



A Catalyst for Change

'Organised BY young people FOR young people'

Catalyst Youth Summit 2017
Western Australia's youth summit for young people
from refugee and migrant backgrounds

Catalyst
youth Summit

Sponsorship and support

The Catalyst Youth Summit was made possible by the generous support of a number of partners and sponsors



The City of Bayswater, City of Belmont, City of Canning, City of Cockburn, City of Joondalup and Shire of Kalamunda.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia acknowledges the traditional custodians of country on which this report was based, the Whadjuk Noongar people, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures, and to their Elders both past and present.



Introduction

In July 2017, 12 young people, inspired by a previous group of youth organisers, worked closely together to develop and deliver Western Australia's second Catalyst Youth Summit.

The 2017 Catalyst Youth Summit was held over three days and once again, provided nearly sixty young multicultural Western Australians the opportunity to build relationships, speak with politicians and work together to develop solutions to issues that face their peers. The summit helped identify new and emerging leaders, and added yet more young people to the

Catalyst alumni – a growing group of young leaders that are proving to be a true catalyst for change.

This report shares the major findings from the summit and showcases what the Catalyst alumni have been doing since their summit experience. Most importantly though, the solutions discussed by young people at the summit shows you how you can help improve outcomes for all refugee and migrant young people in Western Australia.



Message from the Minister

I am delighted to congratulate the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network of Western Australia and the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia on their presentation of a successful Catalyst Youth Summit.

The State Government is proud to support the Catalyst Youth Summit through the Office of Multicultural Interests.

The summit is a platform for young Western Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to connect directly with a number of our state's political leaders to discuss issues of concern to them.

In this second summit, the insight, courage and creativity displayed by the young people in their presentations was an inspiration for all participants and government decision makers.

The McGowan Government looks to these exceptional young people to act as channels for positive change and to become future leaders in the community.

I commend the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network of Western Australia and the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia for their work in presenting this important initiative.

HON PAUL PAPALIA MLA

MINISTER FOR CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL
INTERESTS



Message from YACWA

We are so proud at YACWA to support the outstanding group of young organisers who pulled off this years' Catalyst Youth Summit. Now two years on, this summit is setting a benchmark for what effective youth leadership and youth participation can be. The event not only demonstrated new and innovative ways of engaging large numbers of diverse young people to share their thoughts, experiences and ideas, it also helped to change and influence public policy and allowed young people to directly challenge the status quo.

Partnering with the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) has also been a big highlight of this event. This partnership demonstrates an excellent example of how government, the community sector and young people can collaborate to create change and we thank OMI for their support throughout the planning and delivery of the summit.

Events like this are not possible without many partners and people and I want to say a resounding thank you to all those involved and again congratulate the young organisers and the many young people who took time to participate.

The outcomes of this years' summit are outlined in this report and clearly go beyond the event itself. This report helps to shows the real and lasting impact events like this can have and the power and importance of bringing young people together to create new solutions to old problems.

ROSS WORTHAM
CEO
YACWA



Message from MYAN WA

True to its original intent, this year's Catalyst Youth Summit did a brilliant job at inspiring our future leaders. I was impressed by the young leaders and the qualities they showcased on the final day. The wealth of knowledge, experience and enthusiasm they presented are key elements for creating the vibrant communities they want to live in as the individuals they want to be. As the co-chair of MYAN WA and as a person of colour, I am eager to see what our future looks like with so many incredible young people willing to take the lead.

JAMILA JAFARI
CO-CHAIR OF MYAN WA

This year's Catalyst Youth Summit was a great success. It was a privilege to be at the presentation day. As co-chair of MYAN WA, I was very impressed with this group of multicultural young people and their presentations. Over the course of the week, these young people improved their advocacy skills with mentors and collaborated with their peers. The outcome was over 60 confident next generation leaders of their communities, who I believe will confidently take MYAN WA forward in the years to come with their commitment to leadership and visions for the better.

CRAIG WEBSTER
CO-CHAIR OF MYAN WA



Message from the organising team

The second Catalyst Youth Summit brought about just as much excitement as the previous year, and along with it, 44 new delegates from all backgrounds across the state. The summit itself was a result of the dedication generated by the Catalyst Youth Committee, many of whom were delegates and organisers from the previous year. The summit was a year in the making, formed through regular meetings and allotting tasks among the committee members. The meetings themselves were also an excuse to catch up with what we feel is our very own family away from home. That family has extended to this year's delegates, as we shared the opportunity to listen to the delegates' ideas and their exchange of crucial thoughts in areas requiring change. We formed invaluable relationships with the young people, through our passion for creating social change. It all paid off when the delegates were given the opportunity to be heard by key stakeholders and politicians; a link that we believe, needs to continue and will continue.

**TAMKIN ESSA AND FATEMA SHALEMIE, CATALYST
YOUTH SUMMIT CONVENERS**

Contents

Sponsorship and support	2
Acknowledgement of Country	2
Introduction	3
Message from the Minister	4
Message from YACWA	5
Message from MYAN WA	6
Message from the organising team	6
The journey	9
The organising committee	10
Summit delegates	12
The summit	13
Issues and solutions	18
Inclusion	18
The justice system	20
Violence	22
Identity	24
Wellbeing	26
What was great?	28
What we learnt	30
What we would change	31
Catalyst alumni	32
Our commitment	36
Your commitment	37
Final words	38
Thanks	39



The journey

This Catalyst Youth Summit journey began where the last one left off. The majority of the young organisers of the 2017 summit were delegates of the last one, with a couple of previous organisers staying on to pass on their wisdom, and a couple of new young passionate leaders joining the team. The committee spent a year designing the summit, meeting regularly to plan over pizza and coffee, with the support of MYAN WA Project Officer, Sara Shengeb.

The young organisers secured grants from the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI), Lotterywest and once again, secured a partnership with Edith Cowan University (ECU) who provided an in-kind venue and IT support. The young organisers also secured a grant from the Department of Local Government and Communities (DLGC) to organise training that would help them build their skills to plan and deliver an inclusive event.



The organising committee

Once again, the Catalyst Youth Summit was a youth led event, which was critical to its success. Young people initiated the project and made all of the key decisions, with MYAN WA and YACWA staff providing support and guidance. The 12 young organisers came from a variety of backgrounds and brought diverse skills and experience to the project.



Meet Catalyst Youth Summit 2017's young organisers



Aksh Handa

My job at Catalyst was to coordinate the catering along with Vithan. We tried our absolute best to make the summit an amazing gastronomical experience to remember. We were hyped for the end of summit dinner.



Daniel Matabishi

I'm a third-year pathology student at UWA. This year I was the merchandising director alongside Neeka and assistant team leader. I appreciate the summit immensely because it gives a platform for inspirational youth to get an opportunity to air their voices.



Fatema Shalemie

I am a cheese addict with a taste for social change. My role at Catalyst was to help coordinate the summit, make sure everyone was on top of their tasks and stay a constant worrier.



Jaynesh Narro

Apart from wrapping up this degree in Political Science and International Relations with Law and Society soon-ish, I could not wait to dive into my second most favourite hobby: youth conferencing, catalysed as you would have guessed by me endorsing the social media portfolio!



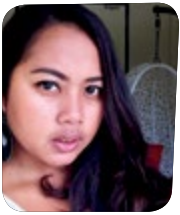
Jeneba Macauley

Hi, I'm Jeneba and I'm passionate about being a voice for the voiceless. My responsibilities for Catalyst ranged from accommodation to teaming up for uniform production. My adoration for Catalyst stemmed from being able to interact with diverse multitudes and gain new perspectives and knowledge from them.



Kabo B. Masimege

I am a basketball playing poet who loves reading graphic novels, watching anime and chilling. This was my first summit. I was the co-coordinator of the media branch of the team. I appreciated the summit because it proved what wonderful things can happen when great people come together.



Martha Sari

Hi, I am a proud Indonesian studying graphic design, a socio-traveller and struggling entrepreneur. I love Catalyst because I get to meet with many inspiring people from diverse backgrounds.



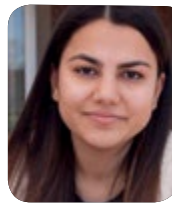
Nafiso Mohammed

My name is Nafiso and I am a final year commerce student. I was a Catalyst delegate in 2016. I love the summit because I enjoy working with people that want to create positive change, especially CALD people from all walks of life that dream to make Australia more inclusive.



Neeka Zand

Hey guys! I'm Neeka, a fifth year Psychology and Business student who thrives off fried chicken and political satire. A highlight of being a delegate at last year's summit was being surrounded by such a unique group of like-minded people. This year I was excited to be a team leader.



Tamkin Essa

Hi guys! My name is Tamkin, I'm famous for my loud laugh and always smiling! I am currently studying International Relations and Journalism at Curtin University. I got involved in organising the youth summit to help empower young people within Western Australia to raise their voice on issues that matter the most to them to find solutions. This summit was not only about empowerment but also about opportunity.



Tehani Savu

Hi! I am Tehani Savu. I live in Broome and my heritage is part Fijian and Australian. My role was to represent the regional parts of Western Australia during the Catalyst Summit. This was my first year being part of the summit, so I looked forward to meeting the delegates and discussing the diversity among different cultures and speaking with the politicians.



Vithan Thillairajah

Hi guys! I'm Vithan and I'm currently studying Public Health at UWA. I was a delegate at the summit last year and had an absolutely fantastic time! Having had the privilege to meet such extraordinary inspirational people who I'm lucky enough to call my friends, this year I decided to help organise the summit with the vision of ensuring that this year's delegates share in a similarly inspirational experience.

The summit delegates

68 applied

50 selected



By a panel of three:

one young organiser

a MYAN WA staff member

an OMI staff member

44 attended



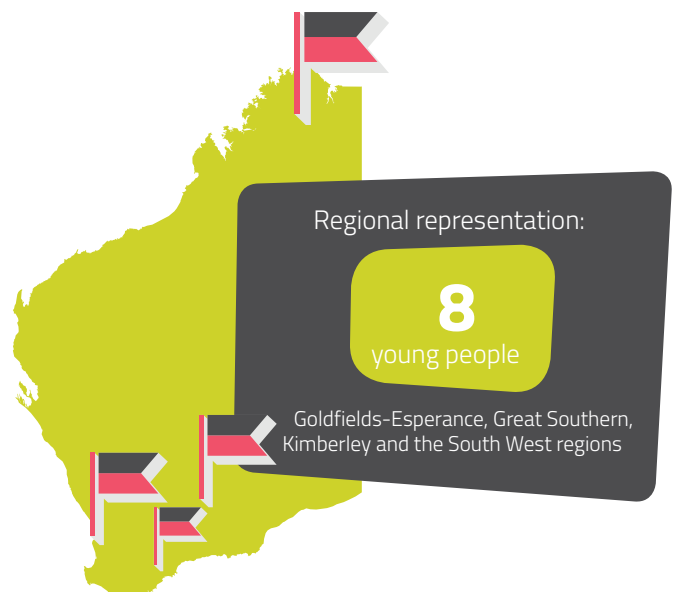
They came from 25 different countries of origin



23 females



21 males



The summit

The topics

The summit focused on five topical issues and young people were tasked with developing potential solutions to the issues they discussed. The five topics were:

- Inclusion
- The justice system
- Violence
- Identity
- Well-being

The teams

The young organisers selected the topics, and asked delegates on their application form to rank the issues of importance to them. Delegates were then divided into five teams and assigned to a topic that best matched their preferences. Each team was led by two team leaders - ten of the young organisers took on these roles. The role of the team leader was to be the go to point for their team members and to facilitate group discussions. Each team was also matched with two mentors from the sector. The team leaders met the mentors at a pre-event planning session, and then worked with them on the final day of the summit.



The program

The summit program content was developed over a number of months and informed by the young organisers' experiences of the previous summit, as well as input from MYAN WA and YACWA staff. Once again, the program focused on three key areas:

- Building connection
- Talking about the issues
- Advocacy and influence

The young organisers made three key changes from the previous summit.

Accommodation

The 2016 funding for the Catalyst Youth Summit only allowed for regional delegates to be accommodated together. The bonds formed and conversations held in the evenings were one of the highlights for these delegates. As a result, the 2017 organising team arranged for all of the delegates to be accommodated together for the duration of this summit.

Topic discussion and presentations

In 2016, the delegates only had two hours to develop their final day presentations. The young organisers wanted the delegates to have more time for in-depth topic discussion and more time for their topic presentation development. The 2017 program was extended by half a day, and each team had twice the amount of time to talk through their topics and develop presentations.

More youth involvement

Young people told us that one of the most valuable parts of the last summit was the inspiration they found in seeing this organised by other young people just like them. To extend this, as well as being organised by young people again, additional youth elements were included - the summit was emceed by Golda Signal, one of the delegates from the previous summit, one of the panellists on the first day, Ziagul Sultani, was one of the organisers of the previous year, and the staff member that coordinated the summit, Sara Shengeb, was a young person.

Building connection

Young people that attended the first Catalyst Youth Summit told us that one of the most significant and long-lasting parts of their experience was the opportunity to connect with their peers. A critical part of the summit program involved providing plenty of opportunities for delegates to build those connections.

Team building session

The young organisers designed and facilitated a two-hour team building session on the first day. This was as popular (and noisy) this time around as it was at the first time.

Summit cultural dinner

The summit cultural dinner was held on the evening of the final day of the summit. The dinner was a great chance for the young people to relax after the intensity of the summit. Most chose to wear clothing that reflected their cultural backgrounds, and shared their cultures through music and a lot of dancing!





Talking about the issues

The majority of summit was devoted to giving the delegates time to learn about, and talk in depth on the issues that were important to them.

Kaleidoscope panel

A panel of influential people within the WA community was organised for the afternoon of the first day. In the lead up to the summit, delegates submitted questions that were then put to the panellists over the duration of this session. This allowed for the early exploration of different perspectives on their topics. The panellists were:

- Fadzi Whande – Inclusion and Diversity Advisor, University of Western Australia
- Don Emmanuel-Smith – Inspector, WA Police
- Zen Mohamed Kassim – Acting Sergeant, WA Police
- Ziagul Sultani – Youth and Community Development Officer, Shire of Katanning

World café discussion

- On the morning of the second day, delegates participated in a two-hour world café style workshop, which involved twenty-minute rounds of topic conversation, with each group moving to a new table at the end of every round. This gave all delegates the chance to provide input into every topic.



Advocacy and influence

One of the most important elements of the summit was providing bright young leaders with the inspiration, tools and opportunities required to advocate about the issues important to them to people of influence.

Leadership and advocacy training

An absolute highlight for most of the young people was the opening key note presentation provided by Yassmin Abdel-Magied. She gave a stirring and inspirational opening speech about her journey and the importance of speaking out. Yassmin also led a two-hour leadership and advocacy training session with all of the delegates on the first day.

"I loved hearing Yassmin coming in to talk. She was a great point of connection, I could relate to her easily."

The presentations

The most keenly anticipated part of the program was the team presentations to politicians and key stakeholders on the final day of the summit. Each team prepared a seven-minute presentation on their topic. Their brief was to talk through some of the main issues from a youth perspective and develop some innovative solutions.

When the day arrived, the excitement was palpable. Four politicians and over 25 key stakeholders gathered to listen to the young people present. The presentations were outstanding, with thoughtful and nuanced discussions on the topics, and interesting solutions put forward. Also evident was the confidence and leadership of this group of young people as they successfully navigated questions from the audience. After the presentations, conversations were continued over lunch, with the delegates and young organisers making the most of the opportunity to talk to the people of influence about their topics.



Issues and solutions

The discussions and presentations from the delegates revealed a number of insights into the issues of importance to refugee and migrant young people living in WA. A number of the challenges the young people talked about mirrored conversations held at the last summit, and the solutions they identified pinpoint clear areas for future focus.

Inclusion

The issues

Team Red discussed the topic of the inclusion. They centred their presentation around two personal experiences. Experiences which had made them question if they were truly included in Australia, the place they call home. The first story related to employment and job opportunities:

"There was a fish and chip shop that was offering jobs for young applicants, so I decided to give them a call. Over the phone they agreed to offer me a job and to come in the next day. The only thing I had to do was send my name and resume. As soon as I sent in my name, all my calls and texts went unanswered. Later on, my friend informed me that the employer only hired Anglo-Saxons."

They told us that multicultural young people were collectively concerned with the perception that their ethnic names may have in an employment environment here in Australia. They stated that research shows that middle eastern applicants need to submit 64 percent more job applications for each job interview before they get a job.

The second area that made them feel excluded related to a lack of representation in leadership positions. The second story related to exclusion:

"I'm walking through my university campus, a first year and eager to make some friends and meet new people. I walk over to a sign-up table for women's netball, my favourite sport. I'm greeted with strange looks, whispers and a hostile attitude. I ask about joining and about the uniform, as I can see it doesn't cater to my religious requirements. I ask if it would be alright to wear leggings under the skirt. Their response? A few smirks from the four white girls standing behind the table, and a swift, 'no'. The whispers continue about my headscarf and my 'unreasonable request'. My heart drops. I was excluded because of my religion."

Team Red said that as a young person, being included begins with feeling represented, accepted and like you have a right to occupy a space. They said that young people from CALD backgrounds often lack role models in public spaces ranging from sport, to entertainment, pop culture and media, as well as spheres of political leadership.



The solutions

Team Red came up with two solutions that they felt would help improve inclusion for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. The first was to develop a Multicultural Youth Advisory Committee. They felt that collectively, young people in WA that identify as belonging to a cultural or ethnic minority are facing unique issues and thought it problematic that there was no representative body to assist the Minister for Youth to have an all rounded approach to policy. They felt that it was integral that decision makers heard directly from young people on the issues of employment and representation. Their second solution related to community education.

They said that the implementation of a Multicultural Youth Advisory Committee would facilitate a platform for young people to feel represented, and build a conversation with the wider Australian community. They felt it could use their potential to be a bridge of communication between their own communities, especially the older generations, and current political leaders and policy makers of Australia.

To address the problem with employment discrimination, they felt that introducing blind job application processes would be helpful for young people from multicultural backgrounds. They said that showing that all applications are being accepted, read and appreciated sends a positive signal to multicultural young people and makes them feel validated for their experiences, qualifications and achievements. They believed a Multicultural Youth Advisory Committee could also assist with this.

This team also had the idea of developing a digital inclusion platform, titled D.I.P. On this website or app, users could ask questions of refugee and migrant young people that they were too embarrassed or afraid to ever ask in person. They felt that it would provide a two-way communication platform between Australians and young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds. They said it would also allow people of different minorities to have a voice, counter stereotypes and educate the community with the safety of anonymity.



The justice system

The issues

Team Blue discussed the topic of the justice system. The young people in this group separated the justice system into two groups: the policy makers (politicians) and the law enforcers (police force). They felt that CALD communities were disconnected from the justice system and that there is a mutually held negative bias when it comes to the relationship between CALD communities and the system. The process they identified as causing this is represented below.



Image: Faizal Tabir and friends in Victoria Park. Picture: Martha Fleming/Catalyst Times



The solutions

This group identified a number of solutions to disrupt the cycle identified (opposite, p18).

They thought that law enforcers and policy makers should take part in specialised training programs to ensure they are more culturally competent. They felt that this was essential to address political and judicial bias.

They felt the police force needed to develop a media campaign in which diversity within the force was represented. They thought that utilising the media space more appropriately and encouraging CALD young people to take part in processes within the justice system would help.

They wanted to see greater cooperation between the justice system and non-government organisations (NGOs) that work directly with CALD communities. They felt that the NGOs could provide strong and strategic recommendations because they often have a better understanding of the CALD communities they work with, and the nuances within these communities, and also have greater community trust.

Finally, this team thought that continuing to support platforms, such as the Catalyst Youth Summit and other initiatives which give young CALD youth activists opportunities was important. They felt that investing in CALD youth initiatives fostered a strong culture of civic participation.

Moving forward, Team Blue members agreed to go back to their communities, be more involved and observant. They planned a post-summit meeting to discuss the next steps they planned to take.



Violence

The issues

Team Orange discussed the topic of violence. They decided to focus their discussion and presentation specifically on family and domestic violence. This group felt that too often, violence in respect to people from CALD communities is stereotyped into being about radicalisation, extremism or gang violence, but that that actually, like most Australians, the most prevalent form of violence affecting refugee and migrant young people is domestic violence.

They felt that one of the biggest issues around domestic violence for young people from CALD backgrounds was a lack of education. They said that young people were often unable to recognise the signs of domestic violence, with victims sometimes not realising it was happening to them, and perpetrators not realising that what they were doing was wrong. This group felt that sometimes, because of cultural misunderstandings, young people may not realise that a situation was actually domestic violence. They said they also often did not know what services were available to them.

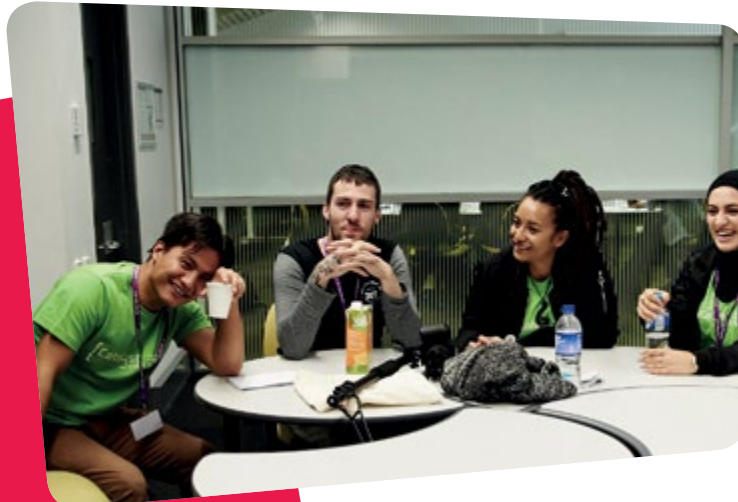
The second issue that they felt was important, related to services. They said that services needed to be able to support young people and families from CALD backgrounds that were experiencing domestic violence, however they had feedback that in many instances, those who sought refuge, found that services did not provide adequate or appropriate food or prayer facilities. They also said that an understanding within many mainstream services of these barriers was lacking.

The final issue they raised related to media representation. This team made the point that violence doesn't discriminate, and that it affects people (and disproportionately women) all around the world. Despite this, they felt that the media disproportionately focused on young people from certain CALD communities being the perpetrators of violence.



The solutions

The solutions from Team Orange focused around the three main issues that they identified - education, access to culturally appropriate services, and media representation.



They felt that services that work with young people and families experiencing domestic violence, or conducting referrals, needed to be more culturally appropriate and that they needed to develop the cultural intelligence of the organisation. They also felt that services needed to make themselves easier to find out about for young people and families of CALD backgrounds.

The team felt that the focus of any education around this issue needed to be on empowering family responses to domestic violence; building awareness, consciousness and de-stigmatising. They felt that there needed to be a focus for young people on rights education and also the provision of online education and support.

They thought that the media could help with under reporting of domestic violence and that a media campaign could be developed that focused on speaking to people from CALD communities.

Identity

The issues

Team Green looked at the issue of identity. This group said that a strong sense of identity was very important to wellbeing and that a loss of identity has a negative impact on coping mechanisms and behaviours. As young people, they wanted the opportunity to grow into their own identity and come to it on their own terms, but stated that this was often difficult for young people from CALD backgrounds, with different expectations and pressures from family, community leaders and society all having an impact.

They said that they felt there was a lot of isolation in schools and that young people from CALD backgrounds faced discrimination which was damaging to their identity. They said that generally there was not a lot of support for them to express their cultural identity. They said that there was a lack of understanding that they often had different identities and different influences on their identity.

They felt that community leaders often lacked an understanding of the challenges that CALD young people face when they are shaping up their identities.



The solutions

The solutions raised by this group focused on things being youth led and designed and also mentorship and support.

They said that if only community leaders were asked for their opinions, that then programs or services often lacked relevance for young people.

They said that all services or programs that are targeted at refugee or migrant young people should involve them in their design. identity. They stated that Catalyst Youth Summit was a good example of this and that there should be more things like this available.

They felt that a support group for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds with strong mentors would be really helpful for young people struggling with.



Wellbeing

The issues

Team Purple discussed the topic of wellbeing. They identified two main issues. The first issue they talked about was the fact that so many health care providers were lacking in cultural awareness of minority groups, especially those from refugee and migrant backgrounds. They felt that there was a significant lack of resources for health professionals to refer to, and a lack of comprehensive training grounded in the real, lived experiences of people from CALD backgrounds.

The second issue they identified was that young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds feel disengaged and lose trust in the healthcare system, because of miscommunications and misunderstandings of what is important to them. They felt that young people often weren't listened to or trusted.

This group also talked about what could lead to poor wellbeing for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. Many of the issues raised overlapped with topics talked about by other groups, such as cultural clashes, stigma and social isolation.



The solutions

The main solution that Team Purple believed would address the issues they identified was improving cultural competency in the range of health care professionals that worked with young people.

They felt that there needed to be cultural competency accreditation and also extensive (and mandatory) cultural competency training workshops for health care professionals, in which the voices and stories of people from CALD backgrounds were centred.

To help young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds access better healthcare information, they felt that there should be more culturally appropriate resources online.



What was great

Once again, the delegates told us that their favourite thing about the summit was the opportunity to forge connections with other like-minded young people. With the need to belong, feel included and connect, such strong themes of both summits, it can't be overemphasised how important this outcome is in and of itself. It was especially important for the regional delegates, who have less opportunities to connect and talk about issues that affect them with other young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

"I loved meeting like-minded people and forming connections and friendships"



"I liked being able to talk about some of my experiences and realising how the Catalyst Summit gave me a community, which empowered me to be unapologetic in my efforts to affect change"

Accommodating all of the young people together with many of the organisers really worked well this year. This extra time together gave them additional opportunities to forge bonds and talk through their topics.

"The best thing about the youth summit was that everyone stayed at the hostel"



The summit aimed to inspire and empower young leaders, and we know that it achieved this. In a post-summit survey, 95% of the delegates reported that their leadership skills had improved as a result of attending the summit. Getting a very high-profile speaker to open the event and talk about leadership was a great element of this year's program.

"Meeting other multicultural young people, getting to know their stories and working with them. It's been mind-blowing and eye opening. I loved meeting Yassmin. I felt empowered, became smarter and more informed."

Another aspect of the summit, that again worked really well, was giving young people access to people of influence and building their connections for the future. This year, the young organisers decided to introduce the element of mentoring. Some of the young people have continued to meet with their mentors, in particular the young people involved in looking at the issue of violence. In the post-summit survey, 97% of the delegates told us that they had made new connections and/or networks as a result of their participation in the summit.

Once again, being heard was very important to the young delegates and giving them a platform was an element that worked really well. This year a large proportion of the politicians and stakeholders invited to the presentation validated what the young people had told them and said that they wanted to hear more.

"I loved being able to present to politicians"

Finally, the youth-led element and the strength of centring youth voices worked really well. Again, we received the feedback over and over that this was an essential part of the summit's success and inspired the young delegates to get involved in their community in a multitude of ways.



"That it was organised by youth made it a very friendly, accepting and informal atmosphere that made us feel safe and able to grow and express ourselves"



"I like that it was organised by young people for young people. There is a lot of understanding between the two and a lot can be done in such a short amount of time due to good communication and understanding"



The key stakeholders that attended the final day also had some great feedback. Many felt inspired to see the next group of young leaders speaking so passionately about what they believed in.

"It was a privilege to be there and to hear so many inspiring personal stories, innovative ideas for change, and to see so many previous participants stepping up in leadership roles to support the new delegates, and see some of the seeds for change being planted with the politicians in the room."



"It's great to see so many young people being so engaged and passionate about wanting to improve the world they live in. Overall I found the experience to be both refreshing and energising."



"One thing that I have committed to doing more of is making sure that my future interactions with young people focus on the importance of tenacity and resilience in all aspects of leadership."



"I thought everyone handled the questions from the stakeholders really well. I really appreciated the opportunity to come and listen to and learn about the perspectives of all the presenters,"



"I enjoyed witnessing the ideas, the confidence and the energy the delegates showed when presenting their ideas. I also enjoyed having the opportunity network with the various stakeholders and delegates."

What we learnt

It was interesting and affirming to see many of the same themes come out of the delegates' discussions and solution development as last year. The four main themes to come out of this year's summit were: cultural competency, media representation, technology for education and the importance of youth-led initiatives.

Cultural competency

The need for service providers, education providers, law enforcement, health practitioners and policy makers to be much more culturally competent was a theme that came through strongly in a number of the topics discussed. Young people at last year's summit also wanted to see improved cultural competency.

Media representation

The young people talked about how poor media representation, or a lack of media representation in some instances, negatively impacted them. They said it had an effect on them feeling excluded, and on their sense of wellbeing and identity. This was also a theme at last year's summit, with delegates concerned about negative images of refugees and asylum seekers. This year's group expressed concern about the media's representation of violence and gangs.

Utilising technology for education

At both summits, young people identified the need for more and better education, both for young people themselves on topics such as domestic violence and mental health, and for the community on topics such as refugee rights, diversity and inclusion. The development of apps and websites featured heavily, as did the use of social media.

Youth led initiatives and youth voice

Several of the groups talked about the importance of youth led initiatives. They felt that young people's experiences needed to be centred when any programs or services for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds were being developed. They said that they needed to be the drivers of change. They also felt that they needed to be asked for their opinions as representatives of their communities, alongside traditional community leaders.



What we would change



Overall the project was a great success, however as with any large scale and complex event, there were a few lessons learnt or things we will do differently next time around.

The first is the time of year the event was held. The 2016 summit was held in the first week of February. February was an excellent time of year for politician engagement, and we had nearly three times as many politicians attend the first summit compared with the second one held in July. In addition, the young organisers had more free time to devote to the summit in the lead up to the 2016 event because it was at the end of their university summer break. The 2017 summit was held just after mid-year exams which was quite stressful for the young organisers. In the future we will hold the summit in February.

The young people loved being accommodated together, and we would definitely repeat this, however the accommodation was a long way from the summit venue. Many delegates found the bus there and back each day tiring and reported that it took a large chunk of time they would have preferred to have available to do other things. As low-cost accommodation for large groups is lacking in the Joondalup area, next time we will consider moving the event to a university that is able to provide on-campus accommodation.

This year more delegates that were offered places dropped out in the lead-up to the event compared with the 2016 summit. Whilst many of these places were able to be filled at the last minute, there were six places essentially wasted because delegates did not show up for the first day. To mitigate this, in the future we will emphasise the cost 'per delegate' to those who are applying, and also provide stronger messaging around how many doors it has opened up for Catalyst alumni.

Finally, we received feedback that delegates would have liked to hear from a panel of youth experts, would have liked to hear more from industry experts before starting their topic discussion, and have more opportunities to discuss topics outside of their team groups. We will explore ways of incorporating this feedback into future summits.

Catalyst alumni

The group of young people that organised the first summit titled the event Catalyst, because they wanted the event to be a catalyst for change. Three years on, and another summit later - the event has definitely lived up to its name. The young people that have attended the summits have continued to meet, connect and get involved in a wide variety of projects and opportunities. The young delegates and organisers are now part of a Catalyst alumni and are a collective voice that gets heard and has influence. We are excited to showcase some of the wonderful, inspiring and interesting things that this group of young people have been doing since their summit experience.

Youth Education Peers project

The Youth Educating Peers project, is a youth sexual health project which builds young people's understanding of sexual health and blood borne virus (SHBBV) issues using a peer education model. The project employs 15 peer educators, and five of them are part of the Catalyst alumni – Aksh Handa, Fatema Shalemie, Golda Signal, Habiba Asim and Vithan Thillairajah.

Stirling Youth Empowerment project

In September 2017, the City of Stirling contracted YACWA to run a Youth Empowerment project. It involved recruiting six young inspirational speakers to go and present at their local schools and encourage young people to join a newly formed Youth Advisory Group. The young people were paid for their presentations. Three of the young speakers were Catalyst alumni – Habiba Asim, Pauline Chiwawa and Vithan Thillairajah.

Harmony Week film project

In March 2018, MYAN WA and YACWA partnered to develop a youth film project for Harmony Week. A group of young people volunteered their time to develop questions and meet and interview politicians and community leaders. All of the young people involved in this project were part of the 2017 Catalyst Summit - Faizel Nabi, Hadi Rahimi, Lutfullah Ahmadi, Martha Sari, Nebyeleul Weldeyesusm, Pauline Chiwawa and Sadeqa Sarvari.

WA Youth Awards

The annual WA Youth Awards provides a platform to recognise the State's most dedicated and inspirational young people. In 2017, three Catalyst alumni were recognised at the awards. Martha Sari was a finalist in the Perth Theatre Trust's Cultural Endeavours category, Areesha Ateeq and Habiba Asim were both finalists in the Hope Community Services Positive Achievement category, with Habiba ultimately winning the category.





MYAN WA Executive Group

Three Catalyst alumni have been involved in the MYAN WA Executive Group in youth representative positions. Areesha Ateeq and Jamila Jafari were both involved in the group in 2017, with Jamila co-chairing. Mohammed Ahmed joined in 2018.

International Youth Exchange Program

The International Youth Exchange Program, now in its second year, provides an opportunity for young Western Australians to participate in an exchange program between Hong Kong and WA. Three Catalyst alumni were selected to be part of this highly competitive program – Sara Shengeb, Tehani Savu, and Ziagul Sultani.

MYAN WA Forums

Young delegates from both summits have joined the MYAN WA network list and been attending network forums regularly. Since the 2017 summit, one team has re-delivered their presentation at the forum on domestic violence, and one of the 2017 delegates, Yinka Adegboye spoke brilliantly on a panel on the topic of cultural awareness.

Other YACWA projects

Catalyst alumni have been involved in a number of other YACWA project in different capacities.

Habiba Asim was one of the young MCs of the WA Youth Summit held in December 2017 in collaboration with the Department of Communities.

Areesha Ateeq was one of the young people that sat on the youth panel for the YEP Project's sector summit held in October 2018.

Abdi Khalif was the videographer employed to record the YEP Project's sector summit.

Lutfullah Ahmadi was a youth judge for the 2017 WA Youth Awards.

Golda Signal and Habiba Asim have been developing the YEP project's CALD sexual health training.

And there's more...

There are so many more events and projects that the young participants have been getting involved in.



FUSE Summit

The FUSE Summit organised by MYAN Australia is a national summit that brings together young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds across Australia to build their leadership, advocacy and community organising skills. Three of the delegates chosen to attend the 2016 summit attended the 2016 Catalyst Summit – Golda Signal, Fatema Shalemie and Nafiso Mohamed. And the final member of the WA contingent, Leo Sultani, attended the 2017 Catalyst Youth Summit.

Young Women's Boxing project

The Young Women's Boxing project aims to empower women to claim their space without apology. Three of the Catalyst alumni have got involved with this project – Maya Shah, Shenali Perera and Nicole Martins.

My Australia Census

The My Australia Census project by the University of Melbourne sought the views of young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds for a multicultural youth census. MYAN WA staff worked in WA to get as many responses to the survey as possible. Many of the Catalyst alumni completed the survey, but two delegates also assisted staff to organise groups of young people to participate in the census – Shenali Perera and Neby Weldeyesum.

Progress 2017

Progress is a biennial event that gathers, energises and propels forward Australia's leading campaigners, advocates and changer makers. Two Catalyst alumni, Nafiso Mohamed and Neeka Zand attended Progress 2017.



Awards and scholarships

A number of Catalyst alumni have been the recipients of awards and scholarships since their Catalyst experience:

- Ziagul Sultani – Finalist of the Human Rights Awards 2017
- Pavitra Aran – Winner of the Health and Wellbeing Award at the Young Achiever Awards 2017
- Wahida Samim – recipient of a New Colombo Plan scholarship
- Sara Shengeb – sole recipient of the inaugural Geoff Rasmussen Scholarship Fund

Team violence

Since the summit, a number of the young people who were mentored by Kosta Lucas have continued to meet after the summit. They have been collaborating to create content for YouTube.

Raaghav Raj

Raaghav has been elected to the UWA student guild and has aspirations to be a politician.



"I grew up having no interest in politics and never saw myself getting involved in it BUT catalyst changed my views drastically. I realised the best medium to get to people directly and make a difference is through politics. Some of the young politicians I met at catalyst inspired me with how much of a difference they want to make and that made me realise not all politicians are just bench warmers who are there for money and the fame. One big take home message I got from catalyst is if I want to make an impact, that has to come from within. Take initiative and not wait around for others to do something. With that inspiration, I ran with UWA guild election this year. There were 320 candidates running for 13 positions. After lot of battles, I was the third one to get elected and first one in my party. This is just a start and if everything works out well, I can see myself getting involved with local state elections sometime soon. Thanks to catalyst for the noble work they are doing."

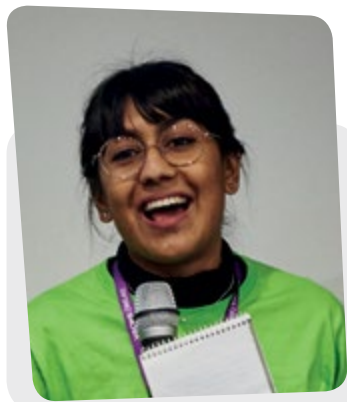
Hadi Rahim

Hadi has been working on developing workshops for new arrivals to assist in navigating their settlement in WA as part of the new Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP) program with the Red Cross, as well as volunteering for their Restoring Family Links program.



Maya Shah

Maya has been supporting the Everyday Leader program with a social impact project running at Lynwood Senior High School, where students develop potential solutions to global challenges.



Our commitment

MYAN WA and YACWA are both highly committed to involving young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds and advocating for their issues that affect them. There are number of pieces of work that we are currently committed to, which directly connect with the three of the themes of this summit.

Cultural awareness

YACWA's YEP sexual health project is about to launch a new workshop titled *What's culture got to do with it? Youth CALD competency training – SHBBV*. This workshop will introduce the relevant concepts of working with culturally and linguistically diverse young people on SHBBV issues.

YACWA currently delivers Youth in Community Services training which provides support to organisations, on a fee for service basis, to better engage young people in the design, procurement delivery and evaluation of community services. In 2018, YACWA and MYAN WA intend to partner to develop a CALD youth component to this training. This training will include youth voices and co-delivery with young people.

Media representation

MYAN WA and YACWA, with the support of a grant from the Office of Multicultural Interests, have developed a short film that showcases what WA politicians and key leaders have to say about issues that affect young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. Also titled *Catalyst for Change*, the film was developed because young people wanted to see more positive representations of young people in the media. The film was launched at a Harmony Week event in March, and is now available to view on YouTube.

MYAN WA runs quarterly forums that bring together youth and settlement sector workers, alongside community members and young people to discuss a variety of topics. The topic that will be discussed at the May 2018 forum is media representation of refugee and migrant young people.



Youth-led initiatives and youth voices

MYAN WA intends to facilitate another round of Shout Out training in 2018. Shout Out is a public speaking bureau for refugee and migrant young people. Young people are booked by schools, community and government organisations to come out and present to students or different groups. We want to add more young people to the bureau, so that many more organisations can hear the important things they have to say.

YACWA is also developing a youth consultants program, where young people will be recruited and trained to be youth consultants. These young people will then be able to be engaged by local and state government entities, corporate and private enterprise and the not-for-profit sector in a consultative role to provide youth perspectives, insights and skills. This may include policy, strategy, program, project, service or facility design, development, design or evaluation. Young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, especially Catalyst alumni will be actively recruited to participate in the program.

Your commitment

In the last Catalyst for Change report, we included a call to action. We listed seven actions we wanted you to take. These were:

- **Read** through the issues and **reflect** on the young people's suggested solutions
- **Share** the report with your networks and **talk** about how to use it
- **Incorporate** the information in the way you work
- **Connect** with the young people involved in this project
- **Value** young people's time and expertise
- **Support** and **fund** grassroots, youth-led projects
- Provide **opportunities** to young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds

We want you to do this again, but this year with a focus on the four major themes that emerged. We want you to ask yourself the following questions:

Cultural competency

- How can I develop my cultural intelligence?
- How can I build cultural competency in my organisation?
- What avenues can I explore to advocate for better cultural competency in services and sectors where it is needed?

Media representation

- How can I write or share positive media stories of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds?
- What can I do to challenge negative media stories and stereotypes?
- Do I have the ability to provide young people with a media platform or connect them with those who can?

Technology for education

- Does my organisation have the capacity to provide more and better resources online?
- Can I work with young people to make their website or app ideas a reality or connect them with those who can?

Youth-led initiatives and youth voices

- How can I get young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds more involved in designing, delivering or evaluating my programs, services or activities?
- Can I book a young person to come out and speak to my organisation, community group or event?
- Can I train and employ a young person to deliver my programs or projects?
- Can I back a young person's idea, either with funding, resources or support?

When you start to unpack and answer these questions, and seek opportunities to work on these issues of importance to this group of young people, you too can be part of the catalyst for change.



Final words

The Catalyst Youth Summit was once again, a dynamic and exciting project to be involved with. Many of this years' delegates have continued meet and talk about the issues raised at the summit and have remained highly engaged in their communities.

At the end of the presentations session on the final day, one of the delegates stood up in the audience, in front of all of his peers, politicians and key stakeholders and said that:

"Attending this summit and coming here today and hearing politicians say that they care and their door is always open, is the first time I have felt that I belonged in Australia in the 12 years that I have been here"
(paraphrased)

It was a profound statement and one which epitomises what Catalyst means for the young people that attend.



YACWA would like to thank:

Yassmin Abdel-Magied for her outstanding inspirational opening speech and training

Golda Signal for her dynamic and hilarious summit MC skills

Shaun Nannup for his energising Welcome to Country

Panel members Fadzi Whande, Don Emmanuel-Smith, Zen Mohamed Kassim, Ziagul Sultani for their wisdom and expertise

Sian Gair for delivering important self-care training to the delegates

Mark Folkard, MLA for opening the presentations session

The politicians and key stakeholders who listened to and talked with the young delegates at the summit

All of the young delegates that participated in the summit wholeheartedly

The 12 young organisers whose vision and hard work made this event a success



The biggest thanks of all goes to **Sara Shengeb**, who coordinated the 2017 summit and went above and beyond to make this event the success it was.

Catalyst Youth Summit

"I'm very grateful for all the opportunities and network Catalyst has opened up to me. I have kept in touch and collaborated on different projects with a number of friends I made at Catalyst and hope to continue to do so in the future!"

The Catalyst Youth Summit was made possible by the generous support of a number of partners and sponsors



If you would like to join the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network of Western Australia (MYAN WA), please contact us at myanwa@yacwa.org.au or 9227 5440.



'Organised BY young people FOR young people'