



KAYA | HELLO

WE VALUE OUR MEMBERS' OPINION.

Your input is essential to the selection of YACWA's 2018/19 Board of governance.

Nominations received for Ordinary Board Member Positions are:

**John Thomson
Karina Chicote
Stephan Lund
Daniel Roy
Jaiden Hicks**

Nominations received for Ordinary Board Member Position (under 25) are:

Parul Goplani

JOHN THOMSON

Please provide a brief (500 word or less) bio outlining your current role, relevant training, education and experience.

I have been an active member of the YACWA Board since my arrival to Australia in 2013, and was Acting CEO for six months in 2016 during the transition between Craig Comrie and Ross Wortham.

I began my Youth Work career in Scotland in 2001, working in both local government and the charity sector in various roles supporting young people to reach their full potential. I studied Community Education at Strathclyde University under Prof. Howard Sercombe, and returned to teach Youth Work Ethics, Social Policy, and the Sociology of Youth Work after graduation.

In 2013, I moved to Perth, WA and took up a position at Edith Cowan University, working alongside Associate Prof. Trudi Cooper and others teaching the state's only Youth Work degree. Shortly afterwards, I joined the YACWA board, and in 2014 I started working for Anglicare WA at Foyer Oxford.

I now manage Anglicare WA's 24-hour services for young people experiencing homelessness - Foyer Oxford and Y-SHAC - and the innovative Job Hive project, a reimagining of the Employment Service experience for young people facing homelessness.

I have been part of the Youth Work WA Committee since 2014, WA's Professional Association for Youth Workers, and strongly believe in the importance of qualified Youth Workers, who practice ethically, and act in the interests of the young people they support.

What do you bring to the YACWA Board – skills, experience, passion?

Consistency is key to good governance, and I am the longest standing member of the current YACWA board. In 2013/14, I was part of the creation and implementation of YACWA's Strategic Plan. We are now moving into the

delivery of a new Strategic Plan, which builds on the strengths and opportunities developed over the last 5 years.

I have been part of the finance sub-committee since 2013, working with each successive Treasurer, CEO, and Finance Officer to support the financial governance of the organisation. I have significant operational knowledge of the organisation's financial position and practices from the period I spent in the Acting CEO role, and maintain excellent relationships with the YACWA staff and volunteers due to their co-location in the Foyer Oxford building.

I believe strongly in the importance of a peak body representing young people, and their rights, and YACWA's 40 year history is a testament to their unique and vital role in the lives of young people in Western Australia. As a board member of YACWA, you are very aware of the longevity and importance of the organisation, and I see the role very much being as a custodian of something much bigger than the sum of its parts.

My skills that I bring to the YACWA board are in strategic thinking, financial sustainability, and project management.

What motivates you to sit on the YACWA Board and what do you think you will get out of the experience?

YACWA tackles the root causes of injustice at all levels of the political, social, and cultural environments. Never afraid to shy away from a fight, they inspire young people and those who work with young people. I am hugely proud of the way YACWA has grown over the past few years in its support of diverse communities, particularly LGBTIQ+ young people through the YEP program, young people with disabilities through YDAN, young people with diverse cultural backgrounds through MYAN WA, and the many opportunities they have created for young people to get involved in delivering services directly to others throughout the state.

I am committed to YACWA's continued growth as a peak organisation, and the implementation of its new Strategic Plan. As we prepare to celebrate YACWA's 40th birthday, the board is planning what the organisation will be doing on its 50th, and I want to continue to be part of that planning.

KARINA CHICOTE

Please provide a brief (500 word or less) bio outlining your current role, relevant training, education and experience.

Over the last three years I've had the privilege of serving on the YACWA board, including the last 12 months as Deputy Chair. In this time, I have been a part of the Regional Engagement sub-committee and more recently the finance sub-committee. I'm proud of the work of the board in the last 3 years in creating stable governance, reviewing the organisation strategy and objectives, supporting the organisation's financial sustainability and increased regional engagement.

I have worked with Save the Children since 2010 in various leadership roles. I am currently the WA Manager for Place-based Strategy, this role includes leading collective impact initiatives in both urban and remote communities, engaging a wide range of stakeholders across community, government and not-for-profit sector to develop innovative cross-sector solutions to complex inter-generational challenges. In particular, I lead the multi-award-winning Youth Partnership Project, which is an innovative early intervention juvenile justice strategy, demonstrating breakthrough outcomes for young people and the way community, government and non-government work together.

Previous to this role I was leading Save the Children's Aboriginal services, including program design, development and implementation across a range of thematic areas including education, child protection and juvenile justice, with an annual reach of over 500 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and carers. Two of these programs were awarded the WA Child Safety Award in both 2014 and 2015.

In the past eight years with Save the Children I've also worked with young people in emergencies including the 2011 Warmun flooding (East Kimberley) and Papua New Guinea as Deputy Team Leader at the Manus Island Asylum Seeker Detention Centre. I have consulted on youth programming in regional and remote WA communities including Broome, Kununurra and Broome.

Further to my contribution as a leader in the youth sector I bring experience in advocacy and campaigning. I have worked for Save the Children International based in London within our Global Advocacy team. My key projects included project managing the consultation of country offices in developing our advocacy strategy,

providing logistical support to the global campaign and supporting the development of the internal global communication strategy. In addition, in 2015 I supported an Aboriginal young person at the United Nations General Assembly in New York to engage in dialogue with world leaders and influencers in the inequality faced by Aboriginal young people in Australia and to inspire them to not leave indigenous young people behind in the world's development.

I completed a Bachelor of Social Science, Youth Work Major in 2007 at Edith Cowan University. In addition, in 2016 I completed a Masters in Human Rights at Curtin University with a thesis entitled: 'Leave No-one Behind: Australia's Promise to Aboriginal Children', an analysis of equality and its application to Australia's development agenda for Aboriginal children and young people.

Previous to working with Save the Children I worked at Youth Futures WA (2006-2010) in various roles across crisis and transitional homelessness accommodation and outreach services.

What do you bring to the YACWA Board – skills, experience, passion?

I believe my three years on the YACWA board have broadened by skills and enabled me to be an active member of the board, contributing to effective governance, strategic planning, financial sustainability and membership engagement (particularly regional members). In the last year as Deputy Chair I have also had the opportunity to represent YACWA at various events when the CEO or Chair have not been available to do so.

I'm very passionate about the work of YACWA, in both how the organisation represents and empowers the voice of young people and the sector. I bring wide experience across thematic areas and geographical locations. I have experience related to child protection, education, homelessness and juvenile justice. I also bring a wide network of relationships across government and non-government. I also have experience working in both the North and South East Corridor of Perth as well as in WA's remote communities. I have an understanding of the complexities that face young people living in both metro and remote areas, as well as the challenges faced by the sector delivering programs within both geographical locations. In addition, as highlighted above I bring experience in advocacy and campaigning at both a state, national and international level.

I'm passionate about the experience and voice of young people being front and centre of all advocacy work. I believe YACWA does this exceptionally well and I'm therefore keen to continue to support the success of the organisation.

What motivates you to sit on the YACWA Board and what do you think you will get out of the experience?

I believe that the stability and consistency in the board over the past 3 years has supported YACWA to strengthen governance processes and create sustainability. I'm re-nominating for the board as I believe ongoing consistency in the board will continue to contribute to these objectives and the overall vision of YACWA.

I believe YACWA play an imperative role in the youth sector in engaging young people in policy discussions and ensuring that their human rights are a primary consideration in policies that directly and indirectly affect them. Further to this, I believe the leadership role YACWA plays for the sector is critical in providing a cohesive voice on youth issues to influence public policy. Having worked in the youth sector for over 12 years, I have experienced the challenges faced by youth services and the impact that ill-informed and poorly implemented policies can have on young people and progress in the sector. My objective in continuing to be involved with YACWA and the YACWA board is to be a part of ensuring the organisation continues to be bold in empowering and representing the voice of young people in public policy.

STEPHAN LUND

Please provide a brief (500 word or less) bio outlining your current role, relevant training, education and experience.

Stephan has had a varied study and work life. He has worked in retail management, taxi driving, camp counsellor and even worked in a chocolate factory in London and a music shop in Munich. However for the last 20 years, Stephan has been working as a Youth Worker and Social Worker with children and young people. He has worked as State Youth Coordinator at St Vinnies, various Social Work and Management roles at Anglicare WA

and for the last 10 years at Wanslea Family Services. He is currently the Executive Manager of Out-of-Home Care and Specialist Services. In this role he is responsible for a team of about 60 staff and a budget of about \$10 million. He is also a casual lecturer at Curtin University. Stephan has a strong interest in high quality care, innovation, disruptive ideas, research and building a positive workplace culture. Stephan was the recipient of the WA Social Worker of the Year Award in 2016 and has recently graduated from UWA for the third time with his Doctor of Philosophy degree. Stephan also holds Bachelor of Arts (Industrial Relations and Anthropology) and Bachelor of Social Work (Hons) degrees. Recently, Stephan has become more interested in governance and has completed two certificates in Corporate and Not-for-Profit Governance. Stephan is a father of two wonderful teenage girls, an amateur musician, surf life saver, soccer coach and referee and has a healthy repertoire of dad jokes.

What do you bring to the YACWA Board – skills, experience, passion?

Mahatma Gandhi once said: "Speak only if it improves upon the silence". I take this as an important life motto. I have developed outstanding communication and interpersonal skills in my life, which have enabled me to positively influence outcomes for myself and many others in my personal and professional domains. I am a natural optimist who listens with both ears and adds value to important conversations with insight and analysis.

My experience working with young people, firstly through camps both here and in the USA, later as State Youth Coordinator for St Vinnies, has enabled me to frame my career harnessing the energy and insight that young people bring. I established the Passages Youth Centre while working with St Vinnies, meeting a significant need for engagement and grass roots services in the area.

Since then, I have harnessed my leadership skills and ability to engage a variety of different audiences to make a tangible difference to children and young people in care, and to those staff and volunteers who make up the support system for them. I am a systemic thinker, passionate advocate, tenacious and persistent for social justice causes.

I am an experienced media commentator, program developer, systems thinker and analyst and comfortable with young people at camps and Ministers in the Board Room. I would bring significant experience in developing programs, managing budgets, governance at high levels and an endless stream of creativity and hopefulness about humanity.

I have a strong interest in research and evaluation, in teaching and in promoting the voice and interests of young people in every domain. We often hear that "young people are our future". I have a different view. Young people are our present, they are often wise beyond their years, frank, honest, creative and willing to be disruptive. They can add significantly to the debate and conversation in all areas of our civil society and their voices should be promoted.

Young people need to speak, to improve the silence.

What motivates you to sit on the YACWA Board and what do you think you will get out of the experience?

One of the key motivators for me is to influence positive change across the youth sector. I have reached a maturity and (hopefully) credibility in my career which gives me opportunity to share wisdom of significant experience in our sector. I have significant energy to expend and since completing my PhD, I have some more time on my hands!

Another motivating factor for me is to get on board YACWA at a time where young people and the agencies that support them seem more disenfranchised than ever. The voice of the youth sector in WA is very well represented by YACWA and for me, I feel that I have values that align well with the current direction of the association. I am not afraid to be challenged, to be challenging and I see some great conversations in the youth sector being led boldly by the YACWA Board and CEO. I would like to get on the YACWA train and add my strong voice to improve the sector and blow the whistle for those with a quieter or less influential presence (young people).

This opportunity will benefit me as I am able to gain further skills in governance, work with a dynamic team and be part of an exciting time of change and collaboration. I think this experience will also increase my influence, my professional networks and will be intrinsically rewarding as positive change is realised.

DANIEL ROY

Please provide a brief (500 word or less) bio outlining your current role, relevant training, education and experience.

My name is Daniel Roy. I'm 28 years of age. I am currently studying a Bachelor of Youth Work with a minor in Psychology at Edith Cowan University. I am one of the Youth Activity Supervisors at the City of Cockburn Youth Centre where I currently deliver our Kitchen Experience Program, Keys 4 Life, Employ Me and oversee our LGBTIQ+ social support group, Youth Diversity Alliance. I also work at the Fremantle PCYC, when I'm not overseeing the management of our Grants in my Project Coordinator role, I'm busy being a Youth Worker within the Safe Space Program, and delivering the Breakfast Program, Youth Employment Program, Keys 4 Life and our Community Cooking Program. If I didn't sound busy enough I am also the Youth Worker for Night Hoops Southside. Yes, I am very passionate and dedicated about youth, their development, wellbeing and future!

My career in Youth Work, started when I was in High School, during my days in Student Representative Council, being the Vice-Captain of my school and a member of the Junior Aboriginal Education Consulting Group. When I left High School, I knew I wanted to help people. I moved away to university in Wagga Wagga and commenced a Bachelor in Psychology. During my two years studying this degree at Charles Sturt University I was elected onto the Rivcoll Student Council and begin the Student Representative for the School of Social Science and Humanities.

I then took a semester off and travelled around Australia. I ended up in Darwin, Northern Territory in 2011 where I ended up staying or 3 years working with youth at the SHAK Youth Centre as the Assistant Youth Coordinator. Whilst in Darwin I was apart of the City of Darwin Youth Advisory Council and oversaw the SHAK Kids Advisory Taskforce. I was involved in developing and delivering SMILE, a LGBTIQ+ social support group for young people and also involved in the development and delivery of yChange, an anti-binge drinking campaign.

I then went on to work in Aboriginal Communities briefly before moving to Perth WA, where I have worked in Residential Care, Schools and now... Well now I am applying to be part of something bigger then a career. I'd like to join the most influential Board in Youth Work, because I believe together we can change lives, or at least influence the beginning of change.

What do you bring to the YACWA Board – skills, experience, passion?

I believe my diverse experience across the Northern Territory and Western Australia in youth development provides me with a unique insight into the life of remote and isolated youth. I understand first-hand how unempowered these young people can feel at times. This understanding drives my ability and passion to empower these young people to thrive and challenge themselves and the world we live in to a more enhanced society.

I have strong relationships with local governments, WA Police, the Department of Education and local church groups including youth based groups. I believe building networks is essential to developing sustainable programs and practices.

I have a very unique jack of all trades, master of none, skill set. Growing up on a farm I am very hands on and outdoors, which always surprises everyone, especially when I'm under the bonnet of a car or growing my own vegetables at home to cook homemade recipes from scratch.

I am very creative, I like to think of myself as a struggling artist; but honestly I'm more an abstract throw paint at a canvas kind of artist. I do enjoy the creative side of my brain though, I love photography and writing poetry and short stories. This has come in handy when needing to think outside the box or develop marketing resources.

I have a strong dedication and commitment to empowering, protecting, supporting and advocating for youth. This is heavily influenced from growing up in poverty, domestic violence and suffering emotional and physical abuse as a child and teenager. I ended up on the streets for a bit of my youth struggling with suicide and alcohol, until I met someone who took me in and influenced me to embrace my true self and seize every opportunity. It's hard to explain how some days when your young, you feel like you are walking around holding your breathe all the time, or worse, drowning. I get it, and it's hard to find someone who does. My calling in life is helping others, young people who like I was, need someone to believe in them, have faith in them, and trust that they are making the right decision for themselves.

What motivates you to sit on the YACWA Board and what do you think you will get out of the experience?

With laws recently changed, now supporting Same Sex Marriage, and important groups emerging like the Youth Pride Network and Youth Diversity Alliance, I think it's important for there to be a diverse YACWA Board Member to advocate and support LGBTIQ+ young people. I believe both my professional and personal experience will be of great benefit and insight into issues affecting these young people.

I am also passionate about Aboriginal issues affecting young people; being a descendant of the Stolen Generation myself. I know what it's like to feel like you often don't belong to either heritage, of feelings of isolation and of feeling unaccepted by both cultural backgrounds. I'd like to influence building one nation of one people, and I believe this journey starts by empowering and educating the youth of today and tomorrow.

On a personal level, I believe I could learn a lot from being involved in YACWA. I believe the in-depth knowledge and skills I could enhance on and develop from both YACWA and others on the Board would excel all future youth development programs and strategic plans I am involved in. Though I would like to believe my future is with YACWA.

JAIDEN HICKS

Please provide a brief (500 word or less) bio outlining your current role, relevant training, education and experience.

I have worked at the Youth Involvement Council for the past 18 months. I am the program planner at Yic and I work on different programs engaging and empowering the youth of Hedland.

What do you bring to the YACWA Board – skills, experience, passion?

Working with the youth of Hedland for the past 18 months has made me aware of what goes on in their lives and learn ways of supporting these youth to reach for their goals.

What motivates you to sit on the YACWA Board and what do you think you will get out of the experience?

I feel like it would be a great way to share ideas, and bring things back to my work and youth.

PARUL GOPLANI

Please provide a brief (500 word or less) bio outlining your current role, relevant training, education and experience.

I am a migrant young person with experience in volunteer outreach, community engagement and training. Currently, I am a Training and Development Officer with a medical company, and am responsible for implementing change management training and conducting inductions and on-boarding. I am also a Youth Consultant with the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network, and support the NYSF and Culturally Informed Approach training initiative. My experience in training and development is backed up by my current work towards getting a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. In my university career, I have worked with non-profits such as Engineers Without Borders UWA, Guild Volunteering and CoderDojo WA to name a few. I was a Founding member for TEDxUWA, and am still involved in public speaking with MYAN - WA. I am a graduate of the University of Western Australia with a Bachelor of Science in Physiology and Pathology.

What do you bring to the YACWA Board – skills, experience, passion?

Experience is my greatest advantage of being part of this Board. I have an ability to represent the young people of WA as I have had the good fortune to be involved with many agencies and interact with young people from varying and diverse backgrounds. This gives me a wider experience of young people in the community today. I also have experience as part of committees in my volunteering and university club experiences. These will offer some awareness of the happenings of the board. My greatest passion is to help young people realize their potential and become the leaders of today. I believe young people are often spoken about rather than spoken to when discussing issues concerning them, and feel it is important to engage them in conversation. This is why I am passionate about YACWA and the work this organisation does. It has the ability to advocate for young people as well as teach them to advocate for themselves.

What motivates you to sit on the YACWA Board and what do you think you will get out of the experience?

I have always wanted to ensure I advocate for young people in any way that I can. I feel that it is important for me personally as professionally to use my voice to help others and advocate for change. My drive to constantly develop my advocacy skills is the reason I get involved in as many projects as they come my way. For example, my work with Guild Volunteering UWA as a Program Director allowed me to speak directly to university bodies and run programs and initiatives such as Inclusive Workshops, Mental Health Awareness and Self Care breakfasts at the university.