Victorian Council of Social Service on the NDIS Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) framework, and providing training for Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO) around employment issues facing young people with disabilities.

And, of course, we remained grateful to our fantastic YDAS Steering Committee, the group of young people who continued to provide us with their expert advice and guidance over the year. A huge thank you to: Ariane Garner Williams, Devin MacDonald, Jessica Dwyer, Kara May, Katerina Dandanis, Luke David, Shani Fernando, Stella Barton, Veronica Levey, Daye Gang and Helen Mahar. And thank you to Helen for her work supporting the Steering Committee in 2016.

Key YDAS stats

27

times YDAS was quoted in the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into disability abuse and neglect

78

young people with a disability supported with individual advocacy



Behind the scenes of the NDIS

In September this year we witnessed the signing of a bilateral agreement between the Victorian Government and the Commonwealth for the full roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The venue was the MCG and it was no coincidence that the stadium has a capacity of 110,000 people—the number of Victorians who would be a part of the scheme at full roll-out.

Looking across the empty stadium, I thought about the significance of this agreement and the huge impact it was going to have on people with disabilities, our families and friends, and on future generations. I also thought about all the people who had missed out on the NDIS—the entitlement to choice and control over reasonable and necessary support—but who would be delighted to know that the fight had finally been won.

The NDIS is without doubt the biggest reform to disability that we have ever seen and many commentators have described it as Australia's biggest social policy reform since Medicare. In my view, it represents what can happen when advocacy groups and communities unite towards a clear and common goal.

It also demonstrates the importance of leadership within our movement, the kind of leadership that brings people together and focuses on things that unite rather than on those that divide. While many leaders in the disability community have had an impact, I acknowledge two important advocates who are no longer with us. Lesley Hall worked behind the scenes to bring together an alliance of people with disabilities, our families and service providers. And former YDAS steering committee member Stella Young was our voice in the media, who so many of us looked up to and who led us in our chants "What do we want? An NDIS. When do we want it? Now!"

For a small advocacy service like YDAS, it was about prioritising our work efforts to build a case for the NDIS. We made submissions to government, parliamentary inquiries and government consultations. We told the stories from our individual advocacy service and from our own consultations with young people with disabilities about the systemic failings of the disability service system that perpetuated widespread breaches of human rights. We told the politicians that the entire system needed to be overhauled and replaced by a new approach where people with disabilities receive reasonable and necessary supports for an ordinary life. We told the media that with the right supports in place, our capacity for economic and social participation would mean that eventually the scheme would pay for itself.

The report by the Productivity Commission released in 2011 was a watershed moment because it demonstrated that it made economic sense to invest in the lives of people with disabilities. Finally, the conversations about us were less about welfare and charity and more about social

reform and investing in lives. An NDIS became an idea that was socially, economically and politically appealing across the political spectrum.

From this point on, our advocacy efforts focused on the 'Every Australian Counts' campaign. We joined up with the Victorian arm of the campaign and worked with other stakeholders to ensure that every politician in the state publicly backed an NDIS. We held events and rallies and came out quickly against media reports that our country could not afford such a scheme. Our message was that Australia could not afford to continue with a fragmented and underfunded system and that an NDIS was the long-overdue reform that we needed. With the support of people with disabilities and our allies across the country, it wasn't long before every politician had publicly declared that they were on our side. In 2012 we went into the federal election with both Labor and Liberal committing to an NDIS, and funding was set aside for launch sites across the country. The campaign was a success.

The signing of the bilateral agreement at the MCG was the closest thing that we had to a guarantee for an NDIS. The NDIS was coming and it was time to get ready.

In December 2015 YDAS received \$750,000 from the Victorian Government Transition Support Package to support young people with disabilities to get ready for the NDIS. YDAS has initiated an NDIS readiness and engagement strategy. Our service has grown fourfold as a result and early signs are that young people with disabilities will need advocacy more than ever to ensure that the promise of the NDIS becomes a reality.

Dr. George Taleporos

Victorian Student Representative Council (VicSRC)

VicSRC believes in a world where all children and young people have access to education that is student led, student driven and student focused. Our mission is to empower all student voices to be valued in every aspect of education. This year VicSRC celebrated its 10th anniversary. We were able to step back and celebrate the amazing work and people who have advocated for student voice in Victoria.

We have worked with over 1,500 students over these past 12 months. We travelled far and wide to work with students who care passionately about their education. We have worked with hundreds of teachers and principals discussing the importance of student voice and helping them to understand our recommendations for education in this current generation. We have also worked closely with the Victorian Government, especially with the Department of Education and Training in the Education State Reforms.

Key VicSRC stats

49% of all Catholic, independent and government secondary schools have participated in a VicSRC activity in 2015/16

34,000 people reached on Facebook during Congress 2015



184 teachers trained at VicSRC-facilitated professional learning workshops in 2015/16



4 meetings with the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, James Merlino MP in 2015/16

In partnership with the VicSRC Executive team, VicSRC ran 12 successful regional conferences around the state, 109 schools expressed interest in participating in the Teacher the Teacher program and 27 new schools successfully completed the program. Congress 2015, the 10th annual congress, was an explosion of student voice where 93% of delegates felt empowered to take action on issues that matter to their education as a result of the event.

We couldn't do what we do without the support of so many incredible students, teachers and supporters. Massive thank you to our 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Executive teams; hundreds of SRC Teacher Advisors; our member schools; our supporters; and most importantly, every single student working to transform our education system for the better.

1,500

students involved in VicSRC programs from July 2015 to June 2016

Student voice in the media

'Students juggling part-time work', July 2015, 3AW Drive | Tess Shacklock with Nick McCallum

'Bendigo South East College win SRC of the Year', October 2015, WIN News Bendigo | Eddie Summerfield

'14-year-old wins state leadership award', October 2015, SBS Radio Persian Farsi Language Program | Roghayeh Sadeghi with Peyman Jamali

'Tables turned; students are teaching the teachers', November 2015, The Age | Kathy Evans

'Sexting, porn and raunch to form part of 'respectful relationships' classes', December 2015, The Age | Farah Tomazin

'We pay taxes, drive, have sex, but can't vote', June 2016, The Age | Editorial by Danai Harawa and Spencer Davis



Teach the Teacher is creating conversations

Written by students, the Teach the Teacher program is a student-led professional learning program for teachers, where everyone has a voice. Teach the Teacher provides a space for students, teachers and principals to connect, explore and share ideas in a constructive and judgement-free environment. By giving students a greater say in their education, Teach the Teacher aims to create a positive community for all.

In 2016, the Mac.Robertson Girls' High School in metro Melbourne has been using Teach the Teacher as a professional development (PD) opportunity for the whole teaching staff.

Twelve students from across all year levels (9-12) were selected to join the Teach the Teacher team in a planning capacity. The team was supported by the Director of Student Leadership & Co-curricular Activities, Joanne Howe. Twelve student committee members ran the PD with the whole teaching staff who were split into learning teams, in addition to presenting to the independent school review panel.

Mac.Rob values differing opinions and believes that every single student has a right to speak and be heard. This year, as part of trying to foster healthy relationships between teachers and students and making the school environment more comfortable, the SRC initiated the Teach the Teacher program, calling it Creating Conversations. This aimed to evoke rich discussion around what the school community believes are areas for improvement, ideas for refining the way they do things, and spaces wherein there are further opportunities for open dialogue.

Students identified two topics for their session: - healthy relationships between teachers and students; and making the school environment more comfortable. The goals for both the students and teachers were to create a more equal platform for both parties to collaborate around the areas of curriculum, pedagogy, student wellbeing, buildings and grounds, and admin; and to give students a greater say in decision making.

The team collected huge amounts of qualitative and quantitative data to establish patterns between students and teachers. This provided rich content not only for a report that was presented to the independent school review panel, but for the development of a strategic plan. The team was able to establish a Student Empowerment Team (SET) that will develop directions for a four-year strategic plan and generally continue the work of the Creating Conversations Committee.

The Creating Conversations strategic plan will run parallel to the school's four-year strategic plan that is being written this year. The first year's 'Creating Conversations AIP' will set out a roadmap for student and staff collaborative action that will help to address some of the issues raised in the conversations and surveys.

"Both parties have information of value, which, when shared, would be much more suited to provide a holistic solution to a common problem."

Demi Tangri, 16, the Mac.Robertson Girls' High School



"Teach the Teacher's aims—to develop stronger and more effective relationships between students and teachers, to improve teaching and learning processes, and to increase student ownership of and engagement with education—are aligned with our school's vision for teaching and learning."

Joanne Howe, Director of Student Leadership & Co-curricular Activities

This year has seen some major growth for the Koorie Youth Council. We gained a team member, moved offices and engaged with more young people than ever before through our Yarning Justice workshops, the Koorie Youth Summit 2016 and consultations for the State Government Youth Policy. The KYC had a great year in positively advocating for the needs of Koorie young people, with investment seen in the new Aboriginal youth mentoring program and other great things happening in the prevention and early intervention space.

In May 2016 the KYC said goodbye to our office of nearly four years at the Korin Gamadji Institute to move into a shared office space with our auspice YACVic and other partner agencies. It's been an exciting transition to a very welcoming office where so much great work is happening in the youth space.

The 2016 Koorie Youth Summit was a great success. 180 Aboriginal young people from across Victoria came together over two days in April to connect, celebrate their culture, discuss important issues and gain inspiration from each other. The theme in 2016 was health and wellbeing and the Summit proposed four topics so that delegates could identify the most pressing issues and work together in developing ideas to tackle each one: cultural strength, mental health, mentoring support and youth voice.

The Summit offered two days of intensive workshops complemented by high-profile guest speakers (including AFL champion Adam Goodes), whole group discussions and cultural activities. We also held a panel discussion around the important topics of self-determination, treaty and constitutional recognition.

Our delegates took part in workshop sessions facilitated by our deadly KYC Executive members and then presented their ideas and recommendations for improvements in health and wellbeing policy outcomes to decision makers, including the Hon. Jenny Mikakos, Minister for Youth Affairs. After the Summit we produced the *Summit Ideas Report* that outlines the nine policy and project recommendations presented by our delegates.

Key KYC stats

meaningfully engaged with

500

Aboriginal young people

4

major policy initiatives led

180

Summit delegates

4

media mentions for the Summit:
The Guardian, ABC, Koori Mail,
ABC Radio Drive

Yarning Justice

Yarning Justice was held in October in conjunction with the Aboriginal Justice Forum (AJF) on youth. Over 30 Aboriginal young people travelled from all over the state to discuss issues relating to young people's involvement in the justice system and how to improve outcomes in preventions and early intervention.

Within their groups, participants brainstormed and discussed key issues. The facilitators led their groups through a co-design process of active discussion, focussing on why they felt these issues existed, and delving deeper to identify the underlying factors that contribute to key drivers of contact with the justice system.

After a long day of conversations and creative thinking, the participants proudly and confidently presented their recommendations to the AJF members. The recommendations were incredibly well received by community leaders and senior government representatives.

Yarning Justice was one of the first real opportunities for Aboriginal young people to come directly to the table and be heard on these issues.

The recommendations highlighted the need for investment in support programs and services that proactively engage young people in positive opportunities. They included supporting more local youth groups; providing spaces where young people can hold yarning circles; cultural camps for young people to connect with peers; and local initiatives that foster cross-cultural and intergenerational learning.

We would like to extend our absolute gratitude to the 30 amazing young people who participated and presented with passion and vision.



[Click here to read the Ideas Report.](#)

Ideas Report Recommendations

1. First Nations First Steps

An education program for primary schools in teaching Aboriginal history and culture.

2. Victorian Indigenous Youth Network

A culturally safe online platform sharing young people's knowledge and ideas.

3. Youth Empowerment Hub (YEH!)

An online tool providing useful information for young people that focuses on sharing skills and knowledge.

4. Healing Your Mob Camp

Outdoor camping experiences providing group support and positive bonding experiences for families.

5. Jarmbi Touring Project

A pop-up, touring arts hub providing support for young people with mental health issues.

6. Year 9 Indigenous Elective

An Aboriginal history and cultural elective introduced at year 9 for all students.

7. Safe Space

A single service or service model that provides a safe space for young people at-risk.

8. Koorie Youth Policy Advisors

A multi-dimensional engagement and sector development model providing meaningful youth participation in policy making.

9. Koorie Media Project

A media project that builds the capacity of young people to influence Aboriginal issues in the local media.

Where We've Been



YACVic Core Abbotsford, Ascot Vale, Bairnsdale, Caulfield, Footscray, Geelong, Glenroy, Holmesglen, Kyneton, Maribyrnong, Melton, Mildura, Mill Park, Mornington, Northcote, Portland, Preston, Ringwood, Rosanna, Sunshine, Swan Hill, Warrnambool, Whittlesea **YACVic Rural** Ballarat, Camperdown, Charlton, Donald, Echuca, Hamilton, Kerang, Mildura, Portland, Robinvale, Swan Hill, Wangaratta, Warrnambool, Wycheproof **YDAS** Altona, Aspendale, Boronia, Box Hill, Braybrook, Dandenong, Diamond Creek, Docklands, Fitzroy, Footscray, Ringwood, South Melbourne, South Morang, St Albans, Wantirna **VicSRC** Apollo Bay, Ascot Vale, Bairnsdale, Bendigo, Brighton, Carlton, Caroline Springs, Caulfield, Churchill, Colac, Corio, Cranbourne North, Docklands, Doncaster, East Hawthorn, East Keilor, East Melbourne, Epping, Essendon, Foster, Holmesglen, Horsham, Kew, Keysborough, Kings Park, Lavers Hill, Lilydale, Lorne, Maribyrnong, Melbourne, Melton, Mildura, Mill Park, Mornington, Mount Eliza, Mount Waverley, Mulgrave, Narre Warren, North Melbourne, Point Cook, Portland, Ringwood, Scoresby, Shepparton, Sunshine, Taylors Lakes, Torquay, Warrnambool, Werribee, Whittlesea, Williamstown **KYC** Chirnside Park, Geelong, Mildura, Mt Martha, Orbost, Seymour, Torquay

Finance Report

The 2015-16 year was a good year financially for YACVic with additional funding provided to support the expansion of our services to rural Victoria, as well as the Youth Disability Advocacy Service, Koorie Youth Council and Victorian Student Representative Council. For the 2015-16 financial year, YACVic returned an operating surplus of \$125,817 (2015: \$72,255), increasing net assets to \$693,083 (2015: \$567,266). YACVic remains in a strong financial position due to the diligent use of the organisation's resources.

Income and expenses increased by just over 30% as result of the additional funding to expand our services and the costs required (in particular, salary and wages) to deliver the additional services to the sector.

As at 30 June 2016, YACVic had cash reserves of \$1,526,615 (2015: \$1,287,236) including term deposits to fund its operations. Our current Assets at \$1,681,653 are 1.49 times higher than current liabilities. This ratio is lower than the previous year (1.78 times) due to funding received in advance for our expanded activities.

Many thanks to the Board, Georgie and the staff and volunteers over the past year for their efforts in executing YACVic's strategy and ensuring we have a strong financial base.



David Anderson
Treasurer

Income and expenditure statement for the year ended 30 June 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$		2016 \$	2015 \$
Income			cont.		
Administration charge	334,424	121,297	Employee leave provisions	62,546	36,714
Forums and training	93,208	13,795	Other staff costs	23,082	27,955
Membership	33,734	38,066	Publication and printing	14,657	8,057
Conferences	54,432	41,632	Professional development and training	13,043	17,566
Interest received	32,062	34,411	Project costs	283,677	133,204
Other income	62,168	17,297	Salaries and wages	1,045,976	842,864
Government grants	1,311,957	1,427,915	Sector development and consultation	154,594	119,958
Other grants	452,946	104,893	Superannuation contributions	98,181	81,181
	2,374,931	1,799,306	WorkCover	12,851	10,015
Expenditure				2,249,114	1,727,051
Accommodation	106,319	83,310	Operating surplus	125,817	72,255
Administration	360,367	283,258			
Communication	58,051	75,927			
Depreciation	15,202	6,143			
Equipment purchase and maintenance	568	899			

Assets and liabilities as at 30 June 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Equity		
Retained earnings	693,082	567,266
Total equity	693,082	567,266
Represented by:		
Current Assets		
Petty cash	1,501	1,396
Cash at Bank - NAB Business Mgmt	20,119	2,468
Cash at Bank - NAB Cash Mgmt	9,462	2,892
Cash at Bank - NAB Term Deposit	36,546	45,451
Cash at Bank - NAB Business Cash Maximiser	663,213	421,851
Cash at Bank - BankAustralia Term Deposit	763,675	742,753
Victorian Teachers	0	125
Accounts Recievable	114,261	107,810
Prepayments/Income Not Yet Recieved	40,777	14,376
Investments	32,098	70,300
	1,681,652	1,409,422
Non-Current Assets		
Office furniture and equipment	58,395	105,196
Less accumulated depreciation	-34,196	-99,977
	24,199	5,219
Fitout	160,316	
Less accumulated depreciation	-9782	
	150,534	
Furniture and fittings	5,710	14,294
Less accumulated depreciation	-5,252	-13,316
	458	978
	175,191	6,197
Total Assets	1,856,843	1,415,619

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	42,994	34,103
Other creditors	511	825
Sundry Accruals	77,902	48,275
Provision for conferences/programs/relocation	0	39,000
Provision for annual leave	56,804	49,985
Provision for long service leave	83,604	58,259
Provision for parental leave	51,483	37,741
Provision for GST/PAYG	63,700	45,303
Grants in advance	764,684	516,413
Memberships in advance	22,079	18,497
Total Liabilities	1,163,761	848,401
Net Assets	693,082	567,218

Statement of changes in equity ended 30 June 2016

	Retained Earnings \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2014	495,011	495,011
Surplus for the year	72,255	72,255
Balance at 30 June 2015	567,266	567,266
Surplus for the year	125,817	125,817
Retained earnings 30 June 2016	693,083	693,083

Statement of changes in cashflow for the year ended at 30 June 2016

	2016 \$
Cash flow from operating activities	
Receipts from customers	2,826,473
Payments to suppliers and employees	-2,435,048
Interest received	32,150
Net cash provided by operating activities	423,575
Cash flow from investing activities	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-184,196
Investment in term deposits	-249,056
Net cash used in investing activities	-433,252
Net increase in cash held	-9,677
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	1,216,936
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year (note 1)	1,207,259

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

Accounting Policies

(a) Revenue

Revenue is recognised on the following basis:

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Membership revenue is recognised progressively over the period to which the membership relates. Any portion of membership fees received relating to the following financial year is brought to account at balance date as income in advance.

Government revenue is derived from services and programs performed on behalf of state,

commonwealth and local governments. These are recognised in the period in which the services are provided, having regard to the stage of completion of activities and targets within each program as specified in the funding and service contracts. Any funding received for services which have not been performed is recorded as funding in advance in the statement of financial position.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(b) Income Tax

The association is exempt from paying income tax under section 50-45 of the Income Tax Assessment Act and subsequently has not been charged any income tax expense.

(c) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are initially recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

(d) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash on hand includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

(e) Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables include amounts from customers for services performed in the ordinary course of business. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

(f) Property, plant and equipment

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

(g) Impairment of assets

At the end of each reporting period, the committee reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired.

If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in the income and expenditure statement.

(h) Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period, which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

(i) Employee provisions

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee provisions have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

(j) Provision for parental leave

The Enterprise Bargaining Agreement entitles staff to 12 weeks paid parental leave on the birth or adoption of each child. A provision has been made reflecting past experience that one-and-one-half full-time equivalent employees will take parental leave during the year. The provision has been measured as the amount expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

(k) Comparative figures

Where required by Accounting Standards comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

When an entity applies an accounting policy retrospectively, makes a retrospective restatement or reclassifies items in its financial statements, a statement of financial position as at the beginning of the earliest comparative period must be disclosed.

Note 2. Cash and cash equivalents

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<i>Current</i>		
Cash on hand	1,501	1,394
Cash at bank	692,795	427,337
Short-term investments - term deposits	512,963	788,205
	1,207,259	1,216,936

Note 3. Trade and Other Receivables

<i>Current</i>		
Trade receivables	114,261	107,810
	114,261	107,810

Note 4. Other Assets	2016 \$	2015 \$
<i>Current</i>		
Prepayments	38,115	11,626
Accrued Income	2,662	2,750
	40,777	14,376

Note 5. Investments

<i>Current</i>		
Investment in term deposits	319,356	70,300

Note 6. Property, Plant and Equipment

<i>Current</i>		
Leasehold improvements		
At cost	166,026	14,294
Accumulated depreciation	(15,034)	(13,316)
	150,992	978
Office furniture and equipment		
At cost	58,395	105,196
Accumulated depreciation	(34,196)	(99,977)
	24,199	5,219
Total property, plant and equipment	175,191	6,197

Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movements in carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment, between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

	Leasehold Improvements \$	Office furniture & equipment \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2013	1,556	7,065	8,621
Additions at cost	-	3,719	3,719
Disposals	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	(578)	(5,565)	(6,143)
Balance at beginning of year	978	5,219	6,197
Additions	151,733	32,463	184,196
Disposals	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	(1,719)	(13,483)	(15,202)
Carrying amount at year end	150,992	24,199	175,191

Note 7. Trade and Other Payables

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<i>Current</i>		
Trade Payables	42,994	34,050
Other Payables	511	846
ATO Payable	63,700	45,287
Accrued expenses	77,902	48,275
	185,107	128,458

Note 8. Other Liabilities

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<i>Current</i>		
Funding in advance	764,684	516,413
Membership paid in advance	22,079	18,497
	786,763	534,910

Note 9. Provisions

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<i>Current</i>		
Employee benefits - annual leave	56,804	49,985
Employee benefits - parental leave	51,480	37,741
Employee benefits - long service leave	50,886	41,771
	159,170	129,497

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<i>Non-current</i>		
Employee benefits - long service leave	32,721	16,488
Provision for make good on lease premises	-	39,000
	32,721	55,488

Provision for Long Service Leave

A provision has been recognised for employee entitlements relating to long service leave. In calculating the present value of future cash flows in respect of long service leave, the probability of long service leave being taken is based on reasonable estimates that the employee will reach this entitlement. The measurement and recognition criteria relating to employee benefits has been included in Note 1 to this report.

Note 10. Capital and Leasing Commitments

(a) Finance lease commitments

Youth Affairs Council of Victoria do not have any finance leases in place at 30 June 2016.

(b) Operating lease commitments

Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements:

	2016 \$	2015 \$
- not later than 12 months	123,417	64,995
- between 12 months and 5 years	177,557	187,043
- greater than 5 years	-	-
	300,974	252,038

The property lease commitment is a non-cancellable operating lease contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements with a five-year term. The lease was renewed for a further five-year term commencing on 1 March 2014. An increase in lease commitment of 3.50% will occur on each anniversary date. The printer and photocopier lease is a non-cancellable operating lease contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements with a three-year term, expiring in September 2017.

Note 11. Cash Flow Information

Reconcillation of cash flow from operations with profit after income tax

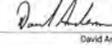
Profit after income tax credit	125,817	72,255
Non-cash flows in profit:		
- Depreciation	15,202	6,143
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(6,451)	(57,948)
- (Increase)/decrease in other assets	(26,401)	(1,250)
- Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	308,502	85,660
- Increase/(decrease) in provisions	6,906	33,555
Cash flows from operations	423,575	138,415

Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc. Annual Statements Give True and Fair View of Financial Position and Performance

In accordance with a resolution of the committee of the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc, the members of the committee declare that the financial statements as set out on pages 1 to 10:

1. Present a true and fair view of the financial position of Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc as at 30 June 2016 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

Chair:  Louisa Elum
 Treasurer:  David Anderson
 Dated this 14th day of OCTOBER, 2016.



Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc (the association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial performance of the association.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc as at 30 June 2016 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.


 Andrew Frewin Stewart
 61 Bull Street, Bendigo, 3550
 Dated this 14th day of October 2016


 Adrian Dowling
 Lead Auditor

AFS PARTNERS IN SUCCESS Chartered Accountants (AFS) 13443 6344 F: (03) 5463 3304 61-63 Bull St./PO Box 454 Bendigo Vic. 3552 ah@ahandigo.com.au www.ahandigo.com.au



In the past we've made every effort to thank each individual person and organisation we have worked with over the year. This year there have been so many that we've decided just to do a big shout out to you all! So, thank you to our funders, partners and supporters for making our work possible and pleasurable, to our board and staff for working tirelessly and with such passion, to our members for sharing our vision of a positive future for young people, and to the young people of Victoria for helping us to understand what matters.