



Youth Affairs
Council Victoria



Annual Report

2018-19

YACVic is the leading advocate for young people aged 12-25 in Victoria. As a peak body, we work closely with young Victorians and the sector that supports them to deliver effective advocacy, events, training, resources and support – so that young people can live their best lives. We're driven by our valued members and their vision for a positive future for young Victorians.

YACVic is an independent, for purpose organisation with core funding from the Victorian Government's Office for Youth. We pursue social justice by maintaining a focus on those young people in our community who face disadvantage or marginalisation.

We provide additional targeted advocacy through our key targeted services, YACVic Rural and the Youth Disability Advocacy Service, and proudly auspice and support our partner agencies, the Koorie Youth Council and the Victorian Student Representative Council.

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November 2019

YACVic works across the entire state of Victoria. YACVic's head office is based on the lands of the Kulin Nation in Naarm (Melbourne). We also have offices based on the lands of the Gunditjmara Nation in Warrnambool, and on the lands of the Wemba Wemba, Wadi Wadi and Weki Weki Nations in Swan Hill. YACVic gives our deepest respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and emerging for their wisdom, strength, support and leadership.

We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Victoria and stand in solidarity to pay respect to the ongoing culture and continued history of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations.



Chairpersons' Report

Striving for impact in a time of change

After finding a new home in late November 2018, YACVic has been rebuilding its foundations to create positive change for young people in Victoria, and the people who work with them.

This year's achievements have been remarkable: advocating for Youth Work to be added to the free TAFE course list, leading the campaign for Australia's first Minister for Youth in six years, the inaugural YACVic Rural Youth Awards, the powerful Ngaga-dji report from the Koorie Youth Council, two new projects focused on leadership and inclusion for the Youth Disability Advocacy Service, and the voices of students being heard at a policy level because of the Victorian Student Representative Council, and a rural youth workers conference – Connecting The Dots.

And that's only the beginning. But it speaks to how YACVic has strived for impact in a time of change as the organisation found a new home and new leadership. I would like to acknowledge the resilience and passion of the entire team across the organisation who kept on delivering ground-breaking work during the transition.

This year has shown how dynamic youth participation is, and YACVic's trail-blazing leadership and ongoing commitment to meaningful youth participation, including perspectives of young people from all walks of life – no matter their circumstance or their identity is as important as ever.

We continued to grow our efforts and presence across Victoria, and to use the richness gained from our membership base in our strong advocacy to decisions makers.

I would like to thank former CEO Leo Fieldgrass for leading many wins and helping YACVic find a new home, as well as interim CEO Paul Turner who delayed retirement to take the helm during our search for YACVic's new leader. I was delighted in May to appoint Katherine Ellis as YACVic's new CEO to lead the organisation into its next exciting chapter.

With the end of the 2016-19 strategic plan, YACVic has had important, powerful conversations about how we can create exponential impact moving forward for young people and the sector in Victoria.

I believe YACVic has so much to offer, and with an empowered group of members and staff, who believe in young people, authenticity, lifting marginalised voices up, listening, learning and respect, I know that YACVic will continue to lead the way.

Kerrie Loveless - Chair



Board of Governance



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Paul Turner

Outgoing

Louisa Ellum, Bev Hoffman

CEO's Report

New projects and new impact

Young people are a vital part of any great society, and everyone benefits when their needs, perspectives and contributions are taken seriously.

In 2018-19, YACVic made great strides on having young people recognised as experts and actors in their own lives. My thanks to my predecessors Leo Fieldgrass and Paul Turner, and former COO Shaye Chalmers, for steering and overseeing YACVic in a year of change.

We were delighted to celebrate securing Certificate IV Youth Work as a free TAFE course in Victoria, through our #YouthWorkMatters campaign that will help hundreds of Victorians embark on a youth work career.

Our pre-election campaign for a Federal Minister for Young People raised national awareness about the need for representation of young people, and we were thrilled to see one appointed, the first since 2013.

Our policy advocacy has remained resolute, a highlight being an extensive submission to the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System, focused on rural and regional young people, and led and co-designed by young people with lived experience of mental health issues.

YACVic Rural has become a vibrant actor in advocating for and empowering rural and regional young people. Our Connecting the Dots Conference was attended by hundreds of workers and young people, and our pilot Rural Activators program, supported young people from rural and regional Victoria to activate ideas in their communities.

The Youth Disability Advocacy Service (YDAS) expanded on its vital advocacy with two new pilot projects to build capacity of young people and the sector. Together: Building an Inclusive Youth Sector trained 140 youth workers across the state to make their service more accessible and inclusive for young people with disability. The Emerging Young Leaders project built the leadership capacity of 14 young people with disability, with a 100% retention rate and fantastic subsequent engagement of graduates with leadership opportunities.

The Marram Nganyin Aboriginal Youth Mentoring Program, delivered in partnership with the Koorie Youth Council and five Aboriginal communities, is a groundbreaking model showing real results, with the potential to inform other self-determining programs for Aboriginal young people.

The Healthy Equal Youth (HEY) project, now in its ninth year, continues to provide grants to support innovative ideas for LGBTIQ+ young people across the state, and connect the HEY Partners community of practice.

Our auspiced partner, the Victorian Student Representative Council (VicSRC) has continued to expand, supporting empowerment of students in multiple ways. I congratulate them on their successful move to new premises in North Melbourne, heralding a new era for the YACVic / VicSRC partnership. The Koorie Youth Council, our other auspiced partner, has made great waves with Ngaga-dji, which rightfully received Liberty Victoria's Young Voltaire Award for its ground-breaking report voicing the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the youth justice system, and recommendations for reform.

All of these achievements were made possible by the hardworking and expertise of staff, volunteers and Board, who are all passionate about driving better outcomes for young people. I acknowledge and thank all of them, and also our members and funders, who inform and support all this work.

As we look back over the year with a sense of achievement, we also have an eye on the future. We are already working to create more value for our members, and even greater impact for young people, in the coming years.

Katherine Ellis – Chief Executive Officer



Membership

Organisational Members

Afro-Australia Student Organisation
Anglicare Victoria
Ardoch Youth Foundation
Association for Children with a Disability
Australian Red Cross Victoria
Ballarat Community Health
Banyule City Council
Banyule Nillumbik LLEN
Bass Coast Shire Council
Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN
Bayside Glen Eira Kingston LLEN
Benalla Rural City Council
Berry Street
BGT Employment Services
Boroondara City Council
Brimbank Melton LLEN
Brophy Family & Youth Services Inc
Brotherhood of St Laurence
Campaspe Cohuna LLEN
Campaspe Shire Council
Capital City LLEN
Cardinia Shire Council
Centacare Ballarat
Central Grampians LLEN
Central Ranges LLEN
Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare
Centre for Multicultural Youth
Charis Mentoring Inc.
City of Casey
City of Darebin
City of Greater Dandenong
City of Greater Geelong
City of Kingston
City of Melbourne
City of Monash
City of Port Phillip
City of Whittlesea
cohealth Connections
Corangamite Shire Council
DOXA
Doxa Youth Foundation
East Gippsland Shire Council
Family Access Network Inc.
Federation University Australia
Frankston Mornington Peninsula LLEN

Gannawarra Shire Council
Gateway LLEN
Geelong Region LLEN
Gippsland East LLEN
Glenelg and Southern Grampians LLEN
Glenelg Shire Council
Golden Plains Shire Council
Goldfields LLEN
Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service Inc
Goulburn Murray LLEN
Grampians Community Health
Greater Dandenong Community Health
Hepburn Shire Council
Highlands LLEN
Hume City Council Youth Services
Hume Whittlesea LLEN
Inner Eastern LLEN
Inner Northern LLEN
Innovation Youth Centre
Insight childrens Counselling
Job Watch Inc.
Les Twentyman Foundation
Macedon Ranges Shire Council
Manna Gum Community House
Maribyrnong & Moonee Valley LLEN
Maroondah City Council
Max Employment
Melbourne City Mission
Melton City Council
Moonee Valley City Council
Moorabool Shire Council
Moreland City Council
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
Murray Mallee LLEN
NE TRACKS LLEN
North Central LLEN
North East LLEN
Northern District Community Halh
Northern Grampians Shire Council
Northern Mallee LLEN
Ocean Grove Neighbourhood Centre
Outer Eastern LLEN
Rainbow Network
Reach Foundation
Reciprocate Pathways

RMIT
Rural City of Wangaratta
Scouts Victoria
South East LLEN
South Gippsland Bass Coast LLEN
South Gippsland Shire Council
South Port Community Housing
South West LLEN
State Library of Victoria
Swan Hill Rural City Council
The Austrans Project
The Bridge Youth Services
The Drum Youth service
UN Youth Victoria Inc
VCOSS
Victoria University - Youth Studies
Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA)
Victorian Trades Hall Council
Volunteering Victoria
WAYSS Ltd
Wellington Shire Council
Whereto Research
Whitehorse City Council
Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN
Wimmera Uniting Care
WynBay LLEN
Wyndham City Council - Youth Services
Yarra Ranges Council
Youth Action
Youth Activating Youth
Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA)
Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ)
Youth Coalition of the ACT
Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT)
Youth Research Centre
Youthlaw
YSAS Pty Ltd

Youth participation and sector development

Young people are a part of everything we do. This year we've expanded our work to new horizons and embraced collaboration to support youth participation in Victoria.

Key stats

19 Code of Ethical Practice and Youth Participation training sessions

327 Participants

98% Satisfied or extremely satisfied

4 Youth Participation Practice Network events with 117 participants

131 Youth participation opportunities

12 youth participation sessions attended by 170 people

7 YACVic info sessions, attended by 326 people

The past year has been an exciting time of growth for a number of our key youth participation initiatives.

Building on the success of the previous year we have now established the Young Thinker in Residence program as an opportunity for collaboration, giving our Young Thinkers not just access to, and support from, YACVic staff but also to a sponsor organisation.

Over the past 12 months we have supported 3 Young Thinkers with sponsorship from Melbourne City Mission (MCM), the Victorian Government's Office for Youth (OfY) and the Koorie Youth Council (KYC). The Young Thinkers themselves told us they enjoyed having access to extended networks and the advantage of joint powers of influence that the collaborative approach fostered. Young Thinkers are supported by our Communications, Policy and Participation teams as well as having direct access to the CEO and other teams as required.

The program continues to grow and demonstrate how young people can best lead parts of our policy work.

We have also developed other collaborative processes to support member organisations to benefit from our experience and expertise in youth participation. A great example of this has been our work alongside the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) who we have designed and delivered consultations, co-design programs and workshops as well as working with individual teams to connect young people directly to initiatives such as the Bright Futures Challenge, Staying on Track and Top Spin. Our support for these projects has included advising VicHealth teams on best practice and engagement tips as well as promoting EOIs, managing recruitment and supporting young people's participation.

Our most significant piece of youth participation came towards the end of the year as we partnered with young people on our work on the Royal Commission into Mental Health. We've known for years that mental health has been a priority issue for young people and so it was exciting to create a Young Member Working Group to help co-design and facilitate the consultations with rural young people to inform our submission.

Find free resources about youth participation, the Code of Ethical Practice and more via:

www.yacvic.org.au/resources

Marram Nganyin

Marram Nganyin, meaning ‘we are strong’ in the Woiwurrung language of the Wurundjeri people, is an Aboriginal youth mentoring program supported by a partnership between YACVic, Koorie Youth Council and the Victorian Government. YACVic and KYC assist five Aboriginal organisations in different parts of the state to design and deliver local mentoring opportunities for Aboriginal young people (12-25 years old).

In 2018-2019, Marram Nganyin held a 4 day camp for 23 young mentees at camp Jungai where we hosted cultural activities, yarning circles and traditional games for the young mob. We also delivered 5 training workshops for 46 mentors, and supported 2 community partners to participate in an external evaluation process which was highly supportive of the Marram Nganyin model.

HEY grants

HEY (Healthy Equal Youth) grants are a program administered by YACVic on behalf of the Victorian Government. HEY grants support community organisations to undertake wellbeing promotion and community engagement activities to support LGBTIQ+ young people.

The Grants were widely promoted and YACVic received 38 applications. Young people from the target audience are an important part of the grants selection process.

In this current year of HEY grants a total of \$109,230.00 was awarded to 11 grant recipients. This translated to \$338,268 total value of projects funded with in-kind support. YACVic hosted the new Victorian Minister for Youth, Gabrielle Williams at our annual mini-HEY day where we screened the film ‘Masked’ produced by young people from Knox and Momentum Studios funded through the HEY grants.



Images left: Previous YACVic CEO Leo Fieldgrass at Mini-HEY Day with HEY Grant recipients from Knox City Youth Council, and the new Victorian Minister for Youth, Hon. Gabrielle Williams MP in December 2018.

Story

Meet three Young Thinkers in Residence

YACVic Young Thinker in Residence positions are designed to give young Victorians the opportunity to research and report on a particular subject or social issue that they care passionately about.

The aim is to inject the voices of young people into sector conversation, policy and action. We've been fortunate in 2018-19 to have three Young Thinkers in Residence: Mo, Harry and Levi.

Mo Omar worked on a project, sponsored by Melbourne City Mission, to raise awareness of body-based therapies for young Queer-Trans-People-Of-Colour (QTPOC) who use homelessness services. As a QTPOC with lived experience of homelessness, this topic was close to Mo's heart, and an event and self-care poster named "Treat Yourself" emerged.

Mo's project was founded on the belief that there are other ways to navigate mental illness and trauma besides traditional talk-based therapies. Body-based therapies offer a less confronting way to deal with discomfort as they don't require talking about difficult things.

Harry Koelyn, funded by the Victorian Government's Office for Youth, sparked us with his enthusiasm and ideas about building conversations around education and mental health in migrant and refugee communities. Harry spoke with several youth organisations and met up with parents and young people from migrant and refugee communities to chat about their thoughts on education and mental health.

His project explored the effects and pressure from intergenerational relationships which young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds experience, and his work is being turned into a resource which will live on Youth Central. His project was also translated into Hindi and Vietnamese to provide access to young people whose first language isn't English.

Levi McKenzie-Kirkbright was supported by Koorie Youth Council to explore how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people can navigate the future. Levi is a strong believer in economic development and empowerment in driving societal change, and has written a series of thought-provoking essays on the way forward for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

Along the way, Levi has also delivered yarning circles at Koorie Youth Summit, and shared with us how practices in mindfulness can connect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people to culture and community.



Images above (top - bottom): YACVic Young Thinkers in Residence, Mo Omar, Harry Koelyn, and Levi McKenzie-Kirkbright

Policy and Research

Policy and research at Youth Affairs Council Victoria has been incredibly successful.

We have worked hard to connect with hundreds of young people and youth sector workers across Victoria, and have developed major campaigns and submissions to improve the lives of young people all across the state.

Key stats

434 Young people and youth workers contributed to our submission to the Royal Commission into Victorian Mental Health System.

49 recommendations to improve Victoria's mental health system for young people

5 other major submissions, supporting lowering the voting age, advocating for gender equality, promoting best practice for the Victorian Child Safe Standards and ensuring that young people are heard as part of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System

1 new Federal Minister for Youth (Australia's first since 2013).

15 statements on various issues demanding better representation and policies for young people

Young people consistently told the nation that mental health is a priority and so this is a major priority for YACVic. We engaged with more than 434 young people and workers to understand their experiences and ensure that they are heard by the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System and the broader community. We strongly advocated on behalf of young people and collaborated with the sector to identify the issues that matter to young people and their solutions for a brighter future for young people's mental health.

We also called for the voting age to be lowered to allow more young people to have a voice in the leadership of the nation. We also contributed to the dialogue about the Victorian Child Safe Standards and the Gender Equality Bill (Vic) to ensure that regulations and legislation work best for the needs of young people and the sector that supports them.

We launched #vicyouth2020 a plan for action with the ideas and priorities Victoria needs to respond to the big issues we face. It highlighted the experiences of people in rural, regional and outer Melbourne and included nine principles that are essential for every young person to live their best life. This plan was developed with our members based on ideas from young people and youth workers across the state.

YACVic advocated strongly during the 2019 Federal Election campaign for both major parties to reinstate the Federal Minister to Youth. This work successfully led to the appointment of a Minister for Youth by the re-elected Morrison Government and put #YouthOnTheAgenda in Australia.

Story

Putting young people's expertise at the heart of our mental health policy work

Young people remain deeply concerned about mental health, with half of all lifetime mental health disorders present by age 14 and three quarters present by age 24.

YACVic's submission to the Royal Commission into the Victorian Mental Health System: Beyond Access, focused on the experiences, knowledge and perspectives of young people from rural and regional Victoria on mental health.

It was co-designed and led by 18 young people, all of whom have lived experience of mental ill-health, and half of whom also come from a rural and regional area. Over three sessions, the group designed our facilitations, provided their input on policy, shared their stories as case studies, and helped us develop resources on self-care.

We recognised the expertise of each young people's lived experience, paying for their time and covering their travel expenses.

Young people also co-facilitated our sessions with workers and young people in rural and regional Victoria, ensuring that lived experience guided each group.

The result? We received contributions from 434 young people and youth workers and generated 49 thoughtful recommendations to improve the mental health system and mental health outcomes for all Victorians.

We also convened a sector working group to understand the various aspects and factors other organisations were focusing their submission on, as well as facilitating collaboration in relevant areas.

We will continue advocating for young people's experiences to be at the heart of guiding mental health policy and system change.

“It only makes sense to include young people in decisions that are relevant to them.

If the mental health system is going to change in Victoria, we need to ensure that it is relatable to young people from all walks of life.”

– Jen Rowan, YACVic Mental Health Facilitator and Co-designer

Read our full submission to the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System by visiting:

www.yacvic.org.au/get-involved/mental-health-royal-commission



Image left: YACVic's group of 18 co-designers pose with love and care

YACVic Rural

YACVic Rural works with and for young people and the youth sector across rural and regional Victoria. In 2018–19 we made our work as accessible and inclusive as possible, to gain authentic perspectives on key issues affecting the regions.

Key stats

1,625 young people participated in YACVic Rural events

335 sector professionals attended trainings across both sites and other regional areas of Victoria

170 sector professionals attended the Connecting the Dots conference

38 trainings, consultations and events across Victoria

24 media mentions on rural and regional youth issues



Meet YACVic Rural (left - right): Shahnaz Rind, Derm Ryan, Karen Walsh and Rhiannon Jennings

YACVic Rural's site-based staff in the Great South Coast and Southern Mallee have continued to work in partnership with young people, youth practitioners and our partner agencies to reach workers and young people across the state.

In February 2019, YACVic held a rural conference, Connecting the Dots, which was opened by the Hon Gabrielle Williams MP, Minister for Youth and brought 170 workers to explore best practice in youth health and wellbeing.

Mental health was a key component of our work this year. The Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership commissioned us to run forums across six areas on mental health through: "When Life Sucks", where we heard from 160 young people on their ideas to improving mental health in their area.

Our two submissions into the Royal Commission into Mental Health also focused on the experiences of rural and regional Victorian young people, where we garnered contributions from 434 young people and workers across eight forums held in Camperdown, Portland, Robinvale, Warrnambool, Swan Hill and Hamilton, and generated 49 recommendations for a stronger and more connected mental health system.

We also held our inaugural Rural Activators program, where 18 young people with ideas and passion were part of an innovative advocacy program designed by young people featuring a series of residential intensives and project seed funding. Over 5 intensives involving some amazing PD and project support, the young people planned and implemented some outstanding local projects to address issues they're passionate about

In September 2018 YACVic launched our inaugural Rural Youth Awards. Held at the Victorian Parliament and attended by the then Minister for Youth, Hon Jenny Mikakos MLC, the awards attracted 59 nominations over 3 categories. It was organised by our Rural Activators and provided an opportunity to shine a spotlight on the young people and youth workers who are leading change across rural and regional Victoria, and the innovative projects they are engaged in through-out Victoria. Congratulations to all the winners.

Story

Connecting the Dots for rural and regional youth workers

YACVic brought 170 youth workers from across rural and regional Victoria together in Ballarat to attend 'Connecting the Dots' Conference. The conference explored the latest research, trends and best practice in the areas of youth health, wellbeing and safety.

The conference gave an opportunity for the rural youth sector to strengthen networks, develop new connections, hear from a range of passionate presenters and attend thought-provoking workshops.

We were thrilled that the Hon Gabrielle Williams MP, Minister for Youth, could address conference attendees on day two of the conference, where she acknowledged how young people in regional Victoria face a different set of challenges from those in Melbourne.

The conference also featured keynote speaker, Dr Ani Wierenga, one of Australia's leading youth researchers. Other guest speakers were Deb Tsobaris, CEO from the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare, and Liana Buchanan, Principal Commissioner for the Commission for Children and Young People.

The Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health facilitated a series of workshops focused on improving sexual health and services for young people, which highlighted the changing and complex sexual and reproductive health needs in rural areas.

In a YACVic first, scholarships were made available to rural workers that covered both conference registration, accommodation and travel expenses to allow for greater attendance.

Rural youth workers help make our community stronger and more resilient, and we remain committed to upskilling and supporting the youth sector across rural and regional Victoria.

“We need to consider what kind of society we are building for young people. Australia is increasingly connected by technology, and increasingly separated by fear.”

**– Dr Ani Wierenga,
Senior Research Fellow,
Australian Youth
Research Centre**



Images above (left - right): Member for Wendouree Juliana Addison MP, Hon. Minister for Youth Gabrielle Williams MP, YACVic Caretaker CEO Paul Turner, Member for Buninyong Michaela Settle MP at the conference. Commissioner for Children and Young People, Liana Buchanan speaks at the conference.

Youth Disability Advocacy Service

YDAS expanded this year with several new staff and exciting projects to strengthen advocacy for the disability community.

“I feel as though I will communicate better and am more able to be inclusive and acknowledge others’ experiences that are different than my own.”

– Campbell, YDAS Co-designer

Key stats

464 people participated in training, workshops and development run by YDAS

131 young people with disability supported through YDAS individual advocacy

312 young people with disability supported to plan ahead through Map Your Future

5,279 followers on Facebook

2,114 Twitter followers

Image right:
YDAS Emerging Young Leader Program participant Emmanuel



Individual Advocacy

During the past year YDAS has supported 22 young people with disability through its individual advocacy service. On top of this YDAS has assisted 109 young people with disability with information and referrals to other services.

Key issues continue to be NDIS, education and accommodation.

Systemic Advocacy and Projects

Both of our ILC funded projects used a co-design model whereby we employed young people with disability to work alongside project staff. The co-designers were involved at every step of each project from design to delivery and evaluation.

Together, Building an Inclusive Youth Sector project delivered training and resources to 149 youth workers across the state on how they can make their service more accessible and inclusive for young people with disability. Participants were encouraged to consider themselves as ‘champions’ for making the issue of greater access and inclusion important within their organisations.

Emerging Young Leaders project delivered leadership training to 14 young people with disability who identified as leaders. The training had a 100% retention rate and saw graduates engage with leadership opportunities afterwards.

NDIS Readiness Project

This year YDAS has been supporting young people with disability across Victoria to get ready for the NDIS thanks to Transition Support Package funding from the Victorian Government. Through this project, we have run workshops online, in schools, TAFEs and public spaces for young people and workers; developed the *Map Your Future* program to support young people to plan for their future on their terms; and created online resources aimed at making navigating the NDIS as easy as possible.

Story

Together: Building an Inclusive Youth Sector

YDAS was supported by the Victorian Government to build the capacity of the mainstream youth sector to be more accessible and inclusive of young people with disability. Through Together: Building an Inclusive Youth Sector project, YDAS has built the skills and capacity of 149 youth workers to deliver more accessible and inclusive services.

The project has been a shining example of co-design. Five young people with disability co-designed and brought their wealth of experience and passion for creating change to the project, ensuring it is a meaningful, resounding success.

The Together team consulted deeply with the youth sector to assess current skills and understanding of disability. They held focus groups with youth workers in metro and rural Victoria, young people with and without disability in Melbourne, and held a series of in-depth interviews with a variety of practitioners. This informed the development of a relevant, useful and engaging training module.

Between April and June, the team delivered eight training sessions and supported workers from 49 organisations. Participants especially appreciated hearing from the co-designers. They learned how to better understand young people with disability, how to respectfully communicate with them and how to offer more inclusive services. The co-designers also developed their project delivery skills, in particular teamwork, teaching others, research, facilitation and public speaking.

Complementing the training sessions is the Together online resource available at ydas.org.au/together. A series of articles and videos cover important issues and offers suggestions on how to make services more accessible.

Demand for Together training continues to be high, and we are exploring alternative funding options to continue delivery.

“Knowing how to be much more inclusive with young people in my own work will help me lead by example in the team and my wider organisation.”

– Participant

“I’ve learnt so much about myself and how I fit into society just by doing this job.”

– Bethany, Co-designer



Image Left: YDAS team and YACVic CEO Katherine Ellis celebrate the launch of the Together resource.

YACVic Auspiced Partner

Koorie Youth Council

Koorie Youth Council (KYC) experienced another incredible year of growth ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people's views and aspirations are heard and influencing government and community.

Key stats

1 Liberty Victoria Young Voltaire Award for Ngaga-Dji (hear me) report

30+ Ngaga-dji (hear me) presentations across Australia

100+ young people (18-28 years old) attended Koorie Youth Summit

23 young people (10-17 years old) attended Marram Nganyin camp

15+ yarning circles and workshops to hear the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in education

5,136 Facebook followers

2,917 Twitter followers



This past year, KYC's Executive have been strong and engaged, guiding the work that we do. Through the role of KYC, we maintain an active and influential voice in the policy space, in particular within Aboriginal and Youth affairs.

KYC continues to create culturally safe spaces and platforms for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people to come together, discuss what is important, connect and to amplify our voices to government and community.

This year, KYC hosted the sixth annual Koorie Youth Summit, for the first time outside Melbourne's CBD on the lands of the Wurundjeri and the Wathaurong/Wadda-Wurrung people in Glenmore.

The theme for this year 'Past, Present, Future' is the understanding and recognition of our history as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The theme is about reflecting, acknowledging and building on our stories, our music and our traditions that have been passed from generation to generation as we prepare for the future.

KYC and the Marram Nganyin Aboriginal youth mentoring program continue to assist and support five Aboriginal organisations to deliver youth mentoring programs across the state. This included running a Marram Nganyin camp where 23 young people aged 10-17 years from across Victoria engaged in the programs attended.

KYC would like to pay our deepest respect to people of the Kulin Nation and to all Elders past, present and emerging for their knowledge, wisdom and legacies that continue to drive us and for the continued support of all KYC projects. KYC want to thank all the incredible young people and communities we work with for trusting us as we collectively create our future.

www.koorieyouthcouncil.org.au

Image left: Over 100 young people aged 18-28 attended the 2019 Koorie Youth Summit, held out in Glenmore.

Story

Ngaga-dji (hear me) – young voices creating change for justice

In August 2018, KYC launched the Ngaga-dji project. Ngaga-dji means "hear me" in the Woiwurrung language of the Wurundjeri people. The collaborative project, led by Anna Cerrato and Indi Clarke, voices the experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Victoria's youth justice system.

Over six months, KYC engaged with four community sites (including rural, regional and metro) and two youth justice custodial centres to meet with children and young people who were currently or previously under youth justice supervision.

This was the first time that these children and young people have had their voices heard, giving Victoria the chance to understand how policy choices affect their lives and the future of Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities.

Ngaga-dji sets out a vision for a Victoria that enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people to thrive and the path to making that happen. The stories in Ngaga-dji are from the heart. They are about love, trauma, strength, discrimination and healing. They are about justice and equality. The stories show us that when governments create systems that truly support the self-determination of communities, children and their families can live free from the justice system.

In the year since Ngaga-dji's launch, KYC has been extremely humbled to accept the Liberty Victoria Young Voltaire Award for the project, as well as receiving national and international recognition. Ngaga-dji will be a founding document in the development and implementation of the Aboriginal Youth Justice strategy. KYC has handed the report back to all communities and young people who supported this collaborative project, as well as handing the report to the various Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committees across the state.

We need everyone in communities, allies, the social services sector, government, and opposition to stand together for real justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. By continuing the work of Ngaga-dji, we are acting on the voices of children who are calling for change.

www.ngaga-djiproject.org.au

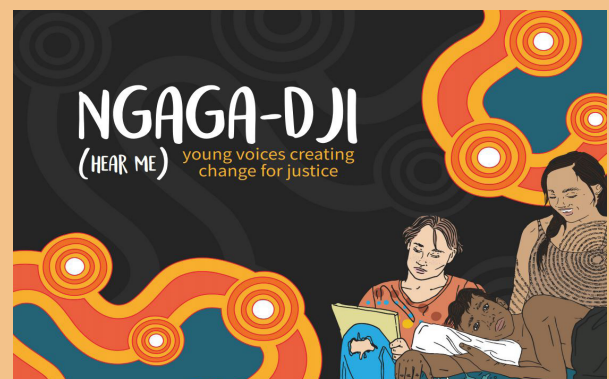
“Ngaga-dji is an opportunity for real justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and our communities. It is an opportunity to change the stories of loneliness and hurt to stories of healing and love. Ngaga-dji is a call to action, to stand for justice and equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and to lead the change we need across the country.”

*– Indi Clarke,
KYC Executive Officer*

Learn more about Koorie Youth Council's advocacy and work, including Ngaga-Dji at:

www.koorieyouthcouncil.org.au

Image right: Front cover of Ngaga-Dji (hear me), the award-winning report released by KYC.



Victorian Student Representative Council

VicSRC has spent 2018/19 continuing to create change in education alongside students and through the power of student voice, agency and participation.

Key stats	<i>50 Ambassador students</i>
	<i>62 Teach the Teacher sessions</i>
	<i>62 Stakeholder meetings with students, teachers and principals, community groups, government departments and MPs</i>
	<i>15 Executive students</i>
	<i>29 Media mentions</i>

Image right:
VicSRC
Congress 2018
delegates



VicSRC has had a busy year working at the state, national and international levels. In Victoria we have fifty students in our Ambassador program, as well as 312 Student Members and 194 Partner Schools. We launched our innovative web project the Student Voice Hub, which garnered more than 400 members in its first year, enabling students around Australia (and the world!) to connect, share resources, stories and celebrate student voice.

Our Teach the Teacher program received international acclaim as one of 10 education innovations spotlighted by Finnish education organisation HundrEd.org in partnership with Education Changemakers. Teach the Teacher was also selected as one of 100 global education innovations. The program has been delivered in WA, NSW and the NT and is receiving interest across the world. The program will soon be available internationally as an online course.

Other achievements this year in Victoria include:

- + Student representation on the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority board and selection panel;
- + Reviewing the Victorian Institute of Teaching Code of Conduct;
- + Consultation on Department of Education and Training (DET) roll out of election promises (expanding the schools breakfast program, school dental program, free sanitary items in schools);
- + Implementation of student members on school councils in government secondary schools);
- + National Youth Commission public hearing on Youth Employment and Transitions;
- + Education State Student Advisory Group implementation and development;
- + VicSRC Executive Committee members delivering and participating in various workshops, including Progress 2019, the Australia Council for Education Leadership and DET's Respectful Relationships.

The VicSRC delivered Student Voice workshops across the state, prepared to launch a new workshop series for Primary Schools, brought over 180 students together from across the state for Congress 2018 and celebrated schools, students and teachers at the Student Voice Awards.

Story

Student Voice Hub

In July 2018, at VicSRC's annual Congress, the Student Voice Hub was launched by the Minister for Education, Hon. James Merlino MP.

Pitched by students at a previous Congress and ultimately guided by students the Hub was envisioned as a one stop shop for all things student voice.

The Hub is now home to a vibrant community of young changemakers and the educators who support them, an audience that has grown to 500 active members since launch and continues to shoot upwards, expected to reach 1000 members by the end of 2019.

Since its launch the Hub has showcased student writing on the blog, bringing student perspective to current issues in education like the mobile phone ban, the climate strikes and the global push for student voice and activism.

The Hub is also home to a bevy of resources to help both students and schools to bring student voice more firmly into their practice. The Hub also facilitates direct dialogue on student-led change and student identified issues on its forums, conversations that cover every level of the education system from discussion of individual school policies to feedback that VicSRC takes directly into conversations with the DET and the Minister for Education.

User research was conducted in December 2018, which showed that students felt empowered and heard when participating in the interactive parts of the Hub, especially the polls and the forums that have directly informed VicSRCs conversations.

Moving forward VicSRC is working to secure funding and partnerships that will help us improve the functionality and scalability of the Hub as well as allowing us to offer more of these interactive features to students.

“The Student Voice Hub is now home to a vibrant community of young changemakers and the educators who support them.”

Join the Student Voice Hub to find ideas and resources to help you take action!

www.studentvoicehub.org.au



Image above: Hon. James Merlino MP, Victorian Minister for Education smiles in front of the 2018 Congress delegation at Congress Open Morning.



Media and Communications

YACVic Communications has worked hard to elevate the diverse voices of young people and the sector to enact change, and ensure policy-makers and those in power are listening.

Key stats

132,364 Total page views on the YACVic website.

13,425 Users over 15,938 sessions viewed pages on www.yerp.org.au.

1 National media appearance.

46 Mentions in the media across YACVic Core, YACVic Rural and YDAS

24 Blog posts.

817,000+ People reached through our social media channels

3,000+ young people and workers reached fortnightly through our newsletters

YACVic's media and communications has continued to grow, with an emphasis this year on storytelling and capturing lived experience of young people and the sector. YACVic's blog has continued to grow, with 13,467 views over the past year, a 20% increase on its first year, finding new voices and stories to cover, and featuring young people speaking for themselves on what matters to them.

This year has also seen us focus on campaigning, and engaging directly with media on current issues affecting young people, with our most ever media mentions in a year. The communications team led the way in creating the "Chair for the Federal Minister for Youth" campaign. We raised awareness nationally, predominantly through social media, about the needs of young people to be represented in government, bringing on board organisations, young people and allies to show support across the country, successfully lobbying all major parties to have a Federal Minister for Youth appointed. This culminated in YACVic's first ever national media appearance, where we responded to the 2019 election result.

Additionally, we had 14,000 people view our resources across youth participation, access and inclusion, mentoring and self-care.

We look forward to build on the momentum of this year and continue improving how we share knowledge of policy, best practice and key resources for young people and the sector.



Images above (left - right): Hon. Gabrielle Williams, Victorian Minister for Youth, opens YACVic's Connecting the Dots rural conference. Senator Richard Colbeck, Federal Minister for Youth, meets staff during a drop-in visit.

Operations, People and Culture

We've found a new home and are building an office and culture that is inclusive, empowering and accessible for as many Victorians as possible.

- Key stats**
- 1 new office to call home*
 - 13 staff are young people (under 25 years of age)*
 - 5 all-staff training sessions across access and inclusion, Auslan, and cultural safety*
 - 100% of staff undertook diversity and inclusion professional development*

The new office space took a long time to find and design because we wanted the office to be as accessible as possible. We have a fully disability-accessible office and bathroom spaces, our bathrooms are also gender neutral and our rainbow carpet serves three purposes: it helps those with visual impairments find their way, it is welcoming to our LGBTIQ+ friends and can assist directionally for anyone to find their way to an office or meeting room.

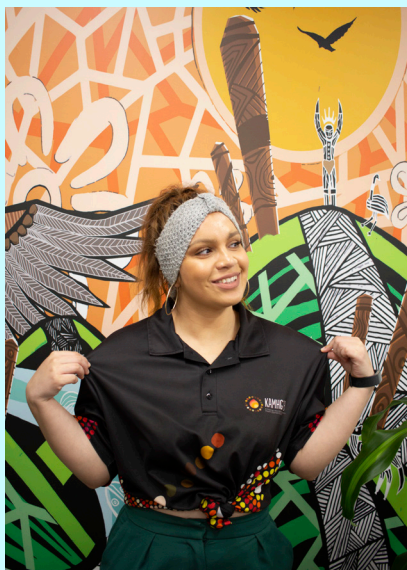
To create a safe and inclusive office, we have actively put posters around the office such as Minus18's "You are Loved" and the "Uluru Statement from the Heart".

We have successfully negotiated a new Enterprise Agreement to update working rights and conditions, the first for many years.

In an attempt to modernise and become paperless we implemented Xero to move away from paper-based time sheeting and leave approval.

YACVic employees enjoy a regular monthly morning tea and a Friday afternoon quiz sessions that encourage team bonding.

We are proud of the inclusive and supportive team culture that we've created at YACVic, and look forward to continuing to take strides towards being sector leading in diversity and accessibility.



Images above (left - right): Banok Rind, Koorie Youth Council Deputy Executive Officer celebrates International Women's Day. YACVic staff all celebrate Wear It Purple Day.

Our Coverage

Where We've Been

YACVic Core

Anglesea
Ballarat
Broadford
Camperdown
Carlton
Collingwood
Creswick
Dandenong
Fitzroy
Footscray
Frankston
Geelong
Glenmore
Hamilton
Hoppers Crossing
Melbourne
Moonee Ponds
Pakenham
Parkville
Point Cook
Portland
Robinvale
Sunshine
Swan Hill
Warrnambool
Yarra Ranges

YACVic Rural

Anglesea
Ballarat
Barham
Beechworth
Bendigo
Birchip
Boort
Broadford
Camperdown
Cape Bridgewater
Casterton
Charlton
Cohuna
Colac
Creswick
Echuca
Elaine
Geelong
Hamilton
Healesville
Heywood
Kerang
Kyneton
Lancefield
Leitchville
Mildura
Mortlake
Morwell
Port Fairy
Portland
Robinvale
Sale
Sea Lake
Shepparton
St. Arnaud
Swan Hill
Terang
Wangaratta
Warrnambool
Wodonga
Wycheproof

YDAS

Boroondara
Brimbank
Cardinia
Casey
City of Melbourne
Darebin
Greater Bendigo
Greater Dandenong
Hobsons Bay
Hume
Knox
Macedon Ranges
Mallee
Maroondah
Melton
Mildura
Monash
Moonee Valley
Moreland
St Kilda
Stonnington
Swan Hill
Western
Melbourne
Whitehorse
Whittlesea
Wyndham

KYC

Bacchus Marsh
Bairnsdale
Ballarat
Barmah
Bendigo
Brisbane (QLD)
Camp Jungai
Echuca
Frankston
Geelong
Glenmore
Healesville
Heywood
Horsham
Marlsbury
Melbourne
Mildura
Perth (WA)
Port Fairy
Reservoir
Shepparton
Swan Hill
Sydney (NSW)
Thornbury
Wodonga
Wunnaga
Wyndham

VicSRC

Bairnsdale
Bendigo
Bundoora
Camberwell
Carwatha
Casterton
Dandenong North
Dandenong West
East Melbourne
Epping
Frankston
Geelong
Hamilton
Hamlyn Heights
Keilor Downs
Kerang
Kew
Melbourne CBD
Melton West
Moorabbin
Mornington
Noble Park
Officer
Rowville
Roxburgh Park
Sale
Scoresby
Swan Hill
Warrnambool
Brisbane (QLD)
Darwin (NT)



Financial Report
2018–19

Treasurer's report

The 2018 – 19 financial year has been a year of strategic decisions and organisational change. As a board, we have maintained close management of the financial position of YACVic to ensure that it maintains stability to enable the organisation to continue to support young Victorians and the youth sector.

An ongoing feature within YACVic's financial position are one-off and ongoing grants for program delivery, which is a result of good governance and strong relationships with partners. As such, YACVic has maintained a positive financial position throughout 2018 – 19 and provides a positive outlook for the 2019 – 20 financial year.

For the 2018 – 19 financial year, YACVic returned an operating surplus of \$123,389 increasing net assets to \$1,179,798 (2018: \$1,056,409). The operating surplus will be applied to the ongoing delivery of programs in line with existing agreements, as well support the operational capability of YACVic and partner agencies, and grow the membership base across Victoria.

As at 30 June 2019, YACVic had cash reserves of \$2,503,517 (2018: \$2,395,812) including term deposits, which the YACVic board decided to hold with an ethical and member-based financial institution – an organisation that aligns with YACVic's values.

In 2018, YACVic undertook an office relocation and fit-out. The decision was made to use existing equity for these expenses, and to amortise new plant and equipment at 20% over 5 years.

Looking forward, as YACVic implements its Strategic Plan under new leadership, a strong focus on financial management, and board engagement will further strengthen YACVic's overall financial position.

I'd like to express my appreciation to the YACVic board for their ongoing vigilance on YACVic's operating and strategic financial position, and their support for YACVic throughout a year of change.



Benson Saulo - Treasurer

Statement of financial performance

For the year ended 30 June 2019

	2019	2018
	\$\$	\$\$
Income		
Conference	248,717	337,527
Member subscriptions	35,303	34,698
Government grants	3,202,002	3,069,614
Other grants	66,835	58,047
Interest received	37,693	31,059
Admin and management fee	6,500	6,500
Other income	395,930	308,389
	3,922,980	3,845,834
Expenditure		
Depreciation and amortisation	74,076	126,171
Employee costs	2,561,947	2,314,286
Project costs	513,698	369,116
Sector development and consultation	152,921	295,094
Accommodation expenses	212,884	160,102
Administration expenses	228,557	208,905
Communication, publication and printing expenses	125,508	97,796
	3,869,591	3,571,470
Surplus for the year	123,389	274,364

Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$\$	2018 \$\$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	2,503,517	2,395,812
Trade and other receivables	3	75,070	110,895
Prepayments		25,150	31,880
Total Current Assets		2,603,737	2,538,387
Non-Current Assets			
Plants and equipment	4	343,768	100,285
Total Non-Current Assets		343,768	100,285
Total Assets		2,947,505	2,638,872
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5	333,144	320,662
Employee benefits	7	100,519	126,797
Other liabilities	6	1,302,402	1,068,290
Total Current Liabilities		1,736,065	1,515,749
Non-Current Liabilities			
Employee benefits	7	31,642	66,714
Total Non-Current Liabilities		31,642	66,714
Total Liabilities		1,767,707	1,582,463
Net Assets		1,179,798	1,056,409
Members' Funds			
Retained surplus		1,179,798	1,056,409
Total Members' Funds		1,179,798	1,056,409

Statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 30 June 2019

	2019	2018
	\$\$	\$\$
Opening Balance	1,056,409	782,045
Surplus for the year	123,389	274,364
Closing Balance	1,179,798	1,056,409

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June 2018

	Note	2019	2018
		\$\$	\$\$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:			
Receipts from government and members		4,636,689	4,252,574
Payments to suppliers and employees		(4,249,118)	(3,870,538)
Interest received		37,693	31,059
Net cash provided by operating activities		425,264	413,095
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(317,559)	(46,149)
Net cash provided by investing activities		(317,559)	(46,149)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		107,705	366,946
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of year		2,395,812	2,028,866
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year		2,503,517	2,395,812

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2019

The financial statements cover Youth Affairs Council Victoria as an individual entity. Youth Affairs Council Victoria is a notfor-profit Association incorporated in Victoria under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 ('the Act').

Basis of Preparation

In the opinion of the Committee of Management, the Association is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial statements who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the Act.

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.

1 Summary of Significant 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 membership 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 income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(c) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST.

Cash flows in the statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

(d) Leases

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all of the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses on a straight line basis over the life of the lease term.

(e) Property, plant and equipment

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

Property, plant and equipment, Office Equipment, Leasehold Improvements and Computer Software is depreciated on a straight line basis over the assets useful life to the Association, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

Leased assets and leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or their estimated useful life.

(f) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

(g) Employee benefits

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 benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled plus on costs. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Those cashflows are discounted using market yields on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cashflows.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2019

2 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2019	2018
	\$\$	\$\$
Cash on hand	1,800	1,500
Bank balances	1,002,825	965,879
Short-term deposits	1,498,892	1,428,433
	<u>2,503,517</u>	<u>2,395,812</u>

3 Trade and Other Receivables

CURRENT

Accounts receivable	22,109	108,499
Other accrued income	52,961	2,396
	<u>75,070</u>	<u>110,895</u>

4 Property, plant and equipment

PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Office equipment

At cost	135,849	105,983
Accumulated depreciation	(92,680)	(66,339)
Total office equipment	<u>43,169</u>	<u>39,644</u>

Computer software

At cost	70,851	70,851
Accumulated depreciation	(24,380)	(10,210)
Total computer software	<u>46,471</u>	<u>60,641</u>

Leasehold improvements

At cost	287,692	166,026
Accumulated amortisation	(33,564)	(166,026)
Total leasehold improvements	<u>254,128</u>	<u>-</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>343,768</u>	<u>100,285</u>

5 Trade and other payables

Current

Trade payables	77,605	106,497
GST payable	70,194	50,177
Sundry payables and accrued expenses	185,345	163,988
	<u>333,144</u>	<u>320,662</u>

6 Other Liabilities

	2019	2018
	\$\$	\$\$
CURRENT		
Government grants received in advance	1,296,190	1,024,613
Deferred	6,212	43,677
	1,302,402	1,068,290

7 Employee Benefits

Current liabilities

Long service leave	13,219	20,659
Annual Leave	87,300	106,138
	100,519	126,797

Non-current liabilities

Long-service leave	31,642	66,714
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8 Commitments

Operating Leases

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases

- not later than one year	159,996	90,437
- between one year and five years	383,929	-
Accumulated depreciation	543,925	90,437

Operating leases are in place for a property lease commitment. Lease payments are increased on an annual basis to reflect market rentals at a rate of 3.5%. The lease commenced on 19 November 2018.

9 Contingencies

In the opinion of the Committee of Management, the Association did not have any contingencies at 30 June 2019.

10 Events after the end of the Reporting Period

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

11 Statutory Information

The registered office and principal place of business of the Association is:

Youth Affairs Council Victoria
Level 2
235 Queen Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Independent Audit Report to the members of Youth Affairs Council Victoria

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Youth Affairs Council Victoria (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, the statement of financial performance, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the responsible persons' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association is in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Emphasis of Matter Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist the Association in meeting its financial reporting requirements under the Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Association and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the Association. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Committee and Those Charged with Governance

The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission Act 2012, and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate,

they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial reporter, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.

Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



ACCRU MELBOURNE (AUDIT) PTY LTD



G D WINNETT
Director

27 September 2019

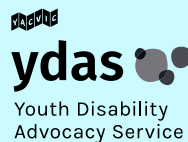
Thank you

A big thank you from YACVic, our core and partner agencies to all our funders, partners and dedicated supporters for making this important work possible, and to our board and staff for their commitment, passion and expert guidance.

Thank you especially to our members for sharing our vision of a positive future for young people, and the work you do every day. And finally, and most importantly, thank you to the young people of Victoria for making a difference to your communities and helping us advocate on what matters.

YACVic and Partner Agency staff in 2018–19:

Alyssa Jeffrey	Harry Koelyn	Liz Leahy	Sam Champion
Andrea Rowland	Hayley Allen	Luke David	Savanna Kruger
Andrew Bell	Ian Johnson	Luke Rycken	Sebastian Antoine
Anna Cerreto	Indi Clarke	Matty Sievers	Shahnaz Rind
Banok Rind	Jade Maiolo	Mel Gaylard	Shaye Chalmers
Becc Brooker	Jessica Bengtsson	Micah Maglaya	Simon Green
Benita Bruce	Jess De Mercurio	Michelle Sibanda	Stacey Christie
Cat Sinclair	Jessie Mitchell	Miia Tolvanen	Steph Brenkovich
Charli Ellis	Karen Walsh	Mija Gwyn	Thanh Hang Pham
Cienan Muir	Kat Daymond	Mo Omar	Thomas Feng
David Trevorrow	Katherine Ellis	Neil Morris	Tom Nice
Deirbhile Tuite	Kim Evans	Nell MacColl	
Derm Ryan	Kirsty Fromholtz	Nikayla Bamblett	
Desney Millen	Lachlan Edwards	Nina Laitala	
Emily Tester	Leah Van Poppel	Paul Turner	
Evrin Sen	Leo Fieldgrass	Priya Kunjan	
Fiona Campbell	Levi Mckenzie-Kirkbright	Rhiannon Jennings	



YACVic acknowledges the commitment and support of the Victorian Government.

