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**Title:**  Youth Advisory Group Member

**Hours:**  2 hour bi-monthly meetings, and on an ad hoc basis when events and opportunities arise

**Remuneration:**  Volunteers will receive an honorarium payment for every meeting, event and presentation and will vary depending on their length and time commitment. For example, 2-hour meetings will be $100, full day events will be a different rate depending on what is required of you. Payment will be by funds transfer to your bank account.

**Status:**  One year commitment ending in January 2026 (One-year term with the option of a one-year renewal).

**Location:**  Location can be based anywhere across Victoria. Bi-monthly meetings will be mostly online but there will be the occasional in-person meetings/training or events. All travel and accommodation will be covered by the Centre of Excellence – Young People and Disasters.

**About the Centre of Excellence - Young People and Disasters**

Victoria University’s (VU) Youth and Community Research Group and Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic) are partnering to establish the **Centre of Excellence - Young People and Disasters** (‘The Centre’).

The Centre champions the inclusion and active involvement of young people to contribute to all aspects of disasters.

We do this by:

* Bringing together expertise around young people (12-24 years), youth participation and disasters.
* Taking a strengths-based approach, recognising the capabilities and contributions of young people as active citizens in disaster readiness, resilience, and risk reduction.
* Acknowledging that climate change is impacting disasters, causing them to be more frequent and more intense. Disasters are now experienced as multiple, compounding and cascading events. Young people’s futures are disproportionately affected.
* Aiming to strengthen the capacity of relevant emergency and disaster organisations to engage and work with young people.
* Acting as a clearing house for knowledge translation, commissioning, contributing to, and disseminating research with, and about young people’s engagement with disasters.
* Utilising evidence to inform and improve engagement with young people and policy responses.
* Championing place-based approaches, prioritising local community responses enabling young people’s agency as active citizens.
* Advocating with young people for young people’s rights and wellbeing.

**About Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic)**

Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic) is the peak body and leading policy advocate on young people’s issues in Victoria. YACVic’s vision is that the rights of young people in Victoria are respected, and they are active, visible and valued in their communities. YACVic is an independent, for-purpose, member-driven organisation that represents young people (aged 12–25 years) and the sector that works with them.

YACVic provides additional targeted advocacy, through our key services, YACVic Rural and via strong partnerships with other leading youth sector agencies the Youth Disability Advocacy Service (YDAS); Victorian Student Representative Council (VicSRC): Koorie Youth Council (KYC); Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY); amongst others.

**About Victoria University (VU)**

Victoria University (VU) is a world-class teaching and research institution committed to working with our partners in co-defining and co-creating research to address the needs of our communities locally, nationally and globally. For VU, research with impact is more than knowledge but ethical knowledge, more than strengths but solutions, and we see those values informing the creation of the Centre of Excellence. We also see the alignment of many of the issues young people have raised regarding their involvement in emergency management, around disasters, and community resilience building with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which are a key focus of VU research. We are also well positioned as a dual-sector university across higher education and TAFE to consider all aspects of education, training and skills development for young people.

**About you**

* You are aged 12-25 years
* You can commit to regular bi-monthly meetings
* You may have experience being involved and connected to an existing emergency /disaster program or organisation in your local community, or climate action group, however this isn’t essential.
* This could be via the CFA, SES, Life Saving Association, Future Proof or local government or any other way you are involved in your local community
* If you are over 18 you will be required to provide a valid working with children check and a police check – we can assist you in obtaining these.

**What you will receive**

* Support to participate for the full term of your appointment
* Welcome and induction process to your role and YACVic’s policies and procedures
* Regular updates on what is happening with the Centre and any key events of interest
* Volunteer payments will be offered for every meeting, event and presentation and will vary depending on their length and time commitment. For example, 2-hour meetings will be $100, full day events will be a different rate, depending on what is required of you. Payment will be by funds transfer to your bank account. All out of pocket expenses including travel/meals and accommodation will be covered.
* You will receive training in the following areas:
* Child Safety
* Change Agents training (this workshop focuses on how to get young people actively participating in the response to disasters in their local communities)
* Data and device equipment is available for those that need it to enable you to contribute and participate

**Major Duties**

* Maintain regular and ongoing communication throughout the duration of the project.
* Provide input into the direction of the Centre and its various projects
* Participate in the development and delivery of journal articles and conference presentations.
* Regularly participate as a peer trainer / lived experience panel member.
* Support in the identification of priority action areas
* Attend meetings using the video-conferencing software Zoom or in-person. All meetings happen in youth friendly hours. Hybrid options will be available (data and equipment can be made available for those that require)
* Engage in opportunities to develop skills, such as chairing meetings and delivering presentations
* Provide insights and updates on developments within your local community

**Reporting**

This role does not report to anyone, but will work closely with the Project Coordinator, and the team from both YACVic and VU.

**Volunteer Participation conditions**

The Centre of Excellence, and its founding organisations YACVic and VU, promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children and young people, including those with a disability, those who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or those from refugee or migrant backgrounds. We take child protection very seriously.

All employees are subject to screening and assessment against child safety standards, including rigorous background, identity and reference checks. The successful applicant will require a current Working with Children Check and a satisfactory National Police Check (costs reimbursed) and must agree to comply with YACVic’s Code of Conduct, Child Safe policy and procedures.

All volunteers will be expected to follow the relevant policies and procedures of YACVic. We will provide you with this information if your application is successful.

**Expression of Interest (EOI) Application Process**

Please submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) via this [form](https://forms.office.com/r/DMBdFdbB9u?origin=lprLink). If you have any further questions, please email Jess Standish (she/her), Project Coordinator at jstandish@yacvic.org.au.

**Only applications that follow the above process will be accepted and considered.** Please let us know if you require support to complete the EOI or would like to submit an EOI in a different format.

**EOI applications close on Tuesday 7th January at 5pm.** You will be contacted after the closing date.

If you have any questions about the role, please contact Jessica Standish (she/her), Project Coordinator at jstandish@yacvic.org.au